The purpose of this newsletter is to highlight and amplify graduate student accomplishments from the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Sam Houston State University. This newsletter is student driven by individual submissions. We have divided the newsletter into sections including, students that have accepted job offers, publications (accepted, R&R’s, and under review works), advancement to doctoral candidacy, accepted conference presentations and professional awards, scholarships/grants/ sponsored research received, teaching and scholarly exposure, as well as GSO organizational accomplishments in order to highlight all of the amazing things our graduate students are doing. Please welcome us in congratulating our Department’s graduate students and their exemplary accomplishments! There is a lot to be proud of.

**ACCEPTED JOB OFFERS**

**Eric Cooke**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychology, University of Alberta (starting July 1, 2021).

**Ethan Marshall**

Assistant Professor, Department of Criminal Justice & Social Work, University of Houston-Downtown.

Student accomplishments were awarded, notified of, or received between May 1st, 2020 and December 31st, 2020.

Note: While other students may also appear on an accomplishment, the attributed student reflects the individual who submitted the accomplishment to the newsletter.

We’d like to extend a special thank you to the Teaching and Research Development Committee for collecting submissions and creating this newsletter!
PUBLICATIONS

Brittany L. Acquaviva


Acquaviva, B.L., Meeker K.A., O’Neal, E. N. Blameworthy suspects and “real rape”: Assessing the effects of rape culture-specific suspect culpability factors on the police decision to arrest. *Violence Against Women*. Received an R&R.

Meeker, K.A., Acquaviva, B.L., Fleming, J.C., Kelley, S.M., & O’Neal, E.N.“Victim had a motive to lie”: A mixed methods examination of police perceptions of sexual assault cases. *Violence Against Women*. Received an R&R.

Beatriz Amalfi Marques

Amalfi Marques, B., Blackburn, A., Fowler, S., Mullings, J., & Bitgood, M. *(Forthcoming)* Straight from the Source: A Gendered Examination of the Inmate Code and Strategies to Avoid Sexual Victimization. Accepted with minor revisions at the *Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology*.

Ben Comer


**Eric Cooke**


**Jessica Fleming**


Alondra Garza


Garza, A. D., Franklin, C. A., & Goodson, A. (2020). The nexus between intimate partner violence and stalking: examining the arrest decision. Criminal justice and behavior, 47(8), 1014-1031.

Chris Guerra


Leah Helfrich

Ellis, C., Knight, Kelly E., Helfrich, L., Samuel, L., Sundeen, E., Miller, T., & Loft, M. Rural Victim Service Providers’ Perceived Challenges to Helping Victims of Sex Trafficking: Lessons for the Bakken Oil Field Region. In preparation for Violence Against Women. Received an R&R.


Susan Hoppe

Shamika M. Kelley


Ethan Marshall


Katherine Meeker


Alexis R. Rockwell


Wesley Smith

**ADVANCEMENT TO DOCTORAL CANDIDACY**

**Brittany Acquaviva**

Defended portfolio titled, “Institutional Responses to Victimization: University, Community, and Criminal-legal Responses to Sexual Violence.” Received a High Pass.

**Sarah Bostrom**

Defended portfolio focusing on theory testing (RAT proximity and unemployment-crime) by community type.
Shamika M. Kelley
Defended portfolio titled, “Discretionary Decision Making in Sexual Assault Cases.”

Wesley Smith
Defended portfolio titled, “Special Interest Populations in the Criminal Justice System: Veterans and Women in Correctional Settings.”

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Brittany Acquaviva
2021 ACJS Panel Presentation Abstract Acceptance.

2020 CrimCon Round Table titled “Sexual Harassment and Professional Misconduct at Academic Meetings.”

2020 ASC Panel Presentation Abstract Acceptance

Voted into the Treasurer position for the Graduate Student Organization

Marilyn Ee

Chris Guerra
2020 ASC Panel Presentation Abstract Acceptance

Voted into the President position for the Graduate Student Organization

Leah Helfrich
2020 ASC Panel Presentation Abstract Acceptance – “Resilience and Substance Use: An application of general strain theory”

2021 ACJS Panel Presentation Abstract Acceptance – “Attachment to Parents and Substance Use in Adolescence: The Moderating Effects of Perceived Parental Approval”
Susan Hoppe

2020 ASC Panel Presentation Abstract Acceptance
2020 ACJS Panel Presentation Abstract Acceptance

Kelsey Kramer

2020 ASC Panel Presentation Abstract Acceptance
2020 ACJS Panel Presentation Abstract Acceptance

Voted into the Vice President position for the Graduate Student Organization

Katherine A. Meeker

2021 ACJS Victimology Section’s Outstanding Graduate Student Award
This award recognizes a graduate student who has demonstrated significant promise in “making a difference” to the field of Victimology. Evidence of their commitment to the field can be illustrated through scholarship, victim advocacy, volunteer work in victim services, or other activities associated with improving the response to victimization.

Meghan Royle

2020 ASC Panel Presentation Abstract Acceptance

Voted into the Secretary position for the Graduate Student Organization

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND SPONSORED RESEARCH

Brittany L. Acquaviva

O.B. Ellis/Gibbs Scholarship, $1,500 (2020-2021 academic year)

Matthew Bills

John Lee McMaster Scholarship, $2,500 (2020-2021 academic year)

Eric Cooke


Data Science: R Basics, edX: HarvardX

Introduction to Bayesian Statistics, University of Texas at Austin

Jessica Fleming

John Lee McMaster Scholarship, $2,500 (2020-2021 academic year)

Chris Guerra

John Lee McMaster Scholarship, $2,500 (2020-2021 academic year)

Leah Helfrich

The Graduate School General Scholarship, $1,000 (Spring 2021).

Kelsey Kramer

The Graduate School General Scholarship, $1,000 (Spring 2021).

Wesley Smith

Association of Doctoral Programs in Criminology and Criminal Justice (ADPCCJ) Student Research Award Recipient, $1,300. (2020-2021). To be used towards STATA Structural Equation Modeling Course.

Xinting Wang

GSO Scholarship for Conference Travel, $100.

TEACHING AND SCHOLARLY EXPOSURE

Jessica Fleming

Guest on Untenured Tracks Podcast - Episode 33
E33: Eryn O'Neal Has A Posse (Sexual Assault Case Processing; with Dr. Eryn O'Neal, Brittany Acquaviva, Shamika Kelly, Jessica Fleming, and Katherine Meeker)
Kelsey Kramer

First Class Taught – Received Exemplary IDEA Teaching Evaluation Scores

Christina L. Richardson

Successfully clinically facilitated the first Thinking for a Change 4.0 (T4C) curriculum at her place of employment. T4C is an integrated cognitive behavioral change program within the National Institute of Corrections that focuses on rehabilitation of justice-involved individuals.

GSO ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As an Organization

GSO Officers: Chris Guerra (President), Kelsey Kramer (Vice President), Meghan Royle (Secretary), and Brittany Acquaviva (Treasurer)

In Fall 2020, the GSO created a Blackboard page and repository for students to access information on departmental events, professional development, calls for papers, and more.

The GSO created and implemented a departmentally backed certificate for professional development (CPD) that provides students with professional learning through a series of workshops and discussions (i.e., brown bags). Each student must attend at least 4 brown bag workshops and complete 6 hours of service which will then be reviewed by the GSO officers prior to receiving the CPD.

We also created two new long-term volunteer positions under the Teaching and Research Development and Service committees. The first is a liaison position between GSO and LAE to help foster a better relationship between LAE students and our graduate students. The second is a social media specialist position, who will update and share GSO related content and amplify our graduate student’s awesome accomplishments.

Service Committee

Committee Chair: Kelsey Kramer
Members: Marilyn Ee, Kyleigh Gordon, Leah Helfrich, Allison Kondrat, Christina Richardson, Taylor Robinson, Davis Shelfer, and Anne Wingert

During the Fall semester the Service Committee successfully organized Adopt-a-Family through the Houston Children’s Charity. We received well over $500 in cash donations and gifts from students that we delivered to a family of four in the Houston Area. Thank you to all who contributed in this effort.

The Service Committee also helped collect donations for the SHSU food pantry. Special thanks to those that donated and helped deliver the donations.
Teaching and Research Development Committee

Committee Chair: Chris Guerra
Members: Kristina Block, Martha Chumchal, Ben Comer, Kelsey Kramer, Nhi Le, and Kaitlyn Pederson

The Teaching and Research Development Committee successfully created a submission process for student’s to submit their accomplishments, which allowed for this committee to create and produce this newsletter.

Fundraising Committee

Committee Chair: Brittany Acquaviva
Members: Kayla Alaniz, Matthew Bills, Julia Gernhart, Kat Meeker, and Alexis Rockwell

The fundraising committee successfully organized a profit share fundraiser with Potato Shack in September that brought in $526.02. This money went towards supporting our graduate students. We’d like to extend a special thank you to everyone who participated in this effort as well as all of the faculty who graciously donated money for this event.

Social Committee

Committee Chair: Meghan Royle
Members: Kiarra Fortney, Jackie Nguyen, Kaitlyn Pederson, and Amanda Rude

The social committee organized various virtual events throughout the year, including a virtual trivia night. Additionally, the social committee planned the end-of-the-year party and outdoor gatherings for the spring semester.

Again, we’d like to thank everyone that submitted accomplishments and made this Newsletter possible.

CJGSO will solicit submissions for the next Student Accomplishment Newsletter at the beginning of the Fall 2021 Semester. Student accomplishments should be awarded, notified of, or received between January 1st, 2021 and August 1st, 2021.

We want your feedback! If you have suggestions for improving the Student Accomplishment Newsletter please reach out to Chris Guerra (cxb111@shsu.edu) or Kelsey Kramer (klk083@shsu.edu).