Dr. Rolando V. del Carmen revised and published four books this academic year: *Criminal Procedure: Law and Practice, 8th ed.*, *Briefs of Leading Cases in Law Enforcement* (with Jeffery Walker); *Briefs of Leading Cases in Corrections, 5th ed.* (with Betsy Witt & Sue Ritter); and *The Death Penalty: Constitutional Issues, Commentaries, and Case Briefs, 2nd ed.* (with Scott Vollum as second volume editor, Kelly Cheeseman Dial, Durant Frantzen, & Claudia San Miguel). Dr. del Carmen is the sole author of *Criminal Procedure: Law and Practice, 8th ed.*, a widely used textbook in criminal justice programs in the United States, which has been translated into four languages and used in academic programs overseas. He also co-authored an article, published in *Criminal Law Bulletin (Vol. 45, No. 2 pp. 3-28)*, on “The Entrapment Defense: Current Issues, Problems, and Trends,” with Amanda D. Johnson. All of Dr. del Carmen’s co-authors are former or current students in the Ph.D. program, and most have gone on to make names for themselves in the criminal justice field—an achievement for which, as a teacher, he is very proud. Dr. del Carmen’s experience has been that graduate students who publish or co-publish while they are in the College of Criminal Justice are more likely to continue publishing after they finish their degree and teach full-time. “It is a win-win situation,” he says, “and of mutual benefit to the Criminal Justice Center and Ph.D. students. To many, the myths and mystery ensnaring publication are lifted, and they learn how to and why they must publish if they are to succeed in academia.”

Dr. Scott Menard’s newest book, the *Handbook of Longitudinal Research: Design, Measurement, and Analysis*, is a collection of chapters, all but three of them original contributions prepared specifically for this book, written by leading international and interdisciplinary scholars (including SHSU College of Criminal justice colleague Dr. Hee-Jong Joo) in the field of longitudinal research design and data analysis. The first six chapters in the book describe the different types of longitudinal research designs, which vary by what population or sample is being studied and how many times data are collected on the same person or case. Chapters 7-12 deal with measurement issues in longitudinal research, including failure of memory, respondents dropping out of the study, and the effects of being repeatedly interviewed or tested as a research subject. The remaining 26 chapters cover different approaches to the analysis of longitudinal data, including descriptive and causal analysis, description and measurement of qualitative change, timing of qualitative change, time series analysis, and complex models for quantitative change. In addition to providing a comprehensive reference book for scholars and practitioners involved in longitudinal research, several chapters advance the field of longitudinal research by presenting newer, cutting-edge techniques of longitudinal data analysis. The book is published by Academic Press, a division of Elsevier, Inc.
New Books Continued

Will Oliver

*The Making of Criminal Justice Policy in the United States*, by Dr. Will Oliver with Nancy Marion, was inspired by presidential and Congressional focus on criminal justice policy. Dr. Oliver has been publishing and researching extensively in the area of federal crime control policy, looking at what presidents and Congress actually can and cannot do about crime. Since the 1964 election between Goldwater and Johnson, crime has become an important national issue in presidential debates, Congressional elections, and various party platforms, whereas, before then, the powers of crime control traditionally lay with state and local governments, the book explains. Much of the interest in crime control policy from federal office holders (and those seeking office) is for its symbolic power—and its ability to win elections. “The president can look tough on crime,” Oliver said, “like he’s doing something about the issue, when a lot of it ends up just being rhetoric.” But there has also been an upside to the debate, which “has also created a lot of bills that have funded a lot of money into state and local police.” The book is intended for either criminal justice or political science graduate level classes examining federal criminal justice policy. Many of the articles were authored by Drs. Oliver and Marion, but the book also contains chapters from policy experts such as Jim Calder, Stuart Scheingold, and Barbara Stolz.

Mitch Roth

Dr. Mitchel Roth’s new book, *Organized Crime*, looks beyond the outdated interpretations of organized crime, addressing the overlapping nature of formerly distinct forms of criminality—cybercrime, terrorism, white collar crime, and organized crime—to better understand the complicated nature of organized crime in the 21st century. It examines the impact of forces such as globalization, the World Wide Web, the fall of the Soviet Union and South African apartheid, and the explosion of Yugoslavia on the changing nature of worldwide organized crime. Chapters are devoted to Asian, European and Russian, Mexican and Latin American, and Afro-lineal organized crime as well as the evolving relationship between terrorism and organized crime, a topic which has only received brief mention in other books on the subject. Several chapters are devoted to the historical roots of organized crime in the United States and Italy, the origins of the alien conspiracy theory, and the inextricable relationship between various vice prohibitions and organized crime activity. Prison gangs, street gangs, and outlaw motorcycle gangs get their due as well. But what sets this book apart from other organized crime textbooks is its analysis and investigation of the links between organized crime and terrorism, organized crime in cyberspace, and the coverage of piracy past and present, a timely subject. This book is recommended for Organized Crime and Corruption classes at the undergraduate and graduate levels and courses on Homeland Security and Criminal Justice.
Faculty Research

Larry Hoover and Brian Lawton

Hot Spots and Edge Effects:
An Examination of Crime Patterns across Contiguous Suburban Police Agencies

Current innovations in policing require a more geographically oriented focus on crime and places of interest. Unfortunately, these patterns are often limited to knowledge of crime only within the agency’s jurisdiction. This has particular significance when identifying “hot spots” of criminal activity, as they are not confined to these same boundaries. It also is especially germane to contiguous suburban jurisdictions with “jigsaw puzzle” borders. Dr. Hoover and Dr. Lawton used data collected through the Criminal Research, Information Management, and Evaluation System (CRIMES) to examine this issue and determine how these contiguous areas impact on the identification of “hot spots” of criminal activity. Southlake data were employed. Southlake is in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Results demonstrate that the identification of the hot spots can be strongly impacted by crime from the surrounding jurisdictions.

Larry Hoover

Texas Major City Research Initiative.

Data from the Major Cities Research Initiative is focused upon assessing two related programs—Dallas’ “Hot Spots” Program, involving assignment of officers to 21 designated high crime areas during at-risk times, and Houston’s Crime Reduction Unit. Four years of crime, arrest, and call-for-service data has been obtained and with considerable effort by Drs. Lawton and Zhang, “cleaned” and imported into SPSS. Faculty and research assistants assigned to the project are in the process of analysis and composition of publications that address the effect of focused crime reduction from several perspectives. The data are also proving useful for other purposes. Cooperating with Dr. Terrence Dunworth of the Urban Institute, a portion of the Houston data will serve to document the potential effect of crime reduction efforts by Target in neighborhoods contiguous to their stores. Dee Warren is examining another section of the Houston data to assess the impact of the absorption of Katrina evacuees upon the city.
Sarah Kerrigan

Alcohol and Caffeine in Energy Drinks

In a recent publication Dr. Sarah Kerrigan published a study to determine whether “non-alcoholic” energy drinks produce detectable alcohol concentration in human subjects. Her study involved a commercial transdermal alcohol detection system that is being used in criminal justice settings. In the system, the device used consists of an ankle bracelet that measures alcohol electrochemically via the skin in a continuous manner. Remote monitoring of the transdermal alcohol concentration (TAC) via modem identifies alcohol use in the subject by generating an “alcohol alert”. The purpose of the study was to determine the scientific validity of the “energy drink defense” whereby subjects wearing the device claim that consumption of non-alcoholic energy drinks produce a “false positive” alcohol alert. According to the FDA beverages containing less than 0.5% alcohol to be “non-alcoholic,” and these do not need to contain the government warning statement or list ethanol as an ingredient. Eleven energy drinks were investigated in total. Ethanol ranged in concentration from 0.03 to 0.230% (w/v), and caffeine content per 8-oz serving ranged from 65 to 126 mg. A total of 15 human subjects participating in the study consumed between 6 and 8 energy drinks (180 Red Energy) over an 8 hour period. Although alcohol was detected in some subjects, none produced elevations in transdermal alcohol concentration sufficient to produce an “alcohol alert” (<0.02 w/v). Subjects in the study consumed a quantity of energy drink that greatly exceeds a typical dose, and several reported negative effects. Based on these results, it appears that energy drink consumption is an unlikely explanation for elevated TACs that might be identified as potential drinking episodes or “alcohol alerts.” Dr. Kerrigan’s study was published in the Jan/Feb issue of the Journal of Analytical Toxicology.

Sam Souryal

In March 2009, Dr. Sam Souryal was named an “Academic Fellow” for 2009-2010 by the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies (FDD), a non-partisan policy institute headquartered in Washington, D.C. Dr. Souryal expects that this fellowship will provide him with a unique view of the threat of terrorism to global democracy, as well as issues surrounding Arab-Israeli relations during his trip to Israel in June 2009. Upon his return, he plans to write about his experiences and findings.
Victoria Titterington

Public Housing Safety Initiative

Dr. Victoria Titterington recently completed service as the Program Evaluator for a two-year Public Housing Safety Initiative (PHSI) grant from the Community Capacity Development Office of the USDOJ Office of Justice Programs. Houston (as the major city within the U.S. Attorney’s Southern District of Texas Office) was one of 19 sites nationwide that received these grants, aimed at “providing funding for the investigation, prosecution, and prevention of violent crime and drug offense activities in public, federally-assisted, and Indian housing.” The Urban Institute also worked with grantees to develop performance measures that could be used to track progress toward their stated goals and to document the long-term impact of the PHSI.

The Houston Public Housing Initiative focused on three public housing developments (Kelly Village, Cuney Homes, and Kennedy Place), located in Houston’s Fifth Ward, northeast and south of downtown. During the one-year period preceding the grant, the rates of violent Part I crime for the targeted public housing developments ranged from 3.2 to 6.3 times the citywide rate; during the same period the rates of non-violent Part I crime for the targeted developments ranged from 1.3 to 2.2 times the citywide rate. Also, the rate of calls for service for these areas ranged from 2.4 to 4.0 times the citywide rate.

The approach of this initiative was uniquely comprehensive in that it included both targeted law enforcement as well as community development activities and outcomes. This included the involvement of the Houston Police Department, the Harris County Constables Precinct 6, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Gulf Coast Violent Offenders Task Force, the Mayor’s Anti-Gang Office, Family Services of Greater Houston, the Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation, the Houston Housing Authority, the Houston Area Women’s Center, Houston ISD, Texas Southern University and multiple Houston offices of the YMCA. Among the numerous activities within this effort were: (1) “high visibility” patrols focused particularly on prostitution and narcotics in and around the three public housing complexes, (2) domestic abuse prevention classes for resident juvenile females, (3) DEA-sponsored classes on prescription drug abuse among juveniles, for grandparents raising their grandchildren within these housing units, and (4) tours of university campuses (including Sam Houston State University and our College of Criminal Justice) by high-risk juveniles, with the hope of prolonging their education through high school and beyond.

Both violent and non-violent crime rates decreased at two of the housing developments (Kelly Village and Kennedy Place) during the major law enforcement period of the grant, with an 11 percent decrease in violent crime and a 30 percent decrease in property crime. The Cuney Homes crime data showed an overall increase in officially reported crime during the major law enforcement period, thought to be accounted for by increased citizen reports of crime to the police, a positive rather than negative outcome. Over the course of ongoing law enforcement/housing residents meetings, residents reported that they are now more willing to speak to police because they actually know some of them individually and believe that law enforcement will respond more quickly to reports from residents.

Other positive outcomes of these broad-based PHSI efforts were equally important. Among many other activities, these included the (1) completion of GED classes by 15 residents, (2) participation of 133 resident youth in SAT/ACT preparation classes, (3) participation of 18 juvenile females in a 14-week YMCA-sponsored Girls in Real Life Situations (GIRLS) program focused on increasing self-confidence, self-esteem and personal safety, (4) participation of 81 adults and 66 youth in money management classes, and (5) a 10-week Hoops ‘n Hopes basketball program for resident youth, with auxiliary teaching, mentoring, and coaching by law

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During the summer and fall of 2008, the Survey Research Program completed a Citizen Impression Survey for the Houston Police Department (HPD). Drs. Longmire, Zhao, and Lawton worked closely with the Houston Police Department’s Executive Assistant Chief Timothy Oettmeier to construct a survey instrument designed to provide HPD leadership with information that would help inform them of the citizens’ impressions of their services. The instrument included 70 items focusing on citizens’ general impressions of the Department’s officers and their satisfaction with the Departments’ delivery of a variety of services ranging from traffic law enforcement to the response to mental health consumers. Also included were questions focusing on a series of topics of special concern to the HPD such as the use of “red light cameras,” “Homeland Security cameras,” and Conducted Energy Devices (Tasers).

The sample included 1,250 Houston area residents 18 years of age or older between May 1 and June 3, 2008, who agreed to participate in the survey. All respondents were selected for inclusion in the study through the use of random digit dialing (RDD) methodologies, and data were collected via computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) technology. Additionally, respondents within bilingual or Spanish only speaking households were provided with the opportunity to complete the interview in Spanish, thus ensuring that respondents from this population sub-group were provided with ample opportunity to respond.

Houston residents have an overwhelmingly positive image of the Houston Police Department’s police officers. Over 70% of the respondents either “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that HPD officers are honest (70.6%) and fair (70.2%) in their interactions with citizens. The great majority of the respondents to the survey either strongly agreed or agreed that the Houston Police officers are hard working (80.3%) and well trained (71%). The most persistent statistically significant sub-group differences are found across different genders, ages and ethnic groups examined. Older, non-minority females were also more likely to report favorable attitudes about HPD’s services.

In addition to submitting the Final Report to the HPD, Drs. Longmire, Zhao and Lawton are working on several publications for submission to scholarly journals and are currently in the process of designing a second survey for the HPD that will employ stratified sampling techniques to better represent Hispanic respondents.
New Faculty Grants

Phillip Lyons

Dr. Phillip Lyons was recently awarded a $20,000 contract with the National Institute of Corrections (Dept. of Justice) to update and expand a book on legal liability. The book will address recent developments in legal liabilities of public officials and will incorporate hands-on exercises to facilitate engagement of students through reliance on adult learning principles. Through the Texas Regional Center for Policing Innovation, Dr. Lyons was also awarded a $60,000 contract with the Florida Regional Community Policing Institute to assist in developing curricula and evaluating a training program on law enforcement officer suicides. Dr. Lyons will facilitate focus groups of subject matter experts as part of the curriculum development process. He also will develop and implement outcome and output measures to ensure the training program has the intended impact of sensitizing agencies to suicides by law enforcement officers and removing barriers to accessing services for officers who are at risk of suicide.

Dr. Lyons negotiated a $111,000 contract to provide training and technical assistance on Human Trafficking in connection with a project sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. This effort involved the development of curriculum that will feed various training endeavors. He is working with counterparts in the Carolinas, Florida, Maine, and Minnesota on the project. He also secured a $40,000 contract with the Harris County Sheriff’s Office to facilitate immersion training of human trafficking task forces by the Harris County Human Trafficking Task Force. The project will involve logistical coordination of week-long intensive mentoring and coaching of five different human trafficking task forces from around the country who are seeking opportunities to expand their current capacities to identify, investigate, and prosecute cases of human trafficking.

Holly Miller

Dr. Holly Miller is a recipient of the Risk Assessment portion of TDCJ’s National Institute of Justice Prisoner Reentry Initiative Grant. The grant is for $175,000 for the years 2007-2010. The research involves scoring, interpreting, and analyzing over 1000 State Jail offender’s risk and treatment needs. Initial data has been presented at two national conferences.

Faculty Presentations


Oliver, Will, with Marion, Nancy. “Stress and small town policing in America.” Paper presented at Jornadas Costarricenses de Psicología Forense a UNIBE (Costa Rica Conference on Forensic Psychology at the University of Central American in Costa Rica), San Jose, Costa Rica, 2008.

Titterington, Victoria, with Kim, Bitna. “Domestic violence and South Korean women: A test of feminist theory across a continuum of experiences.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, St. Louis, November 2008.


Faculty Publications


Armstrong, G., & Kim, B. (Forthcoming). Juvenile penalties for “lawyering up”: The role of counsel and extralegal case characteristics. Crime and Delinquency.


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Downey, D., & Kerrigan, S. (Forthcoming). Quantitative analysis of carisoprodol and meprobamate in whole blood using benzylcarbamate and deuterated mephrobamate as internal standards. *Journal of Analytical Toxicology.*


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