

CJ Grad Newsletter

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Dean's Advisory Council
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Beto Chair Lecturer—Dr. James Jacobs

The College of Criminal Justice presents Dr. James B. Jacobs on February 9, 2010, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Hazel B. Kerper Courtroom. Dr. Jacobs holds a J.D. ('73) and Ph.D. in Sociology ('75) from the University of Chicago. His doctoral dissertation, *Stateville: The Penitentiary in Mass Society* (1977), a classic in penology, is still assigned in classrooms around the country. In 1982, after seven years as a faculty member at Cornell Law School, Professor Jacobs was recruited to New York University School of Law, where he was appointed Director of the Center for Research in Crime and Justice. He regularly teaches one of the first-year sections of criminal law and upper-year electives in criminal procedure, federal criminal law, and juvenile justice. He also teaches specialized seminars on such subjects as privatization of criminal justice, the jurisprudence of criminal

records, labor racketeering, gun control, sentencing, corruption control, prisoners' rights, victims and criminal procedure, and the war on drugs.

Since coming to NYU School of Law, Jacobs has convened the monthly Hoffinger Criminal Justice Colloquium, which brings together academics from diverse disciplines, criminal justice policy makers, researchers, prosecutors, defense lawyers, and journalists with the Law School's criminal law faculty for public lectures and discussions on key criminal justice issues.

Jacobs has published 14 books and more than 100 articles on such topics as prisons and imprisonment, drunk driving, corruption and its control, hate crime, drug testing, regulation of weaponry, and organized crime. Professor Jacobs frequently involves law students in his research projects. For example, he co-authored *Busting the Mob:*



Jacobs

U.S. v. Cosa Nostra (1994) with law students Christopher Panarella and Jay Worthington III; he also co-authored *Gotham Unbound: How NYC Was Liberated From the Grip of Organized Crime* (1998) with law students Robert Raddick and Coleen Friel. His most recent book, *Mobsters, Unions, and Feds: Organized Crime and Organized Labor*, was published by NYU Press in late 2005.

2010 Conference News

"Putting Our Forensic House in Order: Examining Validation and Expelling Incompetence" is the theme for this year's annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Science (AAFS). The 2010 meeting will take place February 22-27 in Seattle, Washington, at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center.

The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) will host its annual meeting on February 23-27, 2010. This year's theme is "Beyond Our Boundaries: The Inclusivity of Criminal Justice Sciences."

All students presenting at the conferences are required to attend practice presentations and post-conference roundtables. Travel guidelines are located at <http://www.cjcenter.org/resources/forms.html>

A Word from the Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies



Welcome back to 2010 Spring semester. I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday break and feels refreshed and inspired. The College of Criminal Justice graduate programs remain strong. Our College had the highest increase in graduate enrollment

during Fall 2009 semester and again in Spring 2010, largely a result of our new online Masters of Science in Criminal Justice Leadership and Management.

Early indications point toward a successful start for the M.S. Online program. Teaching evaluations were good, and the program continues to grow.

The Masters of Arts in Criminal Justice program is vibrant and full of scholarly potential. We have M.A. students going to national conferences and presenting papers. We should be very proud of them and make every available effort to retain these promising students for our Ph.D. program.

Similar to the M.S. online program, the Masters of Science in Criminal Justice Leadership and Management weekend and Security Studies programs have grown considerably as more criminal justice officials continue to take advantage of our quality degree programs.

The M.S. in Forensic Science is now accredited by the American Academy of Forensic Science and continues to provide the forensic science community with competent and well-trained laboratory professionals. Our graduates possess the standard of training necessary to advance into leadership positions.

As many have noticed, the Ph.D. program is in the midst of a significant cultural shift in which the research and scholarly mission of the College is moving toward publication in top-tiered peer-reviewed journals. This presents challenges, but universities are formed to overcome the vicissitudes of change. When altering any organizational culture, I'm reminded of Laurence Weinstein's book entitled *Moving a Battleship with Your Bare Hands: Governing a University System* (1993). Change comes slowly, but a core of vibrant students and faculty within the College is making substantial progress.

As always, the faculty within the College have high expectations of our graduate students. While publications

are a high priority, classroom grades take precedence over everything else. All graduate students must maintain acceptable grades (3.5 GPA) or their funding will be in jeopardy. It is indeed no easy task, but Ph.D. students should be able to balance a rigorous course load with their budding research agendas. This does not mean that students should be publishing articles each semester, but as students progress through the program, they should be developing their research agendas and moving toward faculty mentors who can help them develop into independent scholars. At the same time, without getting overextended, students should be taking advantage of faculty research projects that result in publication.

Our Ph.D. program is going through a Self-Study (aka, Program Review). The Self-Study is designed to analyze all data relevant to the Ph.D. program, identify what the program is doing right, what the program is doing wrong, and make necessary recommendations for corrections. The Self-Study also enables the College to develop an Action Plan that has tangible budgetary implications for moving forward (e.g., tuition scholarships, higher stipends for RAs and DTFs, more reliance on increased research dollars for Ph.D. students). There will be an on-site team of eminent scholars from other criminal justice and criminology Ph.D. programs who will visit our campus to evaluate our Ph.D. program. Doctoral students will have an opportunity to provide feedback to the evaluation team. This should occur later this spring.

I hope everyone has a productive semester. Please feel free to stop by my office to see me for questions or issues.

Michael S. Vaughn

Graduate Enrollment

The College of Criminal Justice would like to welcome all new and returning students for the Spring 2010 academic semester. There are currently 262 graduate students enrolled.

Ph.D. students	64
M.A. students	31
M.S. Weekend	48
M.S. Online	67
University Center students	7
Forensic Science students	24
Security Studies students	21

Alumni/Student News

Natalia Tapia has accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice in the Department of Justice, Law, and Public Safety Studies at Lewis University in Chicago, Illinois. She starts in August 2010.

A peer reviewed publication co-authored by Jim Ruiz (an SHSU grad) and **Joongyeup Lee** appeared in a 2009 issue of *International Journal of Police Science and Management*. The article was entitled "Revisiting Louisiana drug interdiction: Drug profiling in the Louisiana justice system." Also, another publication with the same co-author is in progress and is entitled "Investigating Louisiana drug interdiction: Racial profiling in the bail assessment by the court." Lee is the first author. Lee has also been working as a section committee member for the ACJS 2010 program in San Diego.

Stephanie Ostendorf is a second year graduate student in Security Studies. She has recently been accepted as the Summer 2010 intern for Air Security International, which

provides global risk management services based out of Houston. Working under the Intelligence Division, Stephanie will be writing "Hot Spots," a daily intelligence briefing of relevant world events, including terrorist threats, political strife, strikes, criminal activity, aviation incidents, and health outbreaks.

Recently, **Dr. Solomon Zhao**, Dr. Liqun Cao (Professor at Univ. of Ontario Institute of Technology, Canada), and our CJ doctoral student, **Yung-lien (Edward) Lai** worked on a paper entitled "The impact of political regime on confidence in legal authorities: A comparison between China and Taiwan" and submitted it to the *Journal of Criminal Justice (JCJ)*. As we know, China and Taiwan are two different political entities since their Civil War in 1949. In the past 60 years, both have had great development in political, economic, and cultural aspects, as well as in legal systems. This paper compared the confidence in legal authorities in two different nations. Data from the 2005 World Values Surveys were used, and the results from

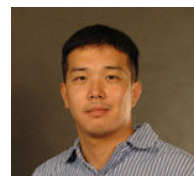
the Ordinal Logistic Regression models indicated that the Chinese had significantly more confidence in their police and courts than did the Taiwanese. The variable, nation, was found to be the strongest predictor of the levels of confidence in legal authorities between China and Taiwan. In addition, interests in politics and a sense of anomie were two other significant predictors of confidence: those who were interested in politics showed a higher level of confidence in legal authorities whereas, those suffering from anomie demonstrated a reduced level of confidence in both societies. The article concluded that public opinions must be understood within the broader regime context and that data from an authoritarian state should be used with caution.

Criminal Justice doctoral student and Criminal Justice Program Chair of Kaplan College - Lubbock Campus, **Nick Harpster**, was recently interviewed by the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal for an article that discusses how simulators help criminal justice students.

Dr. William King and Brian Schaefer are working on the following project which will be presented at the 2010 ACJS meeting. Testing Structural Inertia Theory: Change and Continuity in Police Personnel between 1938 and 2000. The project uses data collected from 390 U.S. police agencies between 1938 and 2000 to test structural inertia theory. Specifically, the paper explores the relationship between organizational age, organizational inertia, and the use of civilian police employees by police agencies.



Tapia



Lee



Ostendorf



Zhao



Lai



Harpster



King



Schaefer

Summer Research Fellowships due March 5, 2010

Applications for ten criminal justice doctoral student research fellowships are available online at <http://www.cjcenter.org/resources/forms.html>. The number of Summer Research Fellowships awarded will be based on funding availability. Students must produce a refereed article co-authored with a full-time CJ faculty member for publication in an academic journal. An abstract, objectives, and a complete methods section must be submitted with the application. All applications should be submitted to Karen Eads no later than March 5, 2010.

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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 February 5, February 19, March 5, and April 9. 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.

Choosing a Mentor

Mentoring relationships develop over time. Most of us have several mentors over the course of our careers: mentors for different areas (e.g., teaching and research) and at different times in our professional development (e.g., grad student, post-doc, junior faculty).

A mentor should:

- provide support and encouragement.
- offer opportunities for collaboration and presentations.
- teach writing and submitting manuscripts for publication.
- model a successful academic career.
- be committed to the next move in your career development.
- introduce you to colleagues.
- help identify and work with your strengths and weaknesses.
- provide opportunities for you to develop independence.

Some resources for mentoring include the following:

Eby, L., Allen, T., Evans, S., Ng, T., Dubois, D. (2008) Does mentoring matter? A multidisciplinary meta-analysis comparing mentored and non-mentored individuals. *Journal of Vocation Behavior*, 7, 254-267.

Luna, G., & Cullen, D. L. Empowering the faculty: Mentoring redirected and renewed. Retrieved August 20, 2009, from <http://www.ntlf.com/html/lib/bib/95-3dig.htm>

Penner, R. Defining Mentoring in Higher Education. Retrieved August 20, 2009, from <http://womenscenter.udayton.edu/programs/Defining%20Mentoring.asp>

You will also become a mentor. Perhaps you already are a mentor to a beginning grad student. Consider the role that you might play in someone else's professional development. Becoming a mentor is like making a wise investment; it can be costly at first, but the long-term returns are surprisingly large.

By Tara Kuther, Ph.D.

Important Dates/Reminders

02/8-12	ACJS Practice Presentations	8:00-5:00 p.m.	Bates Room
02/9	Beto Chair Lecture—Dr. James Jacob	9:30 a.m.	Courtroom
02/10	AAFS Practice Presentations	11:00 a.m.	FS Conference Room
02/22-27	AAFS Annual Meeting		Seattle, Washington
02/23-27	ACJS Annual Meeting		San Diego, California
03/3	ACJS Post-Conference Roundtable	2:00 p.m.	Bates Room
03/5	Summer Research Fellowship Applications Due		Submit to Karen Eads
03/10	AAFS Post-Conference Roundtable	11:00 a.m.	FS Conference Room
03/15-19	Spring Break		
03/25	Brown Bag with Faculty and graduate students	12:00 p.m.	Flag Room
04/16	Brown Bag with Faculty and graduate students	12:00 p.m.	Flag Room
04/29	Beto Chair Lecture—Dr. John Hagan	9:30 a.m.	Courtroom