Tsado Wins Top Prize of $10,000 at Engineering Research Conference

Dr. Lucy Tsado (PI), Dr. Camille Gibson from Prairie View A&M Juvenile Justice, and Dr. Izzat Alsmadi from Texas A&M San Antonio Computer Science, won the top prize at an Engineering Research Conference at Texas A&M.

Dr. Lucy Tsado (PI) and her team pitched a project to help develop cybersecurity workforce training for law enforcement officers in rural Texas, because they often are hit with ransomware and have no skills or resources to tackle the problem. Each year representatives from Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) regional divisions come together at a conference to expand the research capacity in Texas. The TEES Annual Research Conference (TARC) results in developing research projects in hopes of increasing funding coming to the state.

Continued on Page 15
Greetings from the CJ Director

Greetings to our CJ students, faculty, and LU community! On behalf of all in our Criminal Justice program, I am proud to report that the state of our program is strong, both in academics and extracurriculars.

I am encouraged to see the CJ program continue to grow after the pandemic. CJ students have enjoyed vibrant on-campus activities in student organizations since life has returned to normal post-pandemic. We are proud to see our 2022 Alpha Phi Sigma honor society cohort inducted to join our strong directory of successful alumni. Upcoming, we are also looking forward to CJSA’s human trafficking conference in January 2023, supported by Lamar University.

In Spring 2022, Dr. Sanaz Alasti hosted the first Death Penalty conference at Lamar University. Over the summer, our CJ program hosted two conferences. Thanks to Mr. Mark Broome and Ms. Karen Roebuck’s hard work, the CJ program organized an FBI domestic terrorism training, and the Post-Disaster Emergency Management Conference (supported by the Resiliency Grant). The CJ faculty attended these conferences and contributed to the success of these conferences. Very recently, Ms. Roebuck and social work colleagues were also awarded the Mental Illness Diversion Grant that was featured in the recent TSUS News, as part of a LU Criminal Justice Faculty team. We are lucky to have such impressive faculty members!

As we enter 2023, I look forward to our program continuing to stay active, with festive events by both student organizations and our faculty members. In addition, we are looking forward to rebuilding our on-campus graduate program into one of that is the most robust in the country.

As this is first year of my tenure as your Criminal Justice Director, I would like to thank everyone for showing up with positive spirit, hard work, and passion for making our program better every day. It is your efforts that make this program successful and our Southeast Texas community a better place for everyone. Thank you all!

LU to Celebrate 100 years in 2023

Lamar University will be 100 years old in 2023!!

Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, was founded in 1923 a few blocks from the current location as South Park Junior College and enrolled 125 students in its first fall semester. The name changed to Lamar College in 1932 in honor of Mirabeau B. Lamar, second president of the Republic of Texas and the “Father of Education” in Texas. In the early 1940s, Lamar separated from the South Park school district, which had created the college, and moved to its current location.

Lamar’s stature as a research institution continued to grow with the introduction in 1970 of its first doctoral program. In 1971, the name changed to Lamar University. During the 1970s, the university Continued on page 4
'Broken Windows': Forst Reviews James Q. Wilson’s Intellectual Contributions to CJ

Robert M. Worley, Professor, interviews Brian Forst, Professor Emeritus of Justice, Law and Criminology at the American University’s School of Public Affairs, in Washington, DC. Before his 25 years of teaching and research at AU, Brian was director of research at the Institute for Law and Social Research (1974-85) and the Police Foundation (1985-89), and then assistant professor of statistics at the George Washington University in Washington (1989-92). Brian is perhaps best known for his research on deterrence, prosecution, miscarriages of justice, and terrorism. His book, Errors of Justice: Nature, Sources, and Remedies, received the ACJS Book of the Year award in 2006. In this interview, Worley explores Forst’s close association with James Quinn Wilson (May 27, 1931-March 2, 2012), on the occasion of Wilson’s 10th death anniversary (March 2, 2022). Wilson is well-known along with co-author George Kelling for the Broken Windows theory.

RW: I have always been intrigued by Wilson’s discussion of the night watchman who would patrol the working-class neighborhoods but wouldn’t really intervene unless it was absolutely necessary. Wilson was an amazing scholar of policing.

BF: But he was much more – arguably the most influential criminal justice scholar of the 20th century. He was a renowned public intellectual and prolific author of several best-selling books, including the classic textbook, American Government (now in its 17th edition), and hundreds of essays, which appealed more to a wide audience of practitioners and conservatives than to scholars, which only added to the controversy. His writings on styles of policing in the 1960s and on police bureaucracies in the 1970s established him as a preeminent scholar on law enforcement. His 1974 essay, “Crime and the Criminologists,” on how criminologists discuss crime, was not just controversial, but game changing. Although it can’t be proven, that essay -- which was later expanded into the book, Thinking About Crime -- may have contributed to the blossoming of much more academically diverse criminal justice programs in colleges and universities throughout the United States. His writings on the biological aspects of crime, on the moral sense, and the development of character were much more controversial still, receiving acclaim from the ideological right and even more ridicule from mainstream scholars and the left. His influence was felt in the several major commissions and panels on crime and justice on which he served.

RW: I agree.

BF: Less controversially, he was among the first scholars of the criminal justice system to stimulate...
Vidisha Barua Worley, Ph.D., Esquire was promoted to Full Professor at Lamar University effective Fall 2022. This makes her the third Full Professor in the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, after Department Chair Stuart Wright, and Professor Robert M. Worley. A proud moment for the Division of Criminal Justice!

100 Years of Cardinal Pride Oral History Project

Continued from Page 2

began operating branch campuses in Port Arthur and Orange, which later became separate institutions. During the 1980s, the university was part of the Lamar University System.

During the Spring Semester 2023, Dr. Vidisha Barua Worley will be conducting an Oral History Project with her students as part of her Research Methods in Criminal Justice (CRIJ 4380) class in Spring 2023.

Dr. Worley, who is a Faculty affiliate of the Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast, is attempting to capture the oral history of Cardinals through the voices of the alumni, current students, past and present faculty, staff, and administrators, and anyone who loves and has been impacted by Lamar University in the last 100 years!

Please contact Professor Vidisha Barua Worley, Esquire directly at vworley@lamar.edu, if you would like to participate in the 100 Years of Cardinal Pride Oral History Project in Spring 2023!

Lamar University President Jaime Taylor recognizes Professor Vidisha Worley at the Lamar University Convocation, 2022, for her promotion. Also seen in the picture is Provost Daniel A. Brown.
Cheng-Hsien Lin is New CJ Director

Dr. Cheng-Hsien Lin is the Director and Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Lamar University. He received his doctoral degree from Texas A&M University with focuses on Criminology and Social Psychology (juvenile delinquency, quantitative methodology, and social deviance).

Dr. Lin has served as the Director of Criminal Justice program since the spring semester of 2022. The Criminal Justice program at Lamar University has been one of the largest disciplines at the College of Arts and Sciences. In 2022 alone, the Criminal Justice program has conducted several conferences and events that highlight the outstanding work made by the criminal justice faculty and students. Dr. Lin appreciates the continuous efforts of program faculty and student engagements to improve the longstanding reputation of the program.

Dr. Lin previously taught at Texas A&M University, San Antonio campus and later joined Lamar University in 2007. His research interests mostly focus on the intersection of juvenile delinquency, violence, and criminological theories. In particular, he studies the intergenerational transmission of criminal behavior and psychological well-being, which reflect his interdisciplinary specialties in criminology, criminal justice, social psychology, and sociology.

His research has been published in *Journal of Early Adolescence, Psychology, Crime and Law*, *International Journal of Sociological Research*, and *Journal of Knowledge, and Best Practices in Juvenile Justice & Psychology*. Dr. Lin was featured as San Antonio’s Top Professors of 2006 in San Antonio Monthly, when he was teaching at Texas A&M University, San Antonio.

At Lamar University, Dr. Lin has taught criminological theory (Crime and Criminals), research methods in criminal justice, and several topic courses in criminal justice. Organized crime, violence, campus violence, and white-collar crime are among the courses he regularly offers in the criminal justice program. Occasionally, he also offers two sociology courses, Criminology and Juvenile Delinquency. Dr. Lin was awarded “Taiwan Study Scholarship Award” by the Chiang Chin-Kuo Foundation at the 2018 American Association for Chinese Studies 60th Annual Conference, Baltimore.

CJ Student Mykayla Johnson became McNair Scholar in 2022

Criminal Justice student Mykayla Johnson became a McNair scholar under the able guidance of Former FBI Agent Mark Broome. She went through the IRB and conducted phone interviews for her research project. She successfully defended her research in November 2022. Way to go!
Roebuck among Team of Researchers to Win a $45,000 Grant to Bolster Initiative on MIND

A team of researchers at Lamar University have been awarded a $45,000 grant to bolster the team’s outreach initiative on MIND — mental health intervention, networking and diversion. The researchers include Dr. Ginger Gummelt, Director of Social Work, Ms. Karen Roebuck, Instructor of Criminal Justice, Ms. Lori Wright, Social Work Field Director, Mr. Stephan Malick, assistant director of student publications and director of on-campus publication University Press, Dr. Mamta Singh, Associate Professor of Education; and Mr. Tommy Smith, Crisis Prevention Specialist at Spindletop Center Beaumont. They also received recognition from TSUS Board of Regents on their grant project.

This grant proposal was endorsed by Jefferson County District Attorney, Bob Wortham, U.S. Attorney Britt Featherston, former U.S. Magistrate Judge Keith Giblin, State Judges - John B. Stevens Jr., Raquel West, Kent Walston, Larry Thorne, County Judge Jeff Brannick, Sheriff Zena Stephens and Spindletop MHMR (Mental Health and Mental Retardation) (Editor’s Note: The acceptable term for mental retardation is now intellectual disability). “Never in my 25 years of Federal service and almost 10 years’ service at Lamar University have I seen such a strong endorsement of a project and its research,” said Ms. Roebuck. Ms Roebuck further said, “I was fortunate enough to have spearheaded the original idea to study and validate through research the current Mobile Mental Health Project that has been in place for approximately three years.” The model the team is studying began, because the Jefferson County Jail is currently the biggest provider of mental health services in the County and these services should not be administered by a correctional facility, but instead by a mental health organization. The model was designed by MHMR and Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department.

“This collaborative process between Criminal Justice, Social Work, Education & Communication divisions/departments began after I invited Steve Hinton, from the Sheriff’s Office to present the model to my class,” said Ms. Roebuck. In the class, they discussed the breakdown of appropriate mental health service distribution and recognized that sociologically, it is a “big fail,” for people with mental health issues to be treated only after their behavior results in arrest. This dilemma helped design the research, by evaluating the project and if validated, possibly assist in the expansion of the model through additional grants and student internships. The key emphasis for the program is to divert misdemeanor mental health cases with no prior record from the traditional criminal justice system, into appropriate mental health services.

Tsado Presents on Cybersecurity at College of William and Mary

Dr. Lucy Tsado presented twice at the College of William and Mary. On June 17th, 2022 at a Conference titled, Data in Cyber-Physical Systems Symposium, she presented in a panel titled Cybersecurity Legal Education & Interdisciplinary Research.

Later on September 29, 2022, at a Conference titled, COVA CCI CybER Conference, Dr Tsado along with Dr. Molly Uzoh (Rightvarsity) presented the paper, “An Integrated, Interdisciplinary Cybersecurity Curriculum with Industry Engagement.” Dr. Tsado is creating a niche for herself in the filed of Cybersecurity education and is working with the Lamar University Computer Science Department to teach interdisciplinary classes.
Alasti Organizes the First International Death Penalty Conference at LU in April

The Lamar University Center for Death Penalty Studies, under the leadership of Dr. Sanaz Alasti, the Director of the Center, hosted its first International Death Penalty Conference on April 12, 2022 with the theme, The Future of the Death Penalty. She invited Dr. Franklin Zimring, professor and pioneer in the field of death penalty studies at University of California, Berkeley, School of Law to be the keynote speaker. Dr. Alasti invited scholars from all over the world to participate in it. As the Director of Strategic Planning for the Center, Professor Vidisha Barua Worley invited five scholars to present at the conference, two from India, one from Germany, one from Bolivia, and one from the Penn State University who spoke on the abolition of the death penalty in Turkey. Dean Lynn Maurer of the College of Arts and Sciences supported the event by providing lunch for the attendees.
The Criminal Justice Program at Lamar University and the Recovery and Resilience Academy (RRA) hosted a training workshop for a day and a half from July 26-27, 2022 on emergency management and crime control post-disaster.

Southeast Texans are not strangers to natural and or manmade disasters. As a community, we have been reactive to hurricanes, floods, explosions, domestic extremism and are vulnerable to mass casualty events.

Recent tragic events (Buffalo, Uvalde) have shown disorder when communities are not prepared with effective preventive and post-crisis emergency management. The emergency management and crime control workshop directed attention to effective communication between law enforcement, emergency management, and community stakeholders, which include include churches, school officials, media, mental health partners, and community officials.

This comprehensive training included insights from professionals in local and national crime control agencies.

Dr. Stuart Wright, Chair of the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice gave the opening remarks, while Dr. Cheng-Hsien LinDirector of Criminal Justice, gave the closing remarks. Dr. Lucy Tsado presented on Cybersecurity and Fraud Related Scams After Disasters. Ms. Karen Roebuck and Mr. Mark Broome played a part in being group speakers and note takers in the breakout session on Community Partners.
By Amber Cole*

Introduction:

The public’s perception of law enforcement has unquestionably diminished in recent years with the media portraying events such as the high-profile killings of Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, and Eric Garner. Following these major incidents mass complaints and in-depth investigations emerged amongst police officers. The consistent and overwhelming prevalence of police savagery and deadly force being broadcast across every media platform, subsequently sparked public scrutiny and jolted calls for police accountability reforms.

New technology known as body-worn cameras were adopted to serve as potential devices for improving transparency and accountability between police and the public. These camera devices are small, barely visible and are designed to be fitted on a police officer’s vest or head recording every interaction between police and citizens. The cameras have a built-in microphone to seize audio vibrations and an internal hard drive used to store video footage for later assessment. It was reported that in 2016, nearly half (47%) of the 15,328 general-purpose law enforcement agencies in the United States had acquired body-worn cameras (Hyland, 2018).

However, it should be pointed out that some studies found the use of body-worn cameras to lead to beneficial outcomes that improve policing, while others argue why they evoke difficulties that impair or impact policing. Like various academic works, this paper delves into answering the controversial questions of whether body-worn cameras impact policing, promote officer accountability and account for significant privacy risks while vaguely touching on whether they illustrate the ability to reduce the wide array of use-of-force and/or citizens’ grievances against police officers through existing literature.

Examining how Body-Worn Cameras Impact Policing:

The demand for all law enforcement officers to wear body cameras is a debatable issue (Lawrence, 2015). A wide range of studies have emerged to support the existing breaches or controversies in the knowledge presented in current research regarding the use of body-worn cameras and its ability to improve officer-citizen interactions by reducing use of force and citizens’ complaints against officers. According to (Aitchison, 2020), the first peer reviewed study of the use of body-worn cameras displaying substantiated results was published in 2014. The study took place at the Rialto Police Department in California lasting over a one-year span evaluating 988 shifts. The study was made up of a total of 54 officers filtered into 489 shifts comprising officers wearing body-worn cameras and 499 without (Ariel, Farrar, & Sutherland, 2015). Writers of the study concluded, Rialto Police Department led the State in the understanding of how body-worn cameras can alter policing, because when officers were on duty, there was a 50 percent decline in police use of force against defendants (Aitchison, 2020).

In addition, complaints against the police dropped to almost zero in the 12 months after the cameras were launched. Therefore, the use of body-worn camera devices are presumed to ease the tension in encounters and consequently
reduce the likelihood of unnecessary use-of-force, excessive use-of-force, and deadly use-of-force as well as citizens’ complaints against officers (Ariel, Farrar & Sutherland, 2015).

**Police Officer Accountability:**

Accountability transpires when law enforcement agencies and their officers are at an advantage when operating within the realm of the law and fulfilling their duties to their communities, while treating people impartially, ethically, and with the utmost respect (Archibold, 2021). A great deal of research on the use of body-worn cameras to monitor the conduct of police officers and the public, emerged suggesting that police officers and suspects adhere to societal norms and adjust their behavior because they are cognizant of someone watching (Ariel, Farrar & Sutherland, 2015). The police officer nor the suspect want to get caught engaging in socially unacceptable or deplorable behavior that may have pricey repercussions (Ariel, Farrar & Sutherland, 2015). Researchers believed that if officers are required to wear body cameras on a continuous basis while on duty, recording every step and every conversation, officers will be more conscious of their actions and inclined to avoid using unnecessary or unjustifiable force (Lawrence, 2015). In actuality, studies reveal body-worn cameras tend to de-escalate conceivably hostile or combative suspects and officers, by calming them down to a level where both exhibit more restraint to avoid the use of any type of force being employed (Ariel, Farrar & Sutherland, 2015).

Another study sought to analyze the conception and implementation of body-worn cameras and its utilization to promote police accountability by viewing it as a theoretical approach drawn from the deterrence theory. Deterrence theory predicts that as the certainty, severity, and swiftness of retribution increases, the possibility of misconduct decreases (Hedberg, Katz & Choate, 2017). In other words, the basis of the theory is that if punishment is severe, certain and swift, a prudent person will consider their costs and benefits before participating in criminal behavior and will be discouraged from violating the law if they stand to lose more than they will gain. A similar study covering the characteristics of human behavior proves that when the probability that an individual will be arrested and punished for their wrongdoing especially if the encounter is recorded, is high, they will refrain from engaging in criminal or civil disobedience (Ariel, Farrar & Sutherland, 2015). Additionally, police officers alike may be deterred from engaging in misconduct because the likelihood of the persons who hold them accountable (such as supervisors, media, etc.) finding out about the inappropriate, unethical behavior is greater when a body-worn camera is present and operable (Hedberg, Katz & Choate, 2017).

**Privacy Risks:**

Privacy risks related to body-worn cameras continue to be a crucial topic, and some researchers question their usage in vulnerable situations. Police body-worn cameras have the potential to be a useful tool to curtail the rumors and reports of police corruption or misconduct by providing a more accurate account of the details surrounding an incident, improving police accountability, and even reducing the rates at which officers exert force. However, they can also pose great concerns for invading an individual’s privacy. In a particular study, the public release of body-worn camera footage allowed under the Washington State’s Public Records Act, and state privacy law raised apprehension amongst law enforcement officers. The law required law enforcement agencies to release considerable amounts of body-worn camera footage while having no discretion or limitations on what all can be released for public access (Newell, 2017). Subsequently, significant privacy issues for both police officers and civilians arose as an extensive number of requests for body-worn camera footage were made.

A researcher mentioned, if a police officer enters your house and the encounter is captured on video, and if the video is not admissible to an investigation, your neighbor can summon a copy of the recording under the Public Records Act.
According to (Aitchison, 2020), officers have a duty to record every encounter with the public through-out their shift whether it’s on the streets, inside homes, schools, and hospitals and inevitably some of the recorded events capture moments of citizens at their best and their worst. A recent study supported the notion that the release of video recording invades the privacy of victims, informants, or witnesses collaborating with law enforcement and places them in grave danger if the footage is released (Freund, 2015). Another study concluded that police officers should be allowed to use discretion and not record, especially in situations where a victim of sex assault or domestic violence requests not to be recorded, because once the encounter is recorded it becomes accessible to literally everyone with media access. Releasing sacred footage as discussed in the aforementioned incidents, has the potential to “revictimize victims of sexual and domestic violence” (Witt, 2018).

Conclusion

Body-worn cameras are captured recordings of what police officers hear, see and do during the scope of their duties. Their apparent use is understood and their reliability is self-evident to either implicate or exonerate officers (Blewer & Behlau, 2021). Their implementation, both promising and real, has resulted in a large body of research evolving through-out various studies (Blewer & Behlau, 2021).

Specifically, multiple studies have examined whether body-worn cameras impact policing, promote officer accountability, account for significant privacy risks and reduce citizens’ complaints as well as use of force incidents by law enforcement officers. This research came to the conclusion that there are mixed findings on the use of body-worn cameras. While some research drew the inference that body-worn cameras did foster officer responsibility and lowered the rates of use of force occurrences and complaints against officers, this new police reform technology, presented considerable privacy risks amongst citizens. However, the most realistic account for their value and use will depend on researchers’ ability to keep up with the rapid enactment and application of body-worn cameras by law enforcement agencies across the world on a continuous basis (Chapman, 2019). The research subject and questions extend well beyond the scope of this article. Nonetheless, this literature review discusses specific topics that scholars have addressed in their research relating to the subject of police use of body-worn cameras. This research covers useful outcomes correlated with the use of body-worn cameras such as how they influence policing, how they further officer accountability, and how they reduce use-of-force and/or citizens’ grievances against police officers. It concludes with expounding on the oppositions related to the use of body-worn cameras such as significant privacy concerns.

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Witt, Steven (2018). A literature review on body-worn cameras for law enforcement. *University Honors Theses.* Paper 660. [https://doi.org/10.15760/honors.675](https://doi.org/10.15760/honors.675)

*Amber Cole is a Master's student at Lamar University and is currently working as a Unit Supervisor with the TDCJ-Parole Division. She oversees parole officers who supervise the Sex Offender caseload. Cole has been working in the criminal justice field for 23 years. Cole began in 1999 as a correctional officer at the Mark W. Stiles Unit. Over the years, she has worked at the Jefferson County Correctional Facility, the Al Price Juvenile Justice Facility as a Chemical Dependency Counselor, and at the Richard P. Leblanc Unit as a Substance Abuse Counselor.*
On July 25th 2022, the FBI Houston and Beaumont, joined together to host the Domestic Terrorism Training Workshop at Lamar University. Mr. Mark Broome, a former FBI Agent, was instrumental in collaborating with the federal agencies to hold the training workshop at Lamar University. Mr. Broome along with the FBI from Washington D.C. presented at the conference. The conference was funded by Dean Lynn Maurer of the College of Arts and Sciences. Ms. Karen Roebuck, Dr. Lucy Tsado, and Dr. Cheng-Hsien Lin took active part in the conference.

There were 131 participants from 38 organizations which encapsulated all 6 counties that FBI Beaumont covers and more. There were 159 persons registered before the training. All counties (Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Newton & Orange) in the FBI Beaumont Area of Responsibility (AOR) were represented at this training. Representatives from the following organizations participated: ADL, ATF, Beaumont Fire/Rescue, Beaumont Foundation of America, Beaumont ISD Police Department, Beaumont Police Department, Calcasieu Parish Sheriff’s Office (FBI New Orleans: LCRA), Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas Crime Stoppers, FBI, Federal Bureau of Prisons: Investigative Department, Hardin County Emergency Service District 2, Hardin County Sheriff’s Office, Harris County Constable Pct. 3, Houston Police Department, Jasper County Criminal District Attorney’s Office, Jasper Police Department Jefferson County Sheriff Office, Lamar Institute of Technology, Lamar Institute Regional Police Academy, Lamar University, Lamar University Police Department, Louisiana State Police (FBI New Orleans: LCRA), Newton County Sheriff’s Office Office of Regina Rogers, Orange Police Department Pinehurst Police Department, Port Arthur Fire Marshal, Port Arthur ISD, Port Arthur Police Department, Port Neches-Groves ISD, Silsbee Police Department, Sour Lake Police Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, Transportation Security Administration, United State’s Attorney’s Office: EDTX, United States Marshal Service, Vidor ISD Police Department, and Vidor Police Department.

Left: Ms. Karen Robuck, Dr. Cheng-Hsien Lin, Dean Lynn Maurer in red, Mr. Mark Broome, Dr. Lucy Tsado, and FBI Officers from Washington D.C. Above: Lamar University students who attended the conference.

The following are the Faculty and Student Publications (Articles and Book Reviews) in 2022:


https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/jcerp/vol2022/iss1/2


Professor Vidisha Barua Worley won one of the Spring 2023 Research Competition Awards given out by the College of Arts and Sciences in December 2022.
Continued from Page 3

field experimentation in criminal justice research. And he was an enthusiastic mentor and friend to many criminologists. He was president of the American Political Science Association in 1991-92, and was recognized for his extraordinary contributions to scholarship and public service in receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2003. And he wrote, against the grain of conservative orthodoxy, that research on crime and justice was a legitimate and effective public good, deserving of substantial federal funding, with results disseminated to practitioners.

RW: How did you come to know Wilson? What was your impression of him?

BF: I had read Wilson’s work on policing and admired his lucid writing and outside-conventional-norms thinking. So, I was a fan when I first met him in the late 1970s. He joined the research advisory board of a large federal sentencing research project I was directing, under supervision of the Department of Justice, with criminologist Charles Wellford serving as project monitor. It was an amazing board, and Jim’s insights and advice were extremely helpful. Along with Wilson were criminologists Don Gottfredson, Norval Morris, and Leslie Wilkins, legal scholars Alan Dershowitz and Marvin Frankel, and federal judges Harold Tyler and James Burns (Frankel was also a federal judge). As chairman of the board of the Police Foundation, Wilson was instrumental in my becoming research director of the Police Foundation in 1985. His editorial suggestions on my draft chapters on prosecution in each of his books on crime and public policy (1983, 1995, 2002, 2011) were always thoughtful, substantive, and generous. I found his curiosity and boyish enthusiasm to be highly contagious.

RW: That so cool to be able to have him influence and critique your academic work.

BF: Jim and I shared more than common interests in crime and justice. We both grew up in blue-collar Southern California homes, and my first awareness of him was a spot-on anthropological essay he had written for Harpers (December 1969) on the culture of high school life in North Long Beach. I grew up in the same culture just a few miles to the north, in Inglewood, and while he was on the faculties of UCLA and then Pepperdine, he lived in the hills above Zuma Beach, where I had been a lifeguard in the early 1960s. He was the son of an auto repair shop owner, and I was son of the foreman of a meatpacking plant. So, when I drove him to the airport, we had more to talk about than just sentencing and policing. When I wrote to congratulate him on receiving the Medal of Freedom award, he responded that the best part for him was the honor and good fortune of sitting on the stage next to the revered UCLA basketball coach, John Wooden.

RW: What did this research project on sentencing reveal?

BF: The Department of Justice commissioned the Institute for Law and Social Research to conduct a study to establish the need for federal sentencing guidelines and provide a foundation for their development. We found substantial variation in sentencing philosophies and practices among the 264 federal judges studied. At one end, 25% of the judges considered rehabilitation to be "extremely" important, while at the other end 19% regarded rehabilitation to be no more than "slightly" important, and the latter group tended to give much tougher sentences than the former group. The research made a strong case for sentencing guidelines both to reduce unwarranted variation in sentences and to more effectively serve the primary purposes of sentencing: justice and protection of the community. It also speaks to an issue raised in the recent confirmation hearings of Ketanji Brown Jackson: judicial philosophy really does affect judicial decision making.
RW: Interesting. What was your impression of Wilson’s approach to scholarly inquiry?

BF: Well, his experience as a two-time national college debate champion helped him to frame issues in a direct, often provocative, and usually compelling way. His doctoral studies at the University of Chicago under Edward Banfield, teaching at Harvard and UCLA, and associations with top scholars everywhere exposed him to a wide range of ideas. But I think that his hands-on approach is what made him such a remarkable scholar. He was no ordinary political scientist. He was cut more in the eclectic mold of the German sociologist-historian-jurist-political economist, Max Weber, whose path-breaking research on bureaucracy paved the way for Wilson and others. Wilson encouraged researchers at the Police Foundation to conduct field experiments on policing: proactive vs reactive patrol strategies in Kansas City, foot patrols and other forms of community policing in Newark and Houston, and the police response to domestic violence cases in Minneapolis. He loved talking to cops in ride-alongs to better understand policing directly and experientially. He worked to educate the public on the essentials of the criminal justice system and policy, as exemplified by his 38-episode “Crime File” series, sponsored by the National Institute of Justice in the mid-1980s.

RW: Some social conservative criminologists tend to claim James Q. Wilson as one of their own. Yet, there seems to be much more to him than being merely a conservative ideologue. What are your thoughts?

BF: Wilson was on the editorial boards of the conservative journals, Commentary and The Public Interest, and a frequent contributor to both. He describes his conversion from having voted for John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Hubert Humphrey in the 1960s to conservative thinking not long afterward in a Wall Street Journal tribute to Irving Kristol, founder of The Public Interest, after Kristol’s death. He writes that Kristol’s concern about the unintended consequences of social policy was especially influential. Thus, Wilson argued in 1985 that the strong unemployment-crime association does not imply the need for a jobs program to reduce crime, that employment policy should be independent of criminal justice policy. (Cook & Wilson, 1985)

RW: Aww, sounds like he may have been pretty conservative.

BF: But he was much more than a conservative ideologue. He was an extraordinary scholar, an avid reader, unusually broad thinker, collaborator, and prolific writer. He is best known for his research on policing and the epistemology of crime, but he has written much more on crime and justice. The year after his research on unemployment and crime with Phil Cook, he published a book with criminologists David Farrington and Lloyd Ohlin proposing a research strategy of understanding offender behavior through longitudinal analysis. (Farrington, Ohlin & Wilson, 1986) His City Politics, coauthored with his mentor, Edward Banfield, was a tour de force, describing urban politics as a system driven primarily by informal influence rather than official process – a cultural conflict between those interested in efficiency and impartiality and those favoring influence and self-interest. There is much more. To get a more comprehensive view of Wilson’s work on crime and justice, the interested reader might check out “James Q. Wilson” in the Oxford Bibliographies on Criminology (2013).

RW: Interesting.

BF: Yes. Wilson’s long-time Harvard colleague and later Democratic senator Daniel Patrick Moynahan once took Wilson to the Nixon White House and said, "Mr. President, James Q. Wilson is the smartest man in the United States. The President of the United States should pay attention to what he has to say." (George Will, 2012)

RW: Do you have a sense that his conservatism got the better of his scholarly objectivity?
BF: For the most part, no. He asked tough questions, especially when findings went against prevailing conservative thought, but in my experience he always accepted such findings in his edited volumes. I heard the same from others, occasionally in print (e.g., Sherman, 2012). In his later years, his conservative ideology may have trumped his objectivity, as when he wrote a sharply worded dissent to a National Academy of Sciences commission on firearms and violence: "In sum, the evidence presented by Lott and his supporters suggests that Right to Carry laws do in fact help drive down the murder rate, though their effect on other crimes is ambiguous." The other members of the commission reviewed the same evidence and concluded that Lott’s research was seriously flawed, and no systematic evidence of such a relationship existed. (NAS, 2005)

RW: Could you speak a bit more about James Q. Wilson's 1974 essay -- its significance and why it was controversial? Has it aged well?

BF: In that essay, Wilson criticized the way criminologists thought about crime, arguing that their approach was unscientific, unsupported either by coherent theory of systematic evidence, and of little or no value to criminal justice practitioners. Over the decades that followed, criminology became more rigorous, thanks largely to an abundance of data, vastly greater computing power, and the use of more sophisticated empirical tools. So, no, it would be hard to make the same case today that Wilson made nearly 50 years ago.

RW: You say his book, Thinking About Crime, contributed to more academically eclectic criminal justice programs. How so? Can you give us examples?

BF: His "Thinking About Crime" essay, a chapter in his book with the same title, was about the epistemology of crime, not about crime itself. It sharply criticized the sociological orientation of criminology of the time. Wilson was no fan of sociology, characterizing it as an echo chamber of leftist dogma, devoid of rigorous scientific information or practical relevance for the criminal justice system. In the essay, he argued that economists had been using more theoretically coherent, empirically supported, and policy-relevant models for dealing with crime, mostly following theories of rational incentives and deterrence, and community protection through incapacitation. His characterizations of sociologists and economists were grossly cartoonish -- much of traditional criminology is both rigorous and useful, and much of the economics of crime has been ideologically driven and has not held up to rigorous scrutiny -- but not totally off base. I think it was no mere coincidence that in the years that followed criminology and criminal justice programs throughout the land broadened their faculties to include economists, psychologists, statisticians, engineers, and scholars of public administration and industrial organization. Criminology curricula that had traditionally been nestled exclusively in sociology departments expanded during the 1980s and '90s into schools of criminal justice, public administration, and public affairs. I say this as a trained statistician who joined a school of public affairs in 1992 and served 25 years there. This change might have eventually happened on its own, but there can be little question that Wilson’s essay and book on how to think about crime accelerated the evolution.

RW: What do you think Wilson’s position would be on our current state of affairs?

BF: One can only speculate, as Jim can’t speak from the grave. But all of his writings, even the most doctrinaire, revealed first and foremost his strong moral sense, love of democracy, respect for good government, and passion for public policies informed by the best available scientific evidence. He wrote compellingly of the four pillars of the moral sense: sympathy, fairness, self-control, and duty. Not loyalty. Not fealty to a person. There can be no question that Wilson today would be aligned with former Republicans and never-Trumpers. His sense of decency, integrity, and principled action would have put him in about the same place as Michael Gerson and Lincoln Project founders
Steve Schmidt and Rick Wilson. I am very sorry that he is not here to speak out for himself on today’s threats to democracy, both at home and abroad. We could use his clear and convincing voice in these dark and turbulent times.

1Brian Forst is Professor Emeritus of Justice, Law and Criminology at the American University School of Public Affairs. He joined the AU faculty in 1992, following three years on the George Washington University faculty. Before that, he was director of research at the Institute for Law and Social Research (1974-85) and the Police Foundation (1985-89). He was Visiting Professor in Residence at the University of California, Irvine, for the fall 2017 term. His research on errors of justice, prosecution, policing, terrorism, and the deterrent effect of the death penalty is cited extensively. He has published nine books and over 100 refereed articles, book chapters, encyclopedia entries, and monographs. His book, Errors of Justice: Nature, Sources and Remedies (Cambridge University Press), was named Book of the Year for 2006 by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. The Cambridge University Press released his book, Terrorism, Crime, and Public Policy, in the fall of 2008. Professor Forst chaired the Justice, Law & Criminology Department’s doctoral program from 2000 to 2010 and supervised eleven doctoral dissertations from 2000 to 2016. He was awarded the School of Public Affairs Bernard H. Ross Teaching Excellence Award in 2002 and the School’s Outstanding Scholarship Award in 2008 and 2011. He was a voting member of the D.C. Sentencing Commission from 2004 through 2010. He played cello with the AU Orchestra in 1998.

2Robert M. Worley, Ph.D., is Professor 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 Coeditor (w/ Vidisha B. Worley) of the Encyclopedia of American Prisons and Jails (ABCClio). 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.

This interview was first published in Theory in Action.
Dr. Lucy Tsado was a speaker at the Risk Management Association of Nigeria (RIMAN) Annual Conference on June 23rd, 2022. The title of the conference was Sustainability And Enterprise Risk Management, 2022 and Beyond. She was the keynote speaker on May 28th, 2022.

Continued from Page 1

Below: Presenters and participants at the Prairie View A and M University Cybersecurity workshop on July 14th and 15th 2022, where Dr. Lucy Tsado was a speaker along with her co-author Robert Osgood (in the green T-shirt). The Workshop title was Accelerating Credentials of Purpose and Value in Instructing Non-Technical Majors about Cybersecurity.
14 CJ Students Graduate From PIP Academy in 2022

Taught by former FBI Agent and current LU Instructor Mark Broome, fourteen students successfully completed the Practicum in Policing Course (PIP Academy) (CRIJ 4313) which included both lecture and hands on experiential training about the changing world of policing. We are not aware of another Program that partners with a large police department for a full credit course which includes legal issues, self-defense, live firearms training, and many aspects of police culture. This course is of value not just to potential police officers, but any student interested in understanding where policing fits into the criminal justice system.
Alasti talks at UK Parliament on Future of Iran

Dr. Sanaz Alasti was invited by Henry Jackson Society to talk at the UK Parliament about the Draft Constitution for the Future of Iran. The panel was Moderated by a UK Parliament member: https://henryjacksonsociety.org/event/irans-russia-backed-regime-in-dead-end-introducing-the-draft-constitution-for-future-iran/.

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Alasti Speaks on the Death Penalty at USA

Dr. Sanaz Alasti was also invited by the University of South Alabama to talk about the death penalty for the World Day Against the Death Penalty on October 10.
ACJA Students Bag Top Prizes at Regional Meet

The American Criminal Justice Association Lambda Alpha Epsilon Lamar Chapter attended the 2022 Region 2 Conference at the Renaissance Hotel in Bricktown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Three of our senior students, Melanie Ramirez won the Second Prize in Upper Mental Health in Criminal Justice, Cade Tatum won the Second Prize in Upper Juvenile Justice and Second in Upper Police Management, and Mason Stutes won the First Prize in Upper Police Management, 2nd in Upper Corrections, and 3rd in Upper Lambda Alpha Epsilon Knowledge. Ms. Karen Roebuck is the Advisor of the Lamar chapter. Congratulations to our students on their win!

From left to the right are Mason Stutes, Melanie Ramirez, and Cade Tatum. Right Above: Mykayla Johnson and Melanie Ramirez.

10 Students Inducted to Alpha Phi Sigma

The following students were inducted to Alpha Phi Sigma on November 6, 2022: Sarah Scott, Valeria Gonzales, Melanie Ramirez, Jasmine Lopez, Cyrene Hornsby, Karen Flores-Campech, Jacoby Brocks, Alexia Falcon, Liliana Flores, and Mykayla Johnson.
BISD Police Chief talks to CJ Students

Beaumont ISD Police Chief Joseph Malbrough and his Lt. Pamela Haynes talk with the students (CRIJ 2313 Corrections class) about careers in law enforcement and corrections in Dr. Lucy Tsado’s class.

Worleys, Alasti present at ACJS, ASC Meets 2022

Dr. Vidisha Worley presented three papers at the American Society of Criminology Conference and chaired a panel. She presented a paper on excited delirium and taser use by police. Excited delirium is a controversial medical condition that has been recognized by the American College of Emergency Physicians. Sceptics still view this condition as a cover-up for police misconduct. The Worleys presented on third party sexual harassment of female correctional officers. Vidisha presented on Indian correctional officers at both ACJS and ASC. Alasti presented on the death penalty.

“A cold November Day!”
By: Dolores J. Hopkins

During these times it’s hard to escape death’s harsh grasp on any given day;
But especially when a young person dies in a horrible way;
We often wonder why and how death claimed our precious child;
Not to mention children today are naturally unruly and sometimes wild!

Gone are the times when children acted humble, meek and they easily obeyed;
Today many parents are confused, fearful and painfully dismayed;
Temptation to do wrong outweighs compulsion to do what’s right;
It’s reached the point where overwhelming darkness obscures all light!

Nevertheless, we must continue to watch, fight, and pray;
These warnings we must adhere to and we dare not stray;
It was a cold November day when a young girl tragically died;
Parents’ rules were ignored no matter how hard they may have tried!

May God bless and strengthen the family to persevere and endure;
Life is filled with uncertainty of that we can be sure;
But it is possible, by faith, to overcome and to always stand strong;
By trusting in Him we are assured we can never go wrong!!!
LU Criminal Justice Students and Faculty won the Most Creative Table Award at the Fall 2022 Cardinal View.

Seen in the pictures are CJ students, Faculty members, President Jaime Taylor and Dean Lynn Maurer of the College of Arts and Sciences. Also present at Cardinal View was Professor Robert Worley.
More Poems By Dolores Hopkins

“A Son for All Seasons”
By Dolores Jeanne Hopkins

With your arrival came an abundance of pride and joy;
Our hopes and dreams all wrapped up in a “bouncing baby boy”;
And, as you grew so did our unconditional love for you;
Deep in your heart you felt what was so obviously true!!!

Yesterday, you were so precious, fragile, and dear;
I held you in my arms and lovingly wiped away each tear;
Today, a distinct individual with hopes and dreams of your own;
While I imagine the future when you are mature and fully grown;
Tomorrow is still a mystery---a whirlwind of turbulent seasons;
Forever, you will be cherished for a million and one reasons!!!

“Motherhood”
By Dolores J. Hopkins

It has been said that once you become a parent you will never again be the same;
So many decisions must be made not the least of which is the child’s name;
These choices will forever impact and define the child’s future life;
Hopefully, wise choices will result in joy and counteract any possible strife!

A mother’s love is often compared to the unconditional love of God;
Yet mothers are never supposed to be impatient or excessively use the rod;
Motherhood is often a lonely, seemingly thankless challenge in my mind;
Nevertheless, motherhood is the greatest honor bestowed upon womankind!!!

“Commencement”
By Dolores J. Hopkins

Commencement highlights celebration, accomplishment and new beginnings;
It’s a time to rejoice and excitedly look forward to momentous new awakenings;
Each and every graduate can look back on that day and fondly reflect;
Often each of us can honestly command and receive well-deserved respect!

Beyond pomp and circumstance, the reality is often more than surreal;
Commencement promotes hope, faith, and dreams which we intensely feel;
We should look to the future with ambition, determination and exuberant pride;
Never should any of us regret what we have clearly achieved and identified!!!
“72-Hours of Terror!”
By Dolores J. Hopkins

Day 1 brought cries of chaos, confusion and fear;
Questions about who did this and does the terrorist live here?
Amidst the rubble and ruin lay charred bodies beyond recognition;
Rescue crews and paramedics began their gruesome, heart-wrenching mission!

None of the citizens could comprehend or understand such hate;
Those innocent victims began their day unaware of their impending fate;
What motivated a depraved mind like this could never be understood;
Why the monster devised their evil plan was simply because they could!

Day 2 began with a press conference held outside city hall;
The city’s mayor offered condolences and uttered a desperate call;
A “plea for unity” would motivate and inspire the entire community to act;
An urgent need for answers and accountability was an undeniable fact!

The new mayor was highly educated, ambitious, and constantly stable;
She brought a totally new perspective to her job and was obviously more than able;
She was able to lead and unite a previously divided community;
Although the culprit would never be granted mercy or immunity!

Day 3 revealed when the plot was devised and where the materials were bought;
These critical bits of information would lead to the person or persons sought;
But even more surprising was the sight everyone would eventually behold;
Something nobody was prepared for while the truth was about to unfold;

Without any warning or prior clues provided in advance;
The culprit behind the bombings was revealed simply by chance;
In broad daylight swinging and swaying from a pole in the town square;
The lifeless body of the previous mayor supplied horrific news to share!

* Dolores Jeanne Hopkins is the new Administrative Coordinator of the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice. She was previously employed for 6 years in the Department of Counseling (Mar. 2016–July 2022). Hopkins holds a BBA degree in General Business Administration from Sam Houston State University and a MS degree in Counseling Studies from Capella University (online degree).

Hopkins is a member of Zeta Phi beta Sorority, Inc. and she is also a member of Chi Sigma Iota Professional Academic Honor Society for Counseling students, Counseling Educators, and Professional Counselors (Lambda Chi Phi chapter).

Her hobbies include writing fiction novellas, novels, poetry and pearls of wisdom philosophical tidbits. Her long-term ambition is to become a best-selling author and poet.
The Division of Criminal Justice Wishes Everyone a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year 2023!!

From the left: Dr. Jim Mann, Dr. Vidisha Worley, First Lady Stacey Taylor, and Dr. Robert Worley