

Lamar Criminal Justice Newsletter



Lamar Aids Effective Re-entry through Project GROW Classes

They are back.... in our community, now what do we do? Ignore them, hope they make it on their own, send them back for new offenses costing the tax payers an average of 25,000 to 30,000 a year, or help them re-enter effectively?

The fundamental areas of focus of project “G.R.O.W”, Getting Reentrants On a Working Path, for long-term successful re-entry are education/job skills and cognitive reconstruction of thinking.

This project consisted of two classes through Lamar University in Criminal Justice with one of the courses being cross-listed with the Social Work division. In these classes, Lamar students and Professor Karen Roebuck worked with inmates at the Bureau of Prisons Low Facility, the Federal halfway house, and Federal Probation. These three institutions are mandated to work together to assure continuity of services during each transition. This is essential for offenders to maintain a continuum of services and these two classes played a part in bridging the gap.

“There are many areas of ‘risks and needs’ that should be addressed in order for offenders to successfully re-enter the community,” noted Ms. Roebuck. Family reunification, drug treatment, mental health treatment, strong pro-social community support,

Continued on Page 4

Project GROW	1
Director’s Note	2
Study Abroad Ireland	3
Community Initiatives	5
Faculty Research	6
Mann voted into IACP	7
Student Focus	8
Welcome New Faculty	9
Future Cardinals	10

Editor-IN-Chief:

Dr. Vidisha Barua Worley, Esq.,
Associate Professor of Criminal
Justice, Lamar University

Greetings from the Interim CJ Director



Dr. Robert Michael Worley

Greetings, friends! The year, 2017, proved to be an exciting year for the Division of Criminal Justice at Lamar University. First, after an exhaustive national search, we welcomed two new faculty members, Drs. Ahmet Guler and Lucy Tsado, both of whom bring considerable knowledge and expertise to our program. We also said a fond farewell to Drs. Eric Bronson and Raymond Shearer, both of whom left Lamar University last year to pursue other exciting careers. Dr. Shearer recently accepted a position as an Assistant District Attorney with Jefferson County. I am confident that, even with his new responsibilities, Dr. Shearer will continue to contribute to our program.

Last year, we had two successful study abroad trips. Dr. Cheng-Hsien Lin, along with Drs. Chiung-Fang Chang and Garrick Harden traveled with students to Taiwan and South Korea. Students not only became intimately acquainted with the food, culture and cuisine of South East Asia, they also learned about crime and deviance from a global perspective. Dr. Jim Mann, his wife and colleague, Judith (who is also referred to affectionately by students as “Dr. Mrs. Mann”) also led a study abroad trip to Ireland. Fun, Fun!

Even though many of our criminal justice students (as well as some faculty and staff) felt the wrath of Hurricane Harvey, we are a resilient group. Ms. Karen Roebuck, who was herself a victim of this devastating storm, still managed to find time to raise not only money, but also awareness, for those in Southeast Texas who lost so much. I am so proud to call her my colleague.

The year, 2017, proved to be amazing for faculty research and publications. The faculty presented their work at numerous national conferences and published articles in journals, such as, the *Criminal Law Bulletin*, *Deviant Behavior*, *Crime and Delinquency*, and *Security Journal*, among others. The faculty also published book review essays, as well as two book chapters.

While we had so many scholarly achievements for 2017, I am particularly proud that Dr. Sanaz Alasti coauthored a book chapter in Bob Bohm’s book. Bob is, without question, one of the foremost experts on capital punishment; therefore, this is, indeed quite an honor. And, on top of that, Dr. Vidisha Barua Worley, has been working diligently as the lead editor for the two-volume encyclopedia, *American Prisons and Jails: An Encyclopedia of Controversies and Trends* (ABC-Clio). This is an extensive undertaking that is more than 90% complete, thanks to her hard work.

Finally, we are so happy to have Former FBI Agent, Mr. Mark Broome on the faculty. Last Fall, I needed someone to teach a Crime and Criminals class at the last minute. Mr. Broome stepped up to the plate and did a great job! I am so grateful for our admin., Ms. Brittany Ann Wood, who helps me every day (along with Ms. Trotman). Clearly, we have an amazing and dynamic group of people in Criminal Justice. I am looking forward to a wonderful 2018; go Cardinals!!

Study Abroad in Ireland



Criminal Justice students climbed the Blarney Castle in Ireland to kiss the Blarney stone.



The Police Academy in Ireland

Over the Summer of 2017, Dr. Eric F. Bronson, Dr. Judith Mann, and Dr Jim Mann taught 3 courses in Ireland (Sports and Crime, International Psychology, and Global Crime Control respectively). There were about 20 students who took one, two, or all three courses. Some of the course related activities included a lecture on sports psychology and practicing the national game of Hurling, visiting a Magdalene Asylum, learning about the politics of Ireland from faculty at Waterford Institute of Technology. The highlight of the trip was the tour of Garda Síochána College, the national police academy of Ireland. The students learned that Ireland has only one police academy and it is two years long, resulting in not only a police badge, but also the equivalence of an Associate college degree. As tourists, students experienced the rich Irish culture. The team visited the medieval castle of Waterford, the Waterford Crystal Factory, climbed Blarney Castle to kiss the Blarney stone, and strolled along the scenic coast of the Irish Sea.

Continued from Page 1

faith-based support, educational/job skills and cognitive reconstruction of offender thinking, are all areas that need to be addressed to reduce the risk of recidivism, assure community safety and offender success.

Students in these classes worked with offenders in developing skill sets to assist with employment, job readiness and education. Students networked to provide offenders with interview clothing, assisted in the development of resumes and interviewing techniques/mock interviews for employment and transportation.

Through student networking, three new bicycles, helmets, locks and lights, were secured for offenders at the local federal halfway house to facilitate their taking face-to-face courses at Lamar University and LIT. This course focused on offender accountability, self-awareness and relationship building for family reunification.

Project G.R.O.W. worked well in Southeast Texas as there are five community players that are building blocks for success, the U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal and State Prisons, Federal halfway house, Federal Probation (community supervision), and Lamar, a university with programs in place to assist with education/employment and cognitive reconstruction. These classes were instrumental in developing a resource manual for the local area building upon the strong local community ties to assist with offender and family services.

Long-term, Project GROW could become stronger by adopting a national model for effective re-entry. This program developed a risk-and-need assessment, to understand where each offender ranks and what they need, to be successful in the community. Additionally, this program assisted in reducing the employment rate at the halfway house to over 50%, a significant improvement.

The U.S Attorney's Office is continuing to develop the reentry coalition and host an "employee awareness" luncheon later this spring.

This luncheon will bring together prospective employers to inform them on the benefits of hiring ex-offenders. The event will feature success stories from a panel of employers and the ex-offenders they have hired.

Lamar University has additional long-term goals for project G.R.O.W. specifically to continue classes with the Federal Prisons, the halfway houses and community supervision. They will also be establishing an evidenced-based instrument to measure both qualitatively and quantitatively data collected for re-entry research.

This research will allow for the collection of data to complete studies to assure that the program efforts have validity and are evidence-based to be used nationwide.

Effective Re-entry programming, such as project GROW has endless possibilities and these two courses have just touched the tip of the iceberg assisting offenders back into the community. Southeast Texas and its key players, have recognized the need to coordinate resources to adequately address and assess the risks and needs for each offender to assure community safety and successful reentry.

The turning point will be, our community, Lamar, U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal/State corrections / community supervision and local community resources, working together to produce a template for re-entry success, not only for our area, but for our nation.

The re-entry summit, and project G.R.O.W and the reentry coalition, have begun to raise community awareness of the re-entry needs and the coordination of services, necessary to address the need for cognitive reconstruction of offender thinking and education/job skills.

This movement towards effective re-entry is the only way to address community safety, address the reduction in taxes being paid for incarceration and to make sure offenders successfully re-enter our community.

PROJECT G.R.O.W.

Lamar CJ Community Initiatives



11/16/2017 @ 4PM

**JAMES BYRD
PRESENTATION**

American Criminal Justice Association

Alpha Phi Kappa in association with CJSA will be hosting our very own Mark Broome, for a presentation over the case of James Byrd and the Jasper dragging death.



Inside information from an experienced Federal Agent with personal experience on this case. Mr. Broome is a retired Federal Bureau of Investigation agent who now teaches at Lamar University.

**MAES BUILDING ROOM 107
4:00 PM**



Lamar student participating in the Hardin County Emergency Management Event

Professors Mark Broome and Karen Roebuck developed and facilitated Camp Bright Star at Lamar University in collaboration with the Social Work faculty members. This Camp was a week-long endeavor allowing professors to mentor and present the various prongs of Criminal Justice, from legislation, law enforcement, the courts, corrections, and community corrections. Specific Presentations included the James Bird Case investigation and forensic information.

Ms. Roebuck also expedited an endeavor with Hardin County Emergency Management Division where she had both Criminal Justice and Social Work students participate as emergency evacuees in a 48-hour transport and overnight stay in a shelter in Walker County Texas.

Professor Roebuck in collaboration with the Bureau of Prisons organized a Law Enforcement Day, where local law enforcement officials from Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange Counties, along with Federal and County officials participated in demonstrations of SWAT team exercises, Helicopter jumps, Tanks and speed boats that protect the water ways of our area. This event was attended by all the criminal justice faculty members, students of Lamar University, and students from the local high schools of Port Arthur Memorial, Nederland, Port Neches, and Hampshire Fannet. This event was utilized as a major recruiting event for Lamar University and the Division of Criminal Justice.

This past year, Ms. Roebuck also taught a class called "offender mentoring" at the Federal Halfway House that allowed 23 students to work directly with offenders who had just been released from the Federal Prison. This course was designed to assist the offenders with effective re-entry into the community.

Lamar CJ Faculty Research Success



Dr. Sanaz Alasti presenting at the Constitutional Law Colloquium of Loyola University School of Law in Chicago, November 2017



Drs Robert and Vidisha Worley presenting at the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice meeting in Fort Worth, TX in October 2017

Dr. Sanaz Alasti was invited to lecture at the Constitutional Law Colloquium of Loyola University School of Law in Chicago in November 2017. She also presented her recent paper on Cruel and Unusual Punishments at the Southern Criminal Justice Association conference in New Orleans in September 2017. Her book chapter, co-authored with Dr. Eric F. Bronson, *Death Penalty in Sharia Law*, was published in Robert Bohm & Gavin Lee edited *Handbook on Capital Punishment*, Routledge Publishing in December 2017.

Drs Robert and Vidisha Worley presented the paper titled, *"I Can't Get No Satisfaction! Deconstructing the Effects of Correctional Officer Boundary Violations on Job Satisfaction Behind the Prison Walls,"* with Eric Lambert at the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice meeting in Ft. Worth, TX in October 2017. They also presented *"Smart Use of Smart Weapons: Jail Officer Liability for the Inappropriate Use of Tasers and Stun Guns on Pretrial Detainees"* at the same conference. Earlier, they presented *"Boundary Violations and Job Satisfaction Among Prison Officers"* with Eric Lambert at the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association, Chicago, IL in September 2017. In the same month, they presented *"Even Prison Guards Like to be Nice: Is Strict Adherence to the Rules an Asset or a Liability in Terms of Job Stress?"* with Eric Lambert at the Southern Criminal Justice Association, New Orleans, LA. Robert Worley also presented *"A Primer on the Autoethnographic Method and Why it is Well-Suited for Criminal Justice Research."* Robert Worley and Vidisha Worley presented *"A Review of the Correctional Staff Organizational Commitment Literature"* with Zachary Buckner, Eric Lambert, and Nancy Hogan at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Conference in Kansas City, MO, in March 2017. In November 2017, Robert Worley presented *"Memoirs of a Guard-Researcher: Deconstructing the Games Inmates Play Behind the Prison Walls,"* at the American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA.

In 2017, Drs. Robert and Vidisha Worley with Dr. Eric Lambert published the online version of *"The effects of perceptions of staff-inmate boundary violations and willingness to follow rules on work stress"* in the *Security Journal*. Along with Dr. Henda Hsu, they published the online version of *"Can I trust my coworker?: Examining correctional officers' perceptions of staff-inmate inappropriate relationships within a southern penitentiary system,"* in the *Deviant Behavior*. Vidisha and Robert Worley also published *"Smart weapons need smart policies: Municipal liability for the inappropriate use of tasers and stun guns by police officers,"* in the *Criminal Law Bulletin*.



Above: The historic Eastern State Prison, the very first “penitentiary”

Mann Voted Into IACP

In 2017, Dr. Jim Mann was voted into the International Association of Police Chiefs (IACP), Police Psychology section, and attended the IACP conference in Philadelphia.

The major theme was how to provide better wellness programs for officers and the need for more research into improving interactions between police and citizens.

Also, while there, Dr Mann visited the historic Eastern State Prison, the very first “penitentiary” in the United States.



On January 8, 2018, Ms. Karen Roebuck conducted a 2-hour training session and Q&A on signs and types of abuse and neglect of children. This training was given to youth ministers of 10 local cities and was held at the Catholic Church in Lumberton.

Student Focus



Thomas K. Worry successfully defended his McNair research proposal. Dr. Jim Mann served as Mr. Worry's primary mentor for this project. Mr. Worry studied the Facebook themes of police departments in Texas. His research was accepted as a poster presentation at the Society of Police and Criminal Psychology in San Diego, CA in September, 2017.

Ronnie J. Perkins successfully defended her McNair research proposal titled, "Sensationalism of Murder in Pop Culture," under the guidance of Dr. Cheng-Hsien Lin.

LAMAR CJ DIVISION HELPS HARVEY VICTIMS

Karen Roebuck and her students advocated for the community of Pinewood. Specifically, they coordinated services with a religious community in providing 327 homes in the community with a minimum of \$400.00 per family. This endeavor was accomplished in four days. Additionally, she arranged media coverage about this event to highlight Lamar's intervention and assistance of the community during Hurricane Harvey.

Ms Roebuck and her students also gave out food, blankets, socks, and hygiene items to The Hospitality Center in Port Arthur. Her students collected over 300 lbs of food. Ms. Roebuck also took her class to Booker T. Washington Elem to speak to the children about the profession of Social Work defining how it is a helping profession. Her students raised funds for over 200 toys to distribute to these children and helped them write Christmas Cards to displaced soldiers overseas.

CJ Division Welcomes Lucy and Ahmet



Dr. Lucy K. Tsado

Dr. Lucy K. Tsado obtained her Ph.D. in December 2016 from Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas and joined Lamar in the Fall of 2017. She teaches courses in Correctional Systems and Practices and Cybercrime in face-to-face and online settings. Her immediate research interests are cyberbullying and reentry programs with evidence-based practices leading to lower recidivism rates. Her other research interests include determining the process of making educational institutions in the United States, Centers of Academic Excellence (CAE). This is tied to her dissertation titled *“Analysis of cybersecurity threats and vulnerabilities: Skills gap challenges and professional development,”* which focused on the cybersecurity skills gap and the resulting deficiency.



Dr. Ahmet Guler

Dr. Ahmet Guler joined Lamar in Fall 2017. Previously, he worked as an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania between August, 2015 and August, 2017. Before coming to academia, Dr. Guler worked as a police manager at the Turkish National Police in various capacities for more than 15 years. He served as an instructor in several countries in the training programs of UN, UNDP, INTERPOL, and OSCE. He also took essential roles in national and international criminal justice development projects. He has publications about current criminal justice issues in peer-reviewed journals and edited books. His research interests include criminal justice policy, terrorism, police organizations, criminal justice reform, information technology in criminal justice, and community policing. He likes travelling, exploring new cultures, and seeing new places.

Future Cardinals!



On November 9, 2017, students from Lee High School and Sterling High School attended a presentation by Dr. Vidisha Barua Worley and met with the criminal justice faculty. Interim CJ Director Robert M. Worley and Ms. Karen Roebuck pose with these future Cardinals!