GetEducated.com ranks Lamar University’s online master’s degree in criminal justice second in affordability out of 71 programs in the U.S. The ranking compared 169 degree programs offered by a total of 127 different institutions, revealing the most affordable online master's degree in criminal justice programs. The rankings are data-driven based on calculations of total full-time tuition and fees. GetEducated.com found the difference between the cheapest and most expensive program is $38,000. The rankings also reveal the average cost of an online master’s degree is $19,700 (in-state).

Lamar University’s College of Arts & Sciences Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice offers the Master of Science in criminal justice for current law enforcement or criminal justice professionals who want to progress to careers in the FBI, CIA or other federal security agencies. The program focuses on both practical skills and theoretical knowledge and prepares students for upper-level staff, administrative, management, treatment and planning positions in criminal justice agencies.

“The Master of Science in criminal justice program is fully online. Many of the graduate students in this program are law enforcement employees from virtually every aspect of the criminal

Continued on Page 4
Hello, friends! As we get ready for a fantastic 2020, I would like to reflect upon some of the extraordinary accomplishments of the Criminal Justice faculty and students last year. Thanks to Karen Roebuck, we had two Criminal Justice Advisory Board Meetings in 2019: One in the Spring and one in the Fall. Both meetings were held at the Rockin’ A Cafe – where our criminal justice faculty had the opportunity to interface with a wide array of criminal justice officials, such as, police chiefs, judges, elected officials, prison wardens, and federal law enforcement officers. It was great to enjoy mouthwatering food with distinguished law enforcement personnel from all over the Golden Triangle. Some of our students even had an opportunity to attend these lunches—a win-win for everyone.

Dr. Cheng-Hsien Lin, Dr. Chiung-Fang Chang and I led a Study Abroad Trip to South Korea and Taiwan. Dr. Lin and Dr. Chang, who are both originally from Taiwan, worked hard to provide everyone with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn about the criminal justice system in both countries while having fun in the process. In the Summer of 2020, they plan to take another group of students abroad—this time to China and Taiwan.

As usual, Mark Broome did a great job with the Practicum in Policing course that he taught last summer. This is a unique class where criminal justice students earn three-hours of criminal justice course credits by attending a two-week course hosted by the Beaumont Police Department. Mark provides students with an academic perspective while also encouraging them to engage with police officers in the field. Students love this experience: they gain both academic knowledge, as well as practical information, which will serve them in their burgeoning careers.

Dr. Lucy Tsado, Dr. Sanaz Alasti, Dr. Chen-Hsien Lin, Dr. Vidisha Worley, Dr. Jim Mann, and I continue to have a strong presence at academic conferences. Last year, our faculty attended conferences of the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the American Society of Criminology, the Southern Criminal Justice Association, the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association, and the Southern Sociological Society, among others. Our faculty also continues to publish in high-impact journals.

Perhaps this is one of the many reasons why, in 2019, Lamar University’s online Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree was ranked 2nd in affordability out of 71 online criminal justice graduate programs in the U.S. (GetEducated.com) and ranked as No. 23 out of the top 35 online Master’s degree programs in Criminal Justice Programs in the U.S. (Top Best Online Schools). Also, our Master’s in Criminal Justice degree was recently ranked #2 out of 156 universities (Intelligent.com) — we were right behind Florida State University — an institution with far more faculty and resources. And, in an article published on December 15, 2019, Lamar University was identified as being among ‘The Top 10 Public Universities On the Rise’ (CollegeGazette.Com). The article specifically mentions that our
renowned Master’s degree program in Criminal Justice has contributed to the overall success in the university in a major way. This is great news for our faculty and students!

Speaking of students, in 2019, four of our graduate students published their work as sole authors in academic journals. Below are the citations of these scholarly works:


Finally, it is significant to note that during 2019, several of our Lamar University Criminal Justice graduates successfully found employment in criminal justice agencies. Two of our top Lamar University CJ graduates became Beaumont Police Officers, two became Troopers with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and one entered service as a Houston Police Officer. Many of our other CJ Program graduates found jobs in criminal justice agencies and are in various stages of the application process with state, local, and federal agencies. Feedback from all of those who began new careers expressed enthusiastically that their experience in the Lamar University CJ Program was of great value and assistance to them in not only the application and hiring process, but on the job as well. That certainly reflects well on the entire faculty and staff and demonstrates that the CJ program is of the highest quality.

I am honored to have the privilege of leading this outstanding program and am looking forward to a wonderful 2020!

Go Cardinals!

Robert M. Worley
Worley wins National Award to Document ACJS History

Dr. Robert M. Worley received the 2019 ACJS Historical Mini-Grant Award, a cash award of $5,000. He was recognized at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences’ (ACJS) Annual Awards Luncheon on 3/29/19 in Baltimore. Worley is currently making a documentary where he has interviewed famous criminologists about the history of Justice Quarterly, the Journal of Criminal Justice Education, and the new Justice Evaluation Journal.

LU’s Criminal Justice Ranked 2nd in the US

Continued from Page 1

justice system, which provides a unique networking opportunity,” said Robert Worley, associate professor of criminal justice and program director. “Students from various agencies - local, state and national - all over the country enroll in this program. Some of the students enroll in this program with aspirations to pursue doctorate degrees upon graduation, while others use the knowledge they gain to advance in their criminal justice careers.”

Courses in the online Master of Science in criminal justice online program include intensive studies in various areas of applied criminology as well as explorations of the criminal justice system and policy and theoretical approaches to the understanding of crime and delinquency. The program also includes courses designed to develop planning, evaluation and leadership skills specific to criminal justice professions. LU’s criminal justice faculty members have active research agendas and are well-suited to mentor burgeoning scholars,” said Worley. “Several of the graduate students and alumni from the Master of Science in criminal justice program have published scholarly articles in academic journals. This is an exceptional program that brings out the very best in our students, and it can be completed in a very short period of time. It challenges them to embrace critical thought and analysis, which is essential to any graduate-level education.”

First Posted on LU website on Friday, September 13, 2019 by Shelly Vitanza
LU Students and Faculty
Explore South Korea & Taiwan
Hiking, eating, writing, and more!! 17 days packed with fun & a lotta learnin’!
LU Strong: Manns’ Resilience Building Efforts to Fight Harvey and Imelda

During the past year, Drs. Judith Mann and Jim Mann have been heavily involved in the LU Strong Program. While Judi runs the LU Strong Center, they have collaborated to develop four presentations about different aspects of resilience. Dr. Jim Mann presented a faculty CTLE workshop about "Building Resilience for You and Your Students." In 2020, they will develop four additional resiliency topics.

Dr. Jim Mann has also been working with the Resiliency & Recovery Group, which is a multidisciplinary consortium of LU professors across social and physical sciences, business, and nursing. Their mission is to develop an archive of resource information to assist disaster preparation and community resilience. Dr. Jim Mann has collaborated with Dr. Brian Williams of Political Science to conduct a focus group of the law enforcement leaders of Southeast Texas to discuss “lessons learned” from Hurricane Harvey and Tropical Storm Imelda. In Spring 2020, the Group will hold a Summit with speakers around the nation sharing their expertise in disaster science.
Dr. Robert Worley with one of our online students, Ms. Quitney Guillory. Ms. Guillory, a Victim Assistance Coordinator, with the Harris County District Attorney's Office, graduated with her Master's degree in CJ.

Noel Perez, recipient of the McNair scholarship, presenting his paper about the demise of the certification process in the discipline of criminal justice.

SHINING STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

Taylor Mayo, a recent CJ graduate, who started his new job as a Houston Police Officer, is visiting with Mr. Broome and Ms. Roebuck. Mayo plans to pursue his Master's degree in Criminal Justice online at LU.

Lita Wells, a CJ graduate student and the Administrative Associate for CJ, won an award at the 20th Annual Arts and Sciences Academic Excellence Student Awards Ceremony.
On May 3rd, Alpha Phi Sigma hosted the 2019 Criminal Justice Honor Society Ceremony at the MCM Elegante Hotel. Dr. Cheng-Hsien Lin is the faculty sponsor of Alpha Phi Sigma. Judge Keith Giblin, the guest speaker, encouraged the inductees to strive for excellence both in and out of the classroom.

The Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice faculty held the Second Annual Symposium for Social Justice. This year's theme was "Achieving Justice through Action."

CJ Faculty 2019 Publications

Worley, R. M., Worley, V. B., & Lambert, E. F. (2019). Deepening the Guard-Inmate Divide: An Exploratory Analysis of the Relationship between Staff-Inmate Boundary Violations and Officer Attitudes regarding the Mistreatment of Prisoners. (Accepted in Deviant Behavior, Published Online First).


Dr. Vidisha Worley, Dr. Sanaz Alasti, and Dr. Mitchel Roth discussing the intricacies of capital punishment at the Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice in Houston.


Dr. Lucy Tsado, Dr. Vidisha Worley, and Dr. Robert Worley presented research papers at the ACJS conference in Baltimore.

Rita and Carolyn Retire

Rita will be missed by one and all in the department. She touched each of our hearts in a special way. This is what she said on her Facebook page: “I want to reiterate what a giving, professional, and wonderful faculty and staff I have worked with for the past 17 years (Lamar University’s Sociology, Social Work & Criminal Justice Department). At my retirement lunch, I was presented with a check for a large donation to be made to one of my favorite places, Beaumont Animal Care. My furry friends will benefit immensely from being able to purchase blankets, medication or other supplies desperately needed. Thank you all beautiful people.”

— Rita Trottman
The Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice bid farewell to Carolyn Wallace, who single-handedly managed the Anthropology Division for years!

Welcome, Jenny!

Jenny Hamilton has joined us as the new Administrative Associate Sr. She has worked for Lamar University since 2015. She received her Bachelor of Science in Communication from LU in 2004, and in 2016 chose to resume her educational journey. Jenny completed the Franklin Covey Leadership program in 2018, and is currently half way to completing her MBA. In January 2019, she went to study abroad in Alicante, Spain for two weeks, where she not only immersed herself in a new culture but also learned a lot about business. When not in school or working, Jenny enjoys spending time with her family, running, writing, reading, and going to movies and concerts. Happy in her new position she says, “I’m looking forward to getting to work with all of you and making 2020 a great year!”
During 2019, The CJ Division once again produced a successful Practicum in Policing (PIP) Academy, working with our partners at the Beaumont Police Department. Seventeen students completed the instruction/training platform designed for those considering a career in Law Enforcement. In addition to full immersion classroom training on all aspects of a modern police department that uses the Community Policing model, the students participated in hands on defensive tactics drills. For many the most enjoyable part of the course was the activities at the firing range. Students were able to participate in searching and room clearing exercises, shoot/don’t shoot decision scenarios, and finally, a day of live firearms shooting.
CJ Student Organizations Participate in the Cops and Kids Carnival of BPD

In the Fall, LU’s Criminal Justice Student (CISA) and Lambda Alpha Epsilon (LAE), participated in the Cops and Kids Carnival sponsored by the Beaumont Police, which served thousands of children in a safe, positive atmosphere. In the Spring, a joint banquet was held for the CISA and the LAE. Both organizations devoted countless service hours to worthwhile causes in the community.
On April 23rd, the Lamar University Criminal Justice faculty hosted the fifth Biannual Criminal Justice Advisory Board Meeting. Major law enforcement officials from all over the Golden Triangle area engaged with criminal justice faculty and students at this important event.

The Criminal Justice Faculty held its sixth Biannual Advisory Board Meeting on November 5th. Law enforcement officials from all over the Golden Triangle attended this event.
‘New York’s WSP is a node, a launching pad, a convenient gathering place’

In his new book, *The Taming of New York’s Washington Square: A Wild Civility*, Erich Goode employs rich and detailed observations, as well as in-depth interviews, in order to study deviance in one of the nation’s most famous parks. Recently ACJS Historian, Robert M. Worley, asked the author a few questions related to this scholarly work.

**RW:** I really enjoyed this book! One of the things I found interesting is the way that Washington Square is a place that truly celebrates diversity.

**EG:** Yes, the Greenwich Village neighborhood surrounding Washington Square Park is roughly 98% non-black (mostly white, with a growing Asian population), and largely upper-middle class in income, yet the park welcomes outsiders from all walks of life and unconventional characters, including the mentally disordered, the homeless, and marijuana sellers.

**RW:** Why do you suppose this is?

**EG:** I’m usually suspicious of “Why?” questions. Answers are often tautological, commonsensical, nonsensical, or offer a pile-on of factors, each one of which itself needs explaining. The “how” question is usually my domain. How do social relations work? What’s involved in the action-reaction-interaction sequence? Who does what? What direction does the interaction take? I’m a symbolic interactionist, not a positivist; and I generally work and think on the micro level, not the macro level.

**RW:** That makes sense. I know there are many students who work and live around the park. And, some of these students may engage in deviance, right?

**EG:** Yes, it is true that some of this illicit activity comes from the fact that college students tend to be less conventional than the population at large. But the history of the park also suggests that unconventionality was likely to be nurtured there historically. For a variety of reasons, bohemians, beatniks, and radicals were attracted to the Village generally and the Park specifically.

RW: Interesting. I wonder why.

EG: The reasons are partly demographic, geographic, and economic. Little Italy and Chinatown are just south of the Village, an easy 6 to 8 or so blocks walk to the Park, so many of their residents were attracted there. During most of the 1800s, there was an African American neighborhood just south and west of the Park, which was dubbed “Little Africa.” Washington Square has had a long history of diversity, resistance to authority, dissensus, unconventionality, radicalism, liberalism, bohemianism. Who knows how these things get started? Jack Reed encourages Lincoln Steffens to move to the Village. Mark Twain knew Robert Louis Stevenson, and they sit on a Park bench and feed the pigeons. Eugene O’Neill has an affair with Louis Bryant, and they leave their apartment in the Village and move to Provincetown. Something attracts one person to a place, and chains of associations bring like-minded people together. Before long, there’s a network, a community of people who share friends and interests. Artists show one another their work and hang out together; one decides to sponsor an exhibition. One writer moves to the (then) cheap apartments in the Village, then another, then another. A bookstore holds readings and attracts a literary crowd.

RW: And, you got one of your first teaching jobs at NYU, right?

EG: In 1965, when I got a job teaching sociology at NYU, I rented an apartment on MacDougal Street, a block and a half from the Park—four tiny rooms comprising a rail-road flat, with a tub in the kitchen and a stove that didn’t work, for $70 a month.

EG: Yeah, and that tells you something about the housing market, which was fluid at that time, and, in pockets of the Village, still inexpensive and hence, attractive to students, artists, writers, bohemians and beatniks without money.

RW: Interesting.

EG: There’s a long history of all this unconventionality. In 1833, a labor riot erupted on the Square when stonecutters objected to NYU’s use of Sing Sing convict labor to cut their stones for its buildings. During the Civil War, a draft riot broke out in Astor Place and troops that drilled in Washington Square were called to disperse the crowd. In 1911, after the Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire, which took place in a factory a couple of blocks from the Square (NW corner of Washington Place & Greene St.); 120,000 people gathered in the Park to mourn. In 1915, 25,000 women marched from the Park up Fifth Avenue to campaign for the right of women to vote. In 1933, an anti-Nazi rally was held which marched through the Arch. WSP is a node, a launching pad, a convenient gathering place. In 1918, I believe, the NYC subway system builds a station 6 blocks from WSP, on Christopher St. & Sheridan Square; tourists flock to the Village to see the beatniks. In 1961, in response to a ban on music being played in public places, thousands rallied in WSP, and the demonstration got out of hand; dozens were arrested. During the ‘60s, WSP became a focus for folksingers, including Bob Dylan and Joan Baez.

RW: Love Bob Dylan.

EG: Yeah, me too. And in ’64, an anti-Vietnam rally was held in the Park. Officials decided that

“During the ‘60s, WSP became a focus for folksingers, including Bob Dylan and Joan Baez.”
its originally-planned locus, Union Square, would have disrupted Christmas shopping along 14th St. In 1959, the City decides to ban all vehicular traffic from the Park. NYU begins buying up real estate all around the Square & artists are evicted from their lofts. There’s a lot of fortuitousness to how an area, a neighborhood, evolves. Over time, things happen in shreds and patches, and before you know it, there are informal networks of like-minded people who populate a place.

**RW:** From reading your book, it seems that some park-goers do occasionally get out of hand and create minor problems; yet, in most cases, no formal social control is exercised.

**EG:** WSP is an unconventional urban public space; there’s a great deal of tolerance for unconventional behavior. There’s flexibility and leeway in enforcing park and municipal violations. If formal social control is regarded as overly rigid or repressive, park-goers are likely to complain to authorities about it. PEP (Parks Enforcement Patrol) and NYPD recognize this and observe it. They draw the line at violence and as I’ve seen, the consumption of alcoholic beverages and amplification that’s too loud. Selling marijuana joints seems not to be as disruptive, and, for the most part, it is semi-tolerated. Most of the time, the owners of off-leash dogs will be warned about it, though usually not issued a citation. Mostly, feeding pigeons and squirrels is tolerated. The police follow a “hands off” policy when they feel that a heavy hand will disrupt the setting and anger park-goers.

**RW:** You conducted an informal survey of sixty park-goers and found that 67% of your sample reported that it was ‘wrong’ for park-goers to stare at one another. In fact, staring was regarded as being more of an incivility than marijuana smoking or having a dog off a leash. Did this surprise you?

**EG:** Staring is considered disruptive because it is perceived as threatening. “This man is staring at me. Why? What does he want? What is he going to do to me?” If it’s a man staring at a woman, she feels there’s a sexual intent and if it’s unwanted, she’ll want him to stop and won’t invite further staring. At some point, she’ll get up and walk away. If it’s two gay guys and both are interested, chances are, they’ll get together. If it’s two straight guys, there may be a power contest going on. Often, one is wondering whether the other is queer, or whether the other thinks he’s queer. There’s a lot of heavy freight involved in staring, both emotionally and logistically. What should I do? What’s he going to do? Women rarely stare unless they want to invite the other party to join her. That’s fairly rare.

**RW:** Staring, I think, is not a violation of park rules.

**EG:** True, staring is not a violation of formal park rules. But, it can be a violation of informal rules.

**RW:** Did you ever have any park-goers stare at you?

**EG:** Yes, I encountered it when someone engaged in a macho “staring contest” with me. But I was
always on the lookout for it when observing others. I did see some gay guys who hooked up as a result of mutual eye contact, but as I say in the book, WSP is no longer the place to go in NYC for gay guy hook-ups.

RW: You witnessed quite a few marijuana sales during the course of your field work. Can you describe a typical transaction?

EG: The sales seemed brief and impersonal. Keep in mind that NYU students usually sell marijuana to one another, so these are, for the most part, not NYU students. Also, keep in mind that if drug sellers are observed selling to youngsters, the police will shut them down. And if they begin selling hard drugs, likewise, they’ll get shut down.

RW: And, I remember reading that most of the marijuana sellers were African Americans who sold mainly to Caucasians.

EG: I don’t think race played a role in the marijuana seller-buyer interaction, aside from the forces and factors that propelled the two interacting parties to end up in the role they played as buyer and seller.

RW: Do you think the dealers were competing with one another for customers?

EG: I didn’t see competition in play among marijuana sellers; it’s mainly who knows whom, who is out selling, and where, in a given spot, they are selling—logistical matters—that determined these things. My guess is there were repeat customers, but I didn’t see enough transactions to track that. Maybe I saw a dozen instances of marijuana and cash changing hands.

RW: In your book, you discuss Elijah Anderson’s (2011) notion of a “cosmopolitan canopy.” How do you think your field work contributes to our understanding of this concept?

EG: I consider WSP to be a “cosmopolitan canopy,” along the lines of Anderson’s conceptualization, but with one difference, and that is that the area of Philadelphia that Anderson studied, between the Schuylkill and the Delaware Rivers, is a POPS—a privately-owned public space; in other words, it is a commercial space that is owned and operated to make a profit. With WSP, there’s no profit involved. Nobody around here has anything to sell except for the marijuana and occasional food truck. (Of course, the buskers want to “sell” their acts.) The area around the park is residential. That’s a big difference and it influences behavior that takes place in one versus the other space. Tolerance for diversity in a POPS is limited to profitability; if someone threatens or disrupts the space’s capacity to earn money, private guards, hired by the POPS, will hustle the intruder out of there. In WSP, the police and Parks Enforcement Patrol are there to protect the public interest, and that usually means safety and conformance with the park rules. Anderson and I don’t disagree about this, it’s just that the two places are similar in most respects—in that they are both cosmopolitan canopies—but differ with respect to the commercial angle.

“An old-fashioned, law-and-order, ‘lock ’em up and throw away the key’ officer would be the least effective agent of social control in the situation that prevails in WSP. Someone who’s progressive, flexible, liberal, probably college-educated would be ideal.”
**RW:** I thought it was great the way you provided a bit of a law enforcement perspective. What type of officer do you think would be the most effective at Washington Square and why?

**EG:** An old-fashioned, law-and-order, “lock ’em up and throw away the key” officer would be the least effective agent of social control in the situation that prevails in WSP. Someone who’s progressive, flexible, liberal, probably college-educated would be ideal. A light hand rather than a heavy hand. Law enforcement in an unconventional setting, in which there are many marginally illegal acts taking place, where “broken windows” does not prevail—where minor offenses tend not to escalate into major ones—where looking the other way on minor offenses is the best policy. I did observe an officer give a citation to the man who was drinking vodka out of a Tropicana orange juice bottle, which did surprise me.

**RW:** When you observed a male park-goer being a little too flirtatious with female park-goers, you discussed with him the appropriateness of coming on to women. It almost seemed like you were temporarily stepping out of the researcher role and offering some sound fatherly advice. Was this a research strategy? Or, were you merely trying to help the young man – or perhaps a little bit of both?

**EG:** My “fatherly advice” to Philip (I called him “Justin” in the book) about flirting. Hmm. Well, some sociologists have used such tactics to gather information, to find out what the actor’s interpretation of the rules are, so, yes, it was partly a research strategy. It’s also an interpersonal thing in the sense that I was a friend who felt that he was engaging in behavior I thought was unacceptable. So, yes, it was a bit of both.

**Note:** This interview was published earlier in *Theory in Action* and *ACJS Today*.

---

**Bios:**

Erich Goode is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Stony Brook University. He is the author of numerous books, including *Drugs in American Society*, *Deviant Behavior*, and *Justifiable Conduct*.

Robert M. Worley, Ph.D., is Associate Professor and Director of the Criminal Justice Program at Lamar University. Robert has published extensively on "inappropriate relationships" that occur between inmates and correctional officers. He has been interviewed by *Reuters*, the *New York Times*, the *Houston Chronicle*, the *Dallas Morning News*, and the *Marshall Project*, as well as other media outlets. Robert is Co-editor (w/ Vidisha B. Worley) of the *Encyclopedia of American Prisons and Jails* (ABC-Clio). His work has appeared in journals such as *Deviant Behavior*, *Criminal Law Bulletin*, *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, *Security Journal*, and *Criminal Justice Review*, among others. Robert is currently an Associate Editor of *Deviant Behavior* and the Book Review Editor of *Theory in Action*. In 2019, Robert won the ACJS Historical Mini-Grant Award.