



The University of Texas at Dallas Criminology

A Word from...

Volume 1, Issue 1
Spring 2015

Special points of interest:

- We highlight one faculty member and two students from our department who have achieved something unique!
- CGSA
- Alpha Phi Sigma
- Check out our impressive list of visiting lecturers & guest speakers

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Welcome to another installment of the Criminology Program newsletter. It's a pleasure to read about our program's many accomplishments. Rather than reiterate those, though, I'll take the opportunity this time to shed some light on scheduling, and also to put in a plug for our most recently-launched program.

Scheduling is an art. It is a constant work in progress, and it is rarely finalized until the last minute. A variety of considerations go into settling on classes to offer. Foremost is the need to offer core classes at fixed intervals so students can complete their degree programs. Electives must also be offered with sufficient variety that needless repetition is avoided. Then there is faculty availability; the program has 13 affiliated faculty, but due to various administrative appointments, grant projects, and sabbaticals, only so many classes can be taught.

This means we must draw on the valuable services of our senior TAs and part time lecturers from outside the university. Everyone's areas of expertise and preference must also be taken into account. Additionally, scheduling demands accommodating student requests, advisor feedback, and perhaps most important, university and system policies. Concerning the latter, there are various rules for when classes can and cannot be offered, such as their start times and days. And all this must be orchestrated in such a way as to minimize overlap. Deciding whether to offer a class online or in person is never simple, either. I could go on, but this summary gives you a sense of the issues and complications.

Now for a degree program you may not know a great deal about. Our MS in Justice Administration and Leadership (JAL) is the program's most recent addition. Spear-

headed by Dr. Taylor, the JAL MS is something of a criminal justice version of UTD's popular executive MBA. The difference is that our program contains a justice-specific focus, with courses on leadership, human resource management, negotiations, and legal issues, to name a few. It is unique, too, the only such program in the DFW area. The JAL program is also a nice complement to our other graduate programs, which include both the traditional and online criminology MS and the Ph.D. Please feel free to contact either Dr. Robert Taylor or Dr. Galia Cohen for more information!

As always, if you have any questions, thoughts, concerns, or suggestions for improvements, please contact me. I am here to help. Thanks, and good luck with the rest of the 2014/2015 academic year.

John L. Worrall, PhD
Program Head

Criminology Program Partners

- Editor-in-Chief of *Police Quarterly*
Dr. John L. Worrall Worrall@utdallas.edu
- Center for Crime and Justice Studies
Director- Dr. Robert Morris Morris@utdallas.edu
<http://www.utdallas.edu/epps/ccjs/>
- Institute for Urban Policy Research
Director- Dr. Timothy M. Bray Timothy.Bray@utdallas.edu
<http://www.urbanpolicyresearch.org>



Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Denise Boots

Dr. Denise Paquette Boots is an Associate Professor of Criminology at the University of Texas at Dallas. She came to UT Dallas in 2006 after receiving her doctorate in Criminology from the University of South Florida. Her present research focuses around violence and public policy with an emphasis on life-course perspectives and evaluation, mental health, child abuse, domestic violence and homicide, parricide, capital punishment, youth crime, and intersections of race, gender, and ethnicity. Her professional community service activities include serving on the advisory board of Family Compass in Dallas, as a member of the City of Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force and Executive Board, as an editorial board member for the respected journal *Violence Against Women*, as a member of the Human Protections Committee for the Dallas Child Advocacy Center, and as the Senior Executive Counselor for the Division of Women and Crime of the American Society of Criminology.

Dr. Boots truly enjoys teaching and mentoring at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She teaches the large undergraduate course Introduction to Crime course each semester and other courses such as Capital Punishment and Homicide, Victimology, Family Violence over the Lifecourse, and Corrections. In 2010 she was awarded the University of Texas Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, one of the most selective and prestigious teaching awards in the country. As a former Border Patrol Agent trainee and Level 4 juvenile counselor to incarcerated youth, she works often with practitioners and has several projects underway with community partners.

In December 2014, she was co-awarded a \$530,000 planning grant with Genesis Women's Support and the Conference on Crimes Against Women (CCAW) to create a new institute to train prosecutors, victim advocates and law enforcement in the most underserved communities in Texas to seek better outcomes for victims of domestic violence. Dr. Boots is working closely with Dr. Timothy Bray, Director of the Institute for Urban Policy Research (IUPR) and his staff has two full-time research assistants also funded on the 18-month project. The grant is creating the Institute for Coordinated Community Response (ICCR), which seeks to create a comprehensive curriculum and fellows institute that will support prosecutors, victim advocates, and police officers who serve victims of domestic violence in their respective communities. The grant period runs from December 2014 through May of 2016.

In addition to her current grant, Dr. Boots has several other research projects underway. She is collaborating with Kelli Martin (Research Unit Supervisor and former UT Dallas Criminology doctoral student) and the team at Tarrant County Community Supervision, Dr. Jennifer Wareham (Wayne State University), and Nina Barbieri (doctoral student in Criminology) to conduct an evaluation of the SWIFT gang program for serious chronic offenders. Dr. Boots is also finalizing an evaluation of the mental health court in the Dallas County Public Defender's Office with Dr. Jennifer Wareham and Cristina Garcia (doctoral student in Political Science). In addition, she recently submitted a work with Dr. Rashmi Shetgiri (UCLA Medical Center Pediatrician) focusing on at-risk youth, violence, and weapon carrying for peer-review. She also has joined with Dr. Stacy Mallicoat (Cal State-Fullerton) on research related to students' determinations of death-worthiness in a real death penalty case.

Dr. Boots was married this past November and stays busy in her free time with her husband Barry, their four children, and her super-sized golden retriever and black lab.

Graduate Student Spotlight



Ivan Birch

Ivan Birch is an adjunct professor and doctoral student at the University of Texas at Dallas completing his dissertation in the program in Criminology. Ivan has taught courses such as Crime and Public Policy, Theories of Justice, Juvenile Justice, Intro to Criminal Justice, and Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement. He is also the managing editor of the peer-reviewed journal *Police Quarterly*, a position he has held for several years.

Seeking to create research of his own, Ivan has presented research in the areas of mass public shootings, nutrition and crime, neighborhood variables and crime, identity theft, experimental designs, social capital, and time series statistics. He presented twice at the ASC 2014 conference, first comparing methodological differences in time-series analysis in evaluating community policing, and then analyzing the

measurement difficulties of using social capital to explain neighborhood crime.

In the fall of 2014, he was asked by the Arts and Technology (ATEC) department at UTD to design, test, and statistically analyze a pilot study of a virtual training program designed to train police officers. Working with cadets at the Dallas Police Academy, he created and implemented an experiment involving a pre-post virtual test, a pre-post survey, and pre-post data collected on live participants. The statistical results are promising, and efforts are ongoing to secure a grant for future development. In the future, this research may change the way police are trained to detect intoxicated drivers nationwide.

Ivan has a B.A. in Biology and Economics (Majors) and a M.A. in International Relations from a university in London, England. Prior to instructing at the undergraduate level, he taught forensic science, chemistry, physics, biology, and economics at a private high school in Dallas. Ivan plans to graduate in May and is currently seeking a job in academia. His dissertation uses geospatial analysis to examine the effect of collective efficacy on homicide counts using neighborhood data.

A nation's treasure is in its scholars.

Chinese Proverb

Undergraduate Student Spotlight



Jordan Riddell

Originally from Allen, TX, Jordan is completing his Bachelor's Degree in Criminology and expects to graduate in December 2015. Currently, Jordan is a member of the UT Dallas Collegium V Honors Program; CV requires a minimum GPA of 3.5 and the completion of at least 24 hours of honors courses by graduation.

He works with Dr. Connell on her CHOICES research grant which serves to evaluate the effectiveness of short-term interventions among at-risk youth and

will be presenting his work at the upcoming American Criminal Justice Sciences conference held in Orlando, FL this March.

Prior to his recent work with Dr. Connell, Jordan worked with Dr. Barnes on examining the potential relationship between Nintendo stock prices and the national crime rate. He plans to continue along this line of research for his CV senior thesis.

Jordan is currently on the Fast Track program at UTD which

allows him to take masters level courses and hopes to continue his education and complete graduate school for Criminology. Although, he has not decided which university he would like to attend, we sure do hope he continues excelling here in the UTD Criminology Program and would be an excellent candidate for our graduate program!

UT Dallas– Criminology
PhD Graduates
Class of 2015!



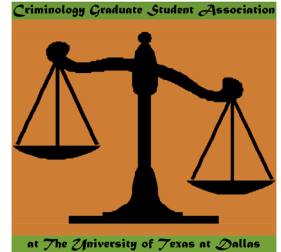
CGSA

The Criminology Graduate Student Association was started by fellow graduate students in 2008, and is advised by Dr. Lynne Vieraitis. CGSA strives to strengthen the voice of Criminology Graduate students, facilitate professional development, and foster social networking among students and faculty.

CGSA organized their second annual Adopt-a-Family event with local non-profit organization Family Compass. Our family of six was able to receive Christmas thanks to all of the wonderful and thoughtful contributors, this annual event will surely continue!

A trip to Eden Detention Center is being finalized for May 1st, please let a CGSA member know if you are interested in attending. Additionally, a profit share is in the works, be sure to look out for more information!

Officers: President: Jessica Craig; Vice-President: Haley Zettler; Social Coordinator and Risk Manager: Stephanie Huberman; Treasurer: Justine Medrano; Secretary: Mary Hurtenbach; Community Service Coordinator and Risk Manager: Nina Barbieri



Fundraising:

CGSA has -shirts in a limited selection of sizes for sale. Please see a CGSA member today to get yours!

Alpha Phi Sigma

Alpha Phi Sigma, Delta Psi, is an honor's student organization recognizing the accomplishments of high achieving criminology and related majors in the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences. At the end of the fall, 2014 semester it had 27 active members who completed approximately 200 hours of community service with over a dozen organizations in the area. Fourteen APS members assisted with the Guns and Hoses Project and sixteen attended the Happy Trails & Induction Ceremony in December. Congratulations and Happy Trails go to December graduates: Jasmine Chowdury, Rachel Ficke, Jacqueline Garcia, Brenda Guevara, and Traci Murdock. Welcome aboard to new inductees: Cynthia Shaw, Alessandra Richter, Jacob Chang, Jamaal Perry, Sokyoung Hong, Thanh Huynh, Allison Wu, Travis Cornelius, Megan Aragon, Kary Lopez, and Wesley Antunez.

The organization has six officer positions and after fall elections they are: President –Allison Audd, Vice President- Rachel Kail, Secretary – Wesley Antunez, Treasurer – Alexandra Pollock, Historian - Steve Shen, and Public Affairs Officer – Alessandra Richter.

Any interested student may contact any of the Officers for more information about membership or they may contact the Chapter Faculty Advisor, Dr. O. Elmer Polk at elmer.polk@utdallas.edu. The National Office requires the following criteria: 3.2 grade point average overall, must have completed four or more criminology or criminal justice classes, must be an actively enrolled student at the University of Texas at Dallas and have a declared major or minor in criminology or a related field and must have completed three full semesters of college level work.

Criminology PhD Graduates– Fall 2014

➤ **Dr. Michael Cherbonneau**

University of North Florida

➤ **Dr. Jensten “Cody” Jorgensen**

Boise State University

➤ **Dr. Brooke Miller**

University of North Texas

No crime is so great as
daring to excel.

Winston Churchill

CGSA Fall Community Service Event:

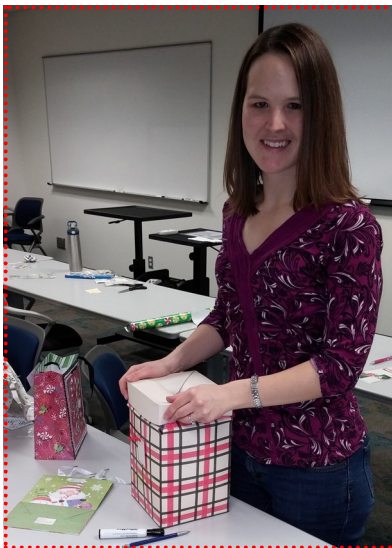
Adopt-a-Family



Alpha Phi Sigma helping collect donations!



Amny is making sure everything looks beautiful



Jessica is all smiles as she wraps presents



Stephanie C. making some last minute quality checks



Haley and Stephanie H. have some fun wrapping presents!



Alpha Phi Sigma Fall 2014 Community Service Event: Guns & Hoses

Guns & Hoses is a North Texas nonprofit foundation serving fallen firefighter and police officer.
APS volunteers at this event every year!



Member volunteers at Guns and Hoses

Allison and Rachel inducting new members at the end of semester Induction Ceremony
(New member Alessandra Richter pictured).



Featured Alumni



Dr. Katherine Polzer
Class of 2007

Dr. Katherine Polzer is an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Texas Christian University on Fort Worth, Texas. She received her Master's degree in Criminal Justice from California State University in 2005, and then successfully completed her PhD at UTD.

Her research interests include capital punishment, wrongful convictions, sentencing laws, and prisoner reentry.

Recent publications include;

-Polzer, K., Nhan, J. & Polzer, J. (2014). Prosecuting the prosecutor: The makings of the Michael Morton act. *The Social Science Journal*, 51(4): 652-658

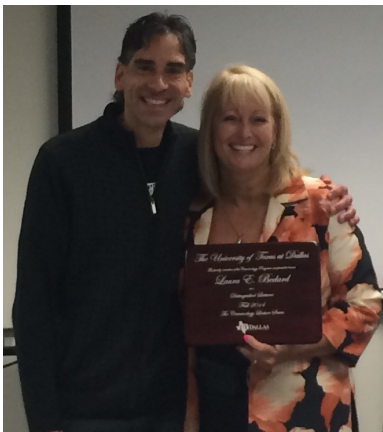
-Downing, S., Polzer, K. & Levan, K. (2013). Space, time and reflexive Interviewing: Implications for qualitative research with active, incarcerated and former Criminal offenders. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 12: 478-497.

Dr. Polzer serves on the Faculty Senate, as the faculty sponsor for the student group, Criminal Justice Society, and she is active in the AddRan Festival of Undergraduate Scholarship and Creativity.

Dr. Polzer enjoys travelling and attending conferences. She has enjoyed and learned a lot from the European Society of Criminology's conferences

Visiting Lecturers & Guests

Dr. Laura E. Bedard, Warden at Eden Detention Center located in Eden, TX, was invited to come speak at UTD. Students and faculty were invited to hear Dr. Bedard discuss her many years of experience working with Texas inmates and the correctional system. Eden Detention Center is a unique facility as it houses foreign nationals awaiting deportation for their crimes. CGSA is organizing a trip to visit Dr. Bedard and Eden Detention Center this May.



Department Achievements & Activity

Faculty

Connell, N.M., El Sayed, S., Reingle, J.M., Schell-Busey, N.M., & Pearce, A.N. Forthcoming. The intersection of perceptions and experiences of bullying by race and ethnicity in an American sample. *Deviant Behavior*. Accepted August 2014.

Kovandzic, T.V., Vieraitis, L. M., & Ahrens, A. Forthcoming. "Do execution moratoriums increase homicide? Re-examining evidence from Illinois" in the journal *Applied Economics*.

Morris, R.G. Forthcoming. Exploring the Effect of Exposure to Short-Term Solitary Confinement Among Violent Prison Inmates. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*.

Reingle, J. M., **Connell, N.**, Businelle, M., Jennings, W. G., & Chartier, K. Forthcoming. Event-level alcohol use and intimate partner violence among adults: Results from a nationally representative study. *Bio-Med Central Public Health*. DOI:10.1186/1471-2458-14-466.

Reingle, J.M., & **Connell, N.M.** Forthcoming. The health and mental health of prisoners: Identifying barriers to mental health exams and medication continuity. *American Journal of Public Health*. Accepted May 2014.

Taylor, R.W., & Swanson, C.R. (2016) *Terrorism, Intelligence and Homeland Security*: Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson

Taylor, R.W., Fritsch, E.J., & Liederbach, J. (2015) *Digital Crime and Digital Terrorism*, 3rd edition: Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson

Taylor, R.W., & Fritsch, E.J. (2015) *Juvenile Justice: Policies, Processes and Programs*, 4th edition: New York: McGraw-Hill

Department Achievements & Activity

Students

Connell, N.M, Jennings, W.G., **Barbieri, Nina**, & Reingle-Gonzalez, J.M. (2015). Arrest as a way out: Understanding the needs of adult female sex trafficking victims identified by law Enforcement. *Journal of Crime and Justice* DOI: 10.1080/0735648X.2015.1007614

Craig, Jessica M. “Which Bond Matters More?: Assessing the Differential Strengths of Parental Bonding Measures on Adolescent Delinquency Over Time.” *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*. (forthcoming)

Craig, Jessica M., Morris, R.G., Piquero, A.R., & Farrington, D.P. “Heavy Drinking Ensnarers Adolescents into Crime in Early Adulthood.” *Journal of Criminal Justice*. (forthcoming)

El Sayed, Sarah, Piquero, A.R., Schubert, C.A., Mulvey, E.P., Pitzer, L & Piquero, N.L. Assessing the mental health/offending relationship across race/ethnicity in a sample of serious adolescent offenders. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*. (forthcoming)

Leban, L., **Cardwell, Stephanie M.**, Copes, H., & Brezina, T. Adapting to prison life: A qualitative examination of the coping process among incarcerated offenders. *Justice Quarterly*. (Forthcoming).

Vieraitis, L.M., Copes, H., **Powell, Zachary A.**, & **Pike, Ashley**. (2015). A little information goes a long way: Expertise and identity theft. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, (20) 10-18 doi:10.1016/j.avb.2014.12.008

Turgut Ozkan won a graduate student paper competition at the SWACJ 2014 conference for his research on evolution and delinquency and also won the Juvenile Justice Student Paper Competition with ACJS for his research on repeat juvenile offenders.

ACJS Presenters:

Nina Barbieri	Justine Medrano
Stephanie M. Cardwell	Jordan Riddell
Stephen J. Clipper	Richard Wylie Riner
Jessica Craig	Justin T. Templain
Mary Hurtenbach	Arthur G. Vasquez
Turgut Ozkan	Courtney Wayne
Michele Bisaccia Meitl	Haley Zettler

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Visit us:

<http://www.utdallas.edu/epps/criminology/>

Questions about our program?

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OFFICE

GR 2.202

Upcoming Events

- January 22
CGSA's first meeting of the semester
GR 2.326; 2:15 pm
- February 6
Brown Bag presentation on Qualitative Research feat; Drs. Lynn Vieraitis and James Marquart
GR 2.326
- March 3-6
ACJS in Orlando, FL
- March 16-20
Spring Break
- April 2
CGSA's second meeting
TBD
- April 27 and 28
PhD Comprehensive Exams

