

CJ Grad Newsletter

Volume VII

September 2009



Dean's Advisory Council
Natalia Tapia,
Kadir Akyuz, and
Brian Schaefer

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Beto Chair Lecturer—Dr. Doris MacKenzie

Doris MacKenzie will be the first speaker for the 2009-2010 academic year Beto Chair Lecture Series scheduled for Friday, September 18, 2009 at 9:30 am in the CJ Courtroom. Her presentation is titled, "What Works in Corrections: Implications for Reentry and Rehabilitation Planning in Corrections."

Doris Layton MacKenzie, Ph.D., is the Founding Director of Pennsylvania State University's Criminal Justice Research Center and Professor in the Department of Sociology and Crime, Law, and Justice.

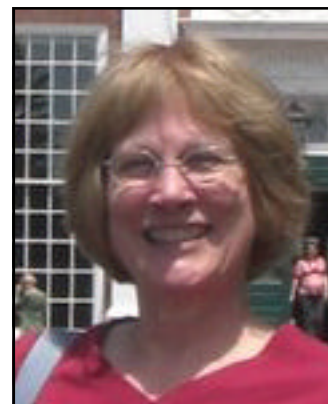
Carrying out basic research in criminology and helping local, state, federal, and international communities with criminal justice-related policy decisions are the aims of the new Penn State Justice Center for Research. A joint venture of the College of the Liberal Arts and Penn State Outreach's Justice and Safety

Institute (JASI), the center debuted September 1, 2009.

Dr. John McCarthy, head of the Department of Sociology and Crime, Law, and Justice, where the center is housed, said his vision is for the center to make Penn State "even more widely known nationally, internationally and to people in the Commonwealth for its basic and applied research in criminology."

Dr. Doris Layton MacKenzie, formerly a professor of criminology and criminal justice at the University of Maryland, has been appointed the center's founding research director.

A criminal justice expert whose research focuses on corrections and correctional policy, Dr. MacKenzie said, "the center will seek grants to fund research and will collaborate with faculty and students university-wide, as well as work closely with the



Justice and Safety Institute (JASI)." [JASI] has wonderful contacts with people who can help us identify the critical issues where research and theory can help policy makers," said MacKenzie. "I want to bridge research and community to help decision makers."

An informal colloquium with the doctoral students will be held following her lecture.

2009 Conference News

The Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice (SWACJ) will host its annual meeting on October 8-10, 2009 in Laredo, Texas at the La Posada Hotel. This year's theme is "Criminal Justice Legislation in the 21st Century: Is Justice Blind? Has Justice Ever Been Blind?"

"Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy" is the theme for this year's annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology (ASC). The 2009 meeting will take place November 4-7, 2009 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel. Students presenting papers at the conference include:

Kadir Akyuz, Lisa Bowman, Randa Embry, Beth Freeman, Timur Guclu, Nick Harpster, Kyung Yon Jhi, Shawn Keller, Hee-Joo Kim, Jeonglim Kim, Jiletta Kubena, Yung Lien Lai, Hoon Lee, Scott MacMillan, Claire Nolasco, Napoleon Reyes, Pierre Rivolta, Ji Seun Sohn, Natalia Tapia, Chi-Fang Tsai, Siny Tsang, Chantal Bergeron, and Ling Wu.

A Word from the Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies



In my capacity as Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies, I look forward to advancing the programs in a similar direction as my former colleagues. In this respect, kudos go to Drs. Larry Hoover, Janet Mullings, and Vickie Titterington for handing off to me our group of graduate programs that are strong and vibrant.

As the College has decidedly turned more research-oriented the last few years, several objectives are currently being implemented for the doctoral program. One is the abolition of the written comprehensive exams that have been replaced by the research assessment portfolio. The idea with the portfolio is that a typical Ph.D. student amasses a great deal of written work during their coursework, and some of this work, while working with faculty mentors, should be published. Simply put, the goal of the portfolio is to get as many Ph.D. students published in high-quality journals prior to the beginning of their job search. The portfolio should help prepare students for more sophisticated dissertations, and, ultimately, elevate our students into better criminal justice and criminology jobs, because potential employers expect fresh Ph.D.s to have a

publication record when entering the job market. While not losing sight of their dissertation, the most important piece of work as a graduate student, the portfolio is a way to enhance ABDs on the job market.

On the monetary side, the College was fortunate this fall to award 37 separate students with graduate assistantship assignments, where both M.A., forensic science, and Ph.D. students work with faculty members on teaching or research. Faculty grants supported assistantships for nine additional students. The Crime Victims Institute, Correctional Management Institute of Texas, Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas, Police Research Center, and Texas Regional Community Policing Institute supported another 11 student assistantships. In addition, 17 of our Ph.D. students are teaching undergraduate courses. The College continues to enjoy generous funding for our graduate students from the University Administration here at Sam. We have quality graduate programs, and we are recognized for them. It is an exciting time here at Sam, and the best years are ahead for the College of Criminal Justice graduate programs.

Don't forget to check CJ Grad Share for current information, job announcements, policies, and other general information.

Graduate Enrollment



The College of Criminal Justice would like to welcome all new and returning students for the fall 2009-2010 academic year. Graduate enrollment for the College increased by 21.53%. Two hundred thirty-seven graduate students are currently enrolled. The increase in graduate enrollment is largely due to the new Master of Science in Leadership and Management online degree. Students are able to complete one course in a 7 ½ week format.

New Ph.D. students	12
New M.A. students	12
New M.S. Weekend	25
New M.S. Online	30
New University Center students	5
New Forensic Science students	13
New Security Studies students	11

Research Collaborations

The College has initiated a Major Cities Research Initiative, an effort complementing LEMIT's Major Cities Seminar Series. The Initiative is being conducted by the Police Research Center, and includes faculty members **Larry Hoover, Hee-Jong Joo, Ling Ren, Bill Wells, Yan Zhang, Solomon Zhao**, and program manager **Jamie Tillerson**. The research team is assessing two related programs. The first is Dallas' "Hot Spots" Program, involving assignment of officers to 21 designated high-crime areas during at-risk times. The second is Houston's Crime Reduction Unit. The 70-officer team is directed to interdict "gangs, guns, and drugs" in Houston's worst neighborhoods.

The Research Team includes doctoral students **Seksan Khruakham, Edward Lai, Hoon Lee, Joongyeup Lee, and Ling Wu**. Their initial assignment will be participation in a meta-analysis of the effect of GIS upon crime reduction

strategies. Led by Dr. Zhang, and including Drs. Zhao and Hoover, the effort is an element of the international Campbell Collaborative Research Program. Campbell analyses are systematic reviews of literature to identify "what works" in a given social intervention effort. An exhaustive search of a given literature base is conducted to identify findings with a solid methodological base. Those studies are then subjected to a quantitative meta-analysis to ascertain effect size. The Campbell Collaborative research in policing endeavor is coordinated by George Mason University. SHSU received a \$50,000 grant to investigate whether an independent effect of employing GIS can be identified. The grant effort melds with the Dallas/Houston targeted response deployment assessments.

Dr. Todd Armstrong is currently working with **Shawn Ryals-Keller** and **Scott MacMillan** on a project titled, "Understanding the Resting

Heart Rate/Antisocial Behavior Relationship." The project is based on an earlier finding that measures of autonomic nervous system arousal, including resting heart rate, are consistently related to measures of antisocial behavior, including crime and delinquency. While the relationship between resting heart rate and antisocial behavior is well-documented, little is understood about the nature of this relationship. In their research project, they are collecting data from students at Sam Houston State University. This data will help them to determine why resting heart rate is related to anti-social behavior.

Drs. Jeffrey Bouffard and Leana Bouffard are the co-editors for the *Western Criminology Review (WCR)*, which is a peer-reviewed, on-line journal. It is the flagship journal for the Western Society of Criminology. The *WCR* is a forum for the publication and discussion of theory, research, policy, and practice in the rapidly changing and interdisciplinary fields of criminology and criminal justice. The journal is intended to reflect local (Western), national, and international concerns. Historical and contemporary perspectives are encouraged, as are diverse methodological approaches. The goal of the *WCR* is to provide an attractive and meaningful outlet for academic and policy-related publication and dialogue in a wide variety of substantive areas in criminology and criminal justice. **Sadie Doll**, Master of Arts student, is currently serving as the managing editor of the *WCR*. Graduate students are encouraged to submit their research for publication consideration. Submissions and inquiries may be sent to wcr98@hotmail.com.



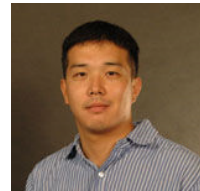
Khruakham



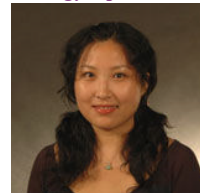
Lai



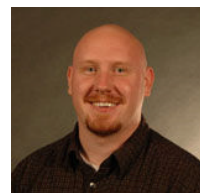
Hoon Lee



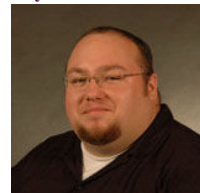
Joongyeup Lee



Wu



Ryals-Keller



MacMillan



Doll

Summer Research Fellowships due October 1

Twenty doctoral students were awarded summer research fellowships to produce co-authored refereed articles with full-time CJ faculty members to be published in an academic journal. **Michael Cavanaugh, Beth Freeman, Nick Harpster, Young Oh Jo, Yung Lien Lai, Hoon Lee, Claire Nolasco, Napoleon Reyes, Chantal Bergeron, and Ling Wu** were all awarded summer research fellowships. Articles must be completed by October 1, 2009 and submitted to Dr. Vaughn accompanied by a letter/email from the journal showing that the article has been submitted and is under peer-review. **Kadir Akyuz, Hee-Joo Kim, Jeong Lim Kim, David Rembert, Chi-Fang Tsai, Joshua Hill, Billy Humphrey, Kris Kawucha, Seksan Khruakham and Kyung Jhi** received mini-fellowships, which are also due by October 1, 2009. Doctoral Research Fellowships may be offered again next summer if funding is available.

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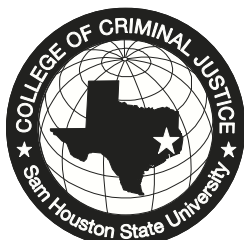
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Graduate Programs
P.O. Box 2296
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E-mail: dpratt@shsu.edu

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FRIDAY LUNCHES AT BELVIN

Graduate students are cordially invited to have lunch with faculty at Belvin cafeteria. Lunches are scheduled for September 11 and 25, October 2, 16, 30, November 13, and December 4. This is a great opportunity to meet faculty in an informal setting and discuss criminal justice issues, policy, and emerging trends. The classroom is not the only place where graduate students and faculty can engage in dialogue about research in the field. The goal of the lunch series is to provide a forum for faculty to discuss their research and obtain valuable feedback, as well as to further educate graduate students about professional research and writing.

Alumni/Student News

Congratulations to **Ashley Blackburn ('06)** and **Shannon Fowler ('07)**.

The two were married in July 2009 in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Ashley is an assistant professor at the University of North Texas and Shannon is an assistant professor at the University of Texas—Arlington.



Deirdre Warren ('09) has accepted a position of Assistant Professor with Kent State University-Stark in the Department of Justice Studies.

Jake Nelson ('09), a Security Studies graduate, recently was selected by the ATF for an Investigator position and will be heading to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glencoe, Georgia, in about two weeks. Upon graduation, Nelson will be moving to Lubbock, Texas, to start his job.

Thesis

Siny Tsang successfully defended her thesis prospectus on Wednesday, September 16, 2009. Her thesis is titled, "The 'Self' in Psychopathy: An Examination of Psychopaths' Self-Construals." Her chair is Dr. Phillip Lyons and committee members are Drs. Glen Kercher and Holly Miller.



Important Dates/Reminders

09/18	Beto Chair Lecture—Dr. Doris MacKenzie	9:30 am	Courtroom
09/23	SWACJ Practice Presentations	12-5:00 pm	Bates Room
10/1	Doctoral Summer Fellowships Due		Dr. Vaughn
10/2	Thesis/Dissertation Preparation Workshop	9:00 am	Bates Room
10/5 & 7	Doctoral Comprehensive Examinations	8:00-1:00 pm	CJ Grad Lab
10/8-10	SWACJ Annual Meeting		Laredo, Texas
10/9	Brown Bag with Dr. Solomon Zhao	12:00 noon	Texas Room
10/19-20	ASC Practice Presentations	All Day	Flag Room
10/21	SWACJ Post-Conference Roundtable	3:00 pm	Friel Room
10/27	Academic Employment Workshop	3:00 pm	Strecher Room
11/4-7	ASC Annual Meeting		Philadelphia, PA
11/10	ASC Post-Conference Roundtable	3:00 pm	Bates Room