

Criminal Justice Graduate Student Organization Newsletter

Academic Year 2016-2017



Check out the new GSO shirts! This year the graduate students decided to get new shirts, so we went to the Campus Life Development Fund and requested money to purchase new shirts.

Fundraising



Fundraising has always been an important part of the GSO, and this year was no exception. The Graduate Student Organization hosted two fundraising events over the academic year. In February, graduate student volunteers banded together to bring in some home cooking for our annual Valentine's Day Bake Sale. Nearly selling out of all our items, the GSO brought in roughly \$600.00 in funds from this event.

In April, the GSO partnered with Chipotle Restaurant and Grille in Huntsville, Texas to host our second fundraiser. Graduate students handed out flyers in classrooms and on campus telling people about the restaurant fundraiser. The restaurant fundraiser ran for one day in April for approximately four hours and made about \$320.00.

In all, the GSO had a great year of fundraising, bringing in a total of \$920.00. Proceeds from all fundraising events were used for scholarships and securing money for future GSO events.

Graduate Students are Great Volunteers



Service is a main function of The Criminal Justice Graduate Student Organization. This year, the GSO made a strong movement to volunteer as much as possible.

The Fall semester brought many different volunteering opportunities. In October, graduate students spent time helping out at the Heroes Ride in Conroe, Texas. The Heroes Ride is a bike ride to honor and raise money for police officers who have fallen in the line of duty. GSO volunteers spent time setting up the event, registering individuals, serving food for participants, and cleaning up after the event. This is the second year the GSO has volunteered at this event and it seems to get better every year.

When the fall semester was coming to an end, the GSO partnered with the Houston Child Protective Services BEARING Gifts programs to provide Christmas gifts for underprivileged kids. Not only did the GSO provide gifts, but GSO officers spent a day at the BEARING Gifts Center in Houston sorting and distributing gifts to local area centers so that

community children would have presents for Christmas.

As the weather got warmer, and the flowers started to bloom, several of the GSO officers volunteered their time at the BearKat Community Gardens. Here, the students spent the day clearing and cleaning up plots for the community to plant crops. Though the day was beautiful, a few of the graduate students learned just how vicious red ants can be.

The spring semester brought a variety of new volunteering opportunities for the GSO. The graduate students volunteered their time during the Martin Luther Kind Day of Service and at the Three Minute Thesis competition hosted by Graduate Studies.

At the end of the academic year, the GSO set their volunteering sights on an organization a little closer to home, partnering with the Rita B. Huff: Second Chances Shelter located in Huntsville, Texas. Here, the GSO and faculty contributed food and toys for shelter dogs and cats.

Informing Undergrads

There is no doubt that graduate education is important, yet many of the undergraduates at Sam Houston are unaware of the benefits and realities of graduate school. This year, the GSO's Vice President, Tri Keah Henry, set out to change this. Tri Keah created a detailed power point about graduate school and, with the help of the other GSO officers, presented

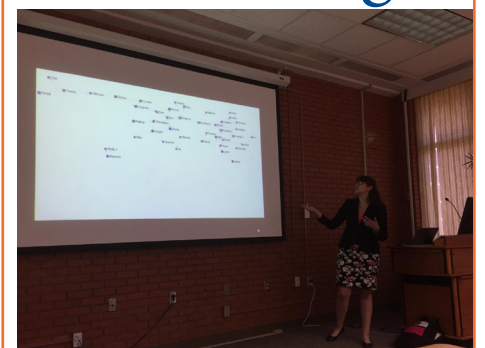
information about graduate school to a number of undergraduate classes in the fall of 2016. The main points highlighted what to expect in graduate school, what different programs have to offer, the criteria needed to be considered for graduate school, and the realities of paying for the program. In all, this was a great practice that will hopefully be continued next year.



Welcome Back

A new year a new crew (kind of). This year, the GSO welcomed a new PhD and Master's cohort at the annual Back-to-School BBQ in August. The BBQ took place at the Huntsville State Park in a shelter located on Lake Raven. Not only did we get to welcome new students but we had the chance to catch up with some old friends while enjoying good food and games. We really look forward to meeting new students next year at the annual Back-to-School BBQ.

Brown Bags



As with years past, the GSO hosted a variety of brown bags and workshops during the 2016-2017 academic year.

In the fall, the GSO put on an Introduction to Statistics Workshop, a Travel Brown Bag, a Thesis/Dissertation Workshop, A Secrets of the IRB workshop, a brown bag geared towards Master's students to teach them about pursuing a PhD, and a workshop about how to act at conferences.

The spring also provided a variety of workshops, including how to write grants, a workshop focusing on publishing in the field, and a statistics workshop, with presentations from students who attended the ICPSR over the summer of 2016.

We learned a lot this year at the various brown bags/workshops and we hope to learn just as much next year.

Scholarships

With all of the fundraising that the Criminal Justice Graduate Student Organization did this year, we were able to provide scholarships for conference travel to two students.

This year, scholarships were awarded to Alondra Garza and Nicole Niebuhr. Alondra is a first year Master's student who did her undergraduate at Sam Houston State University. Nicole is a second year PhD student who has attended SHSU since she was a Master's student in the College of Criminal Justice and Criminology. Both recipients were awarded scholarships to attend the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences conference in the spring of 2017.

The Graduate Student Organization was very pleased to be able to provide two scholarships this semester. At the beginning of the academic year, the GSO officers set out with the goal of raising enough money to be able to give travel scholarships in the spring and fall of 2017. With a lot of hard work and help from the graduate students, the officers are pleased to announce that they will have enough money to give scholarships for travel in the fall of 2017.

New Officers



The end of the year means it is time for new officers. This past academic year saw Eric Cooke take up the helm as President of GSO with Tri Keah Henry as Vice President, Amanda Goodson as Treasurer, and Kayla White as Secretary.

Transitioning to the new academic year we welcome Tri Keah Henry to the position of President, Amanda Goodson as Vice President, Amber Griffin as Treasurer, and Alondra Garza as Secretary.

The new GSO officers have a lot of great plans for the 2017-2018 academic year, and we hope that graduate students and faculty can come together to welcome them to their new positions!



Walk a Mile in Her Shoes



This year, the Graduate Student Organization hosted its 3rd annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event during Sexual Assault Awareness month at SHSU. Walk a Mile in Her Shoes is an international march to raise awareness about rape, sexual assault, and gender violence. The walk took place on Monday, April 3rd and saw over 130 people participate in the event. Participants donned heels and walked one mile around Sam Houston State University's campus to raise awareness about sexual assault.

Not only did participants walk the walk, but they talked the talk. Walk a Mile had two keynote speakers this year. Dr. Hayes, from the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, discussed the prevalence and rates of sexual assault on college campuses and how every person should say something

if they see something. Then, Georgi McNease, a new graduate from Sam Houston and survivor of sexual assault, told her story and emphasized how just one person can make all the difference for victims of rape and sexual assault.

This year's event was very



successful and received a lot of attention on campus. We would like to thank CVI for providing us the funds to purchase a new banner. We would also like to thank all of the Faculty and Staff for their continued support of this event. The GSO is looking forward to hosting this event again next year.

Awards and Scholarships



It is always great to be awarded for your work, and this year, a number of graduate student members of the GSO won awards.

In the fall, Alicia Jurek was awarded the outstanding graduate student paper at the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association Conference for her manuscript "Correctional Institutions as Organizations and their Influence on Inmate Assault."

In the spring, a number of graduate students attended the College of Criminal Justice Honors Convocation to receive awards for the upcoming academic year. Pictured above are Amanda Goodson, Alicia Jurek, and Nicole Niebuhr who were awarded the O. B. Ellis and J. P. Gibbs Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is available to females working on undergraduate or graduate degrees in Criminal Justice who maintain above a 3.0 GPA. Kallee Spooner and Eric Cooke were awarded the Rolando, Josefa, and Jocelyn Del Carmen Criminal Justice Doctoral Endowment, which is given to full-

time Ph.D. students working towards a degree in Criminal Justice. Alondra Garza, a first year Master's student, won the Rolando Del Carmen Criminal Justice Endowed Scholarship for full-time graduate students majoring in Criminal Justice who have above a 3.5 GPA.



Also in the spring, Ashley Fansher won the SHSU Outstanding Doctoral Teaching Fellow Award at the Graduate Studies Awards Ceremony.



In all, this was a great year for graduate students in the department. The GSO is very proud of all of its members and are want to take the time to recognize their achievements now and in the future.

Budget

Fall 2016 Starting Balance:	\$297.82
Valentines Day Bake Sale:	+ \$632.20
Restaurant fundraiser:	+ \$336.65
Travel Scholarship:	- \$100.00
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Spring 2017 Ending Balance:	\$1,066.67

3MT

The Criminal Justice Graduate Student Organization was proud to take part in the first ever Three Minute Thesis competition at Sam Houston State University. Three Minute Thesis (3MT) is a research communication competition developed by the University of Queensland (UQ) and was put on for the first time this year at SHSU by Graduate Studies. Graduate students have three minutes to present a compelling oration on their thesis, or other research project, and its significance. The purpose is to consolidate one's research and ideas and present them concisely to a non-specialist audience.

Two graduate students from the department went on to compete in the 3MT finals competition. Nicole Niebuhr presented her research examining the impact of employment satisfaction and stress on time to recidivism, and Jessica Wells discussed her findings on the relationship between stress and alcohol dependence from a biological perspective.

Overall, the Three Minute Thesis competition went very well and the GSO is looking forward to sending participants again next year.

Intramurals



The Criminal Justice Graduate Student Organization participated in a number of Intramural events at SHSU this year. With teams fielded for Flag Football, Kickball, Indoor Volleyball, and Sand Volleyball, the graduate students had a blast playing and building team comradery. Sadly, none of our teams won any of the Intramural competitions, but it was still great to play!