Tarleton, A&M Law School Host First U.S. Conference on Consent Decrees for Police Reform

Currently, the Civil Rights Division enforces 18 agreements with law enforcement agencies, including 14 consent decrees. Cities with current consent decrees include New Orleans, Seattle and Ferguson, Mo., among others.

“The inaugural conference marks the first time in U.S. history that such a vast number of key players involved with police reform have come together to share lessons learned,” explained Dr. Alex del Carmen, Executive Director of Tarleton’s criminology school and a former federal monitor. “Tarleton’s School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies and the Texas A&M University School of Law literally made history, and there is no doubt that outcomes from the conference will have a lasting impact on police reform.”

Dr. Del Carmen worked with Dr. Andrew Morriss, dean of the Texas A&M University School of Law, and U.S. District Court Judge Susie Morgan—Eastern District of Louisiana—to bring the conference to Fort Worth.

“The significance of this conference cannot be overstated,” Morgan said. “Police reform is a difficult and complex task, even when all the parties involved have the best intentions. Bringing all of us together to share information and ideas will help us do our jobs better and more efficiently.”

“It was heartening to see that everyone was focused on not just achieving reform but maintaining it long after the Department of Justice and the federal courts complete their work,” she added. “My thanks to Tarleton and A&M for providing this forum.”

Applauding the vision of Tarleton’s criminology school and the A&M law school, U.S. District Court Judge Gustavo Gelpi—District of Puerto Rico—said, “This historic first gathering of all those involved in the police reform process constituted an important exchange of ideas and best practices, which ultimately will benefit our nation’s citizens and those sworn to protect them and uphold the law.”

More than 200 lawmakers and police officials attended the event.
Cyber Crime Summit

The School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Strategic Studies invited leaders in law enforcement, the defense and security industries, and academia to the inaugural Tarleton State University Cyber Security Summit in September. The event showcased Tarleton’s current research as well as discussed current trends in the area of cyber-security on the global stage. Tarleton’s presence in bringing together law enforcement, practitioners, and academics will have far reaching impact for future students interested in this far reaching and ever-growing field. Dr. Alex del Carmen and Dr. Christopher Copeland hosted the event held by the Institute for Homeland Security and Cybercrime at Tarleton State University.

The keynote was delivered by David Ostertag, Verizon’s Global Investigation Manager and included a breakdown of the Verizon data breach and security report, an industry standard utilized by most fortune 100 and 500 companies as well as numerous government agencies. Guest speakers of note included Bill Noonan, the Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of Dallas US Secret Service who spoke on the role and mission of the US Secret Service. Dallas FBI Cyber Investigations spoke on the current trends in business email compromise. CHIP Attorney Candina Heath from the United States Attorney’s Office Northern District of Texas also spoke on prosecutions and current trends in the federal courts. Additionally, several other companies spoke on research, ethics, analysis, and intelligence gathering for both commercial and defense companies in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

The Institute of Homeland Security and Cybercrime will expand this year’s event to include outreach as well as hacking and network challenges for high-school and undergraduate teams in 2017.

Homicide Investigation Training

Crime Scene Assessment: Murder, Mayhem and Misunderstanding was the topic of a special law enforcement and prosecutorial 2-day training symposium sponsored by the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies, April 27-28, 2016. The program was hosted by the Fort Worth Police Department at their new training center. Two nationally recognized experts in murder investigations, Richard Walter and Patrick Zirpoli presented the program. Richard Walter is a founding member of The Vidoq Society, comprised of 82 forensic specialists worldwide who assist local criminal justice agencies in solving cold cases. He retired after more than 22 years as a psychologist with the Michigan Department of Corrections. He is an international expert on Crime Assessment, Profiling and Risk Evaluation. Patrick Zirpoli is retired from the Pennsylvania State Police and was the supervisor of the Criminal Investigation Assessment Unit. He specializes in homicide investigation, cold case homicide investigation, child abduction, child abuse and missing persons. The speakers used case studies to inform the audience. Our own Dr. Katherine Brown, Assistant Professor, is a fellow member of The Vidoq Society and arranged for our two guest speakers. The program was attended by over 100 police officers, prosecutors, sheriff deputies, and criminal justice professionals.

Tarleton Represented at Cyber Conferences

On Wednesday 23 August 2016, Tarleton State University was represented by Dr. Kathrine Brown, Assistant Professor and Dr. Gary Lacefield, Assistant Professor, at the Cyber Future Foundation & Constituents conference held at the George Bush Presidential Library to discuss “Balancing act of striving for innovation in cybersecurity and respect for individual privacy from an Academic Perspective.” The panel included in the photo Dr. Ram Dantu, Professor MIT; Dr. Yvo Desmedt, Distinguished Professor of Computer Science, UTD and Professor at University College London, UK; Dr. Gary Lacefield, Assistant Professor, Director of the Institute for Mediation, Arbitration, Legal Studies, and Forensics, School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Strategic Studies Tarleton State University-Fort Worth; and Mr. Richard Murray, Supervisory Cyber Leader, FBI Dallas Field Office. Dr. Lacefield was a guest of: Cyber Defense Alliance | Cyber Peace Initiative | Cyber Trust Institute.

Dr. Gary Lacefield, Assistant Professor and Director of the Institute for Mediation, Arbitration, Legal Studies, and Forensics in the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Strategic Studies served as a panelist that focused on the relationship between Education, Networking, and Solutions at the 2016 INTERFACE-Dallas Conference held at the Irving Convention Center-Las Colinas on September 8, 2016. Dr. Lacefield discussed Ethics, Moral Values, and Peace Initiatives to the audience of approximately 325 attendees. Also on the panel in the attached photo from left to right are: Mr. Valmiki Mukherjee, Chairman & Found of Cyber Future Foundation & Constituents; Dr. Lacefield; Mr. Harold Gullum, Chairman of the Cyber Crime Committee for the North texas Crime Commission; and Mr. James Carpenter, CISO, Texas Scottish Rights Hospital.

Master of Criminal Justice “Outstanding Graduate”

Alvarado Police Officer Sean Walter was named the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies outstanding graduate student for Summer 2016. In the photo he is pictured with his wife Colby and son Beaux to his right and the Chief of Police, Brad Anderson, to his far right. The award was presented by Dr. Gary Lacefield, Assistant Professor in the School of Criminology. Dr. Lacefield is to Officer Walter’s left in the photo. Members of Officer Walter’s family and city council members are also present in the photo.
In the early spring of this year, Dr. Alex del Carmen, Executive Director of the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Strategic Studies, signed an MOU between Tarleton State University and the State of Campeche, Mexico. The purpose of the MOU was to help the State of Campeche, Mexico come into compliance with the new police directives requiring elements of law enforcement training by offering a complete range of criminal justice related courses, as well as, conflict resolution.

The State of Campeche selected the Basic Mediation (Tarleton State University Catalogue Course ADRI 5341) as the first course to be offered in their new law enforcement program. This course has been approved by the State of Texas Bar Association, the Texas Bar College, the Texas Real Estate Commission, and the Texas Board of Accountancy for 40 hours with three hours of ethics. The audience for the first course offering consisted of 32 Federal and State Mexican Prosecutors. The new Mexican legal requirements states that each prosecutor must earn 180 hours of mediation training over the 36 month period beginning May 2016.

Dr. Gary Lacefield, Assistant Professor and Director for the Institute of Mediation, Arbitration, Legal Studies, and Forensics volunteered his time and expertise to facilitate the course from Sunday October 25th through Saturday October 1st 2016. Twenty-eight prosecutors successfully completed this first of its kind Mediation training to Mexican law enforcement officials. Many of the prosecutors indicated on graduation day that they had already used their new found conflict resolution skills to resolve several cases that had been slowing down their offices. All of the students exhibited high praise for the mediation course and thanked Tarleton State University for starting what should be a very long and distinguished Latin American academic relationship. The head of the State of Campeche Judicial system spoke for almost half an hour in his closing speech and personally thanked Tarleton State University and the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Strategic Studies nine times for the relationship. Campeche is a very progressive Mexican State and is in the process of adopting 911 as its universal emergency line. At present, there are 15 different emergency phone numbers used nationally.

On November 8, 2016 members of the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies met with visiting government officials from Coahuila, Mexico. Dr. del Carmen and Dr. Dobbs welcomed the visitors and briefed them about the mission of the School. Dr. Shelley provided an overview of the goals and objectives of the Institute for Leadership and Public Policy and conducted a demonstration of online teaching/training opportunities for distance and international students. Dr. Hollis, also gave a presentation about the Institute for Predictive and Analytical Policing and demonstrated the use of crime mapping as a research tool. Following the meeting, Dr. del Carmen, along with representatives of the District Attorney’s Office of Coahuila signed an MOU to foster future collaboration and research between the state of Coahuila and Tarleton State University’s School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies.

The state of Tabasco is located in southeast Mexico with the Gulf of Mexico to the north and the country of Guatemala to the south and east. It is the second largest oil producing state in the country.
New European Partners

**Burgos, Spain**
Dr. Alex del Carmen, Dr. Rhonda Dobbs and Dr. Tara O'Connor Shelley visited Burgos, Spain in July to begin arrangements for a language intensive Criminology and Criminal Justice Study Abroad Program. The program will involve a partnership with Dr. Ivelisse Urbán in the Department of English and Languages, Escuela De Espanol, and the University of Burgos School of Law to provide intensive study in the Spanish language, Spanish culture and criminal justice. During this visit, the Tarleton team met with officials from the school of law, the national Spanish police, the municipal police in Burgos, and visited a regional prison. The School is currently negotiating several MOUs with local partners and could launch the program as soon as the summer of 2018.

**Prague, Czech Republic**
Dr. Alex del Carmen and Dr. Tara O'Connor Shelley visited Prague, Czech Republic in December to sign several MOUs with University of New York Prague (UNYP) and Eva Illnerova of ECCE Prague to arrange for the School’s first stand-alone Criminology and Criminal Justice Program. The program is designed to explore features of justice and crime in a society transitioning out of communism into a democratic society. These changes have had profound influence on the nature and extent of crime in the region as well as necessitating significant reform of the criminal justice system. The School plans on imitating the first CCJ Study Abroad in Prague program for undergraduates and graduate students in the summer of 2017.

Students interested in any of these programs should contact Dr. Tara O'Connor Shelley at shelley@tarleton.edu

**Scotland, United Kingdom**
The Tarleton State University Criminal Justice Department entered into a partnership with the Tarleton Social Science Department on a study abroad course to Scotland, UK. The trip consisted of three weeks beginning June 3 and ending July 2, 2016 of primarily studying in Edinburgh. During this course, the students learned how Scottish governance worked on several different levels. This included a trip to the Scottish parliament, where students had an opportunity to meet with Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland and leader of the Scottish National Parliament. In addition, the students had opportunities to interact with the Scottish National Police at Inverness and Edinburgh, tour the Scottish High Court, visit historical castles built during the 12th century, and residents of Scotland.

As Ta’shea Boston said, “Mr. Heath, this has forever changed my life.” The impact on students through experiences they encountered in a different culture and way of life provided a new understanding of policing and governance as compared to the United States. The visit to the Highlands and Islands police station provided the students the greatest impact on the major differences between law enforcement applications and enforcement of the law. The policing system in Scotland is vastly different from that of the United States. The students learned how some of those applications could benefit the American form of policing.
On Wednesday, September 7, 2016, Dr. GM Cox, Assistant Professor and Director of Master of Public Administration program and Dr. Gary Lacefield, Assistant Professor and Director of the Institute of Mediation, Arbitration, Legal Studies and Forensics; both housed in the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Strategic Studies, at Tarleton State University (Member of the Texas A&M University System) conducted an inaugural De-Escalation training for 31 supervisory officers and managers in the Tarrant County Community Supervision & Corrections Department (Adult Probation) in Fort Worth Texas. This four hour -Phase I De-Escalation training was developed by Dr. GM Cox and Dr. Gary Lacefield and designed specifically as “training for law enforcement.” The curriculum and resulting program combines experience from Dr. Cox’ 44 years in law enforcement, 35 years as a Chief of Police in conjunction with Dr. Lacefield’s 36 years in the alternative dispute resolution field. This training is meant to augment and add to the already impressive “tool box” of skills that officers can utilize to bring an interaction to a successful close without the use of physical force.

Drs. Cox and Lacefield have developed the program to help ensure that law enforcement officers maintain their control and thus helps to protect the officers in situations where the officers have choices. In many instances, the choices that officers make in the course of their shift may actually put them in harm’s way more frequently than is necessary.

The training is hands on and involves scenarios that the officer will be able to role play. The training does not conflict with ‘use of force’ training that the officers received at the academy. The de-escalation program is beneficial to officers at all levels of experience and rank. Officers will be exposed to techniques of de-escalation that might create both a more positive resolution as well as building trust between citizens and officers. This program can easily be adapted by Drs. Cox and Lacefield to promote “De-Escalation Training” in any field or environment where the actions of the employees who are “in control” do not create additional conflict. For more information contact: GMCOX@tarleton.edu or LACEFIELD@tarleton.edu.

**FACULTY**

During ten weeks of the fall semester, 2016, Dr. Gary Lacefield, Assistant Professor, Director of the Institute of Mediation, Arbitration, Legal Studies, and Forensics, in the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies, offered the first of its kind Basic Mediation training for the faculty and staff on the Stephenville campus through Tarleton’s Center for Academic Outreach and Engagement. The Institute offered the course to faculty and staff at no charge. Upon completion of the (40 hour) course, the participants are qualified to conduct all types of mediations as specified by Texas Law with the exception of mediations involving divorce and parent-child relationship mediations. The Stephenville class was a diverse group of faculty and staff representing the Tarleton family. Dr. Lacefield would like to thank his department Chair, Dr. Rhonda Dobbs, for allowing him the opportunity to present the course in conflict resolution to Tarleton’s faculty and staff. He conducted a similar class for the faculty and staff of the Southwest Campus in Fort Worth during the spring semester, 2016. The Basic Mediation course (ADRI-5341, Alternative Dispute Resolution Institute) is also taught in the Graduate Certification program in the School of Criminology. The Graduate Certification in Alternative Dispute Resolution, a 12 credit hour program, can be completed in one year and includes the following 9 hour core curriculum: Basic Mediation (ADRI 5341); Advanced Mediation (ADRI 5343), which covers divorce and parent-child relationship mediations; and ADRI 5344 ADR Communication Skills, which focuses on alternative dispute resolution writing. The remaining three hour course may be selected from several offerings including, Internship in Mediation (ADRI 5384). For more information please contact: LACEFIELD@Tarleton.edu
Alumnus Honored

Mr. Michael A. Torres, December 2015 Masters in Criminal Justice graduate, this summer received the Department of Justice’s Distinguished Service Award and the Health & Human Services-Office of Inspector General Award for excellence in fighting fraud, waste and abuse. In recognition of outstanding work in the investigation and prosecution of the Riverside Hospital and related cases of fraud schemes in the Houston, Texas metro area.

Student Interns

Graduate student Ms. Llynea Sherwin was hired as an intern by the Cleburne Police Department through a yearlong grant awarded in January 2016. Her primary responsibility involved crime analysis for the department. Upon graduation, Ms. Sherwin plans to join either a local or federal law enforcement agency.

Senior, Ms. Nellie Navarro served as an intern for six months (maximum allotted time) with the U.S. Marshalls in Waco, Texas. Ms. Navarro’s work included auditing bonds lists and archiving files dating back to 2009, which helped close out old cases and better organize records. Her work also helped lead to the capture of a fugitive in Florida wanted on sexual assault of a child in Bell County, Texas. She also contacted The Hunt with John Walsh about another fugitive who she has been trying to track down. The Hunt is submitting her case to air next season.

Tarleton Welcomes Visiting Chinese Scholar

Dr. Lisa (Lifang) Deng, a professor at the Research Institute of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics at the Guangdong Institute of Public Administration, is a Visiting Professor in the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies. Dr. Deng arrived in Fort Worth in September 2016 and will return to China in March 2017. Her special research and teaching interest is Health Economy. Dr. Deng’s interest in comparing Chinese and American public administration brought her to Tarleton State University/Southwest Campus in Fort Worth. She writes, “even though for decades the Chinese government under the guidance of socialist system prepared civil servants for working in the public service in the past, our government system has been gradually shifted toward a socialism with capitalist characteristics since [the late 20th century], which . . . raises critical social issues, such as employment and health care. Therefore, I am interested in practicing comparative research on public administration both in America and in China.” Dr. GM Cox has assisted Dr. Deng with her research and adjustment to life in Texas.

In July, 2016, the 5th Regiment Cadet Initial Entry Training (CIET), Basic Camp and graduation was held at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The Regiment included 16 Tarleton ROTC cadets, five are Criminal Justice majors, Adam Pope, Justin Porter, Brandon Proctor, Ricardo Rivera, and John Zellner. The Basic Camp is named after LTC William E. Dyess, Tarleton class of 1936. Cadet Command started recognizing ROTC alumni who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to their nation this summer. LTC Dyess was part of the Inaugural class of the National ROTC Hall of Fame on 10 June and is now honored as part of the Cadet Command’s Cadet Summer Trainings. His sister, Elizabeth Nell Dyess Denman, Tarleton graduate, along with his niece, Marajen Elizabeth Denman, attended the graduation and received a Regimental Photo of his behalf. In addition both ladies accompanied MG Christopher Hughes, Commanding General, United States Army Cadet Command (USACC) and COL Jason Halloren, Commander, 5th Brigade, USACC and CIET Commander on the reviewing stand to view the Regiment’s pass in review. After the ceremony Mrs. Denman personally congratulated the Cadet’s receiving awards.

In addition to the Fort Knox CIET program, summer training also included several other specialized programs. The Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency training included seven Tarleton ROTC Cadets, three were Criminal Justice majors, Kurtis Hilton (Malawi), Terrance Foster (Czech Republic), and Adam Pope (Guatemala). Terrance Foster also attended the Mountain Warfare School, Camp Ethan Allen, Vermont. Additional training venues with Tarleton Cadets included Cadet Tactical Leaders Training, Fort Bragg, NC; Cadet Field Training, West Point, NY; Airborne School, Fort Benning, GA; and Air Assault Course Fort Hood, TX.
School of Criminology Promoted in the United Arab Emirates

Recently, Dr. del Carmen and I ventured to the United Arab Emirates to network with our growing cadre of Tarleton grads -- with both MPAs and MCJs degrees -- and to, hopefully, create lasting relationships and networks with several UAE universities. I am extremely glad that I made this trip for a number of reasons. First, I now have a very good idea of the kind of stress our students from UAE must endure to travel back and forth. The flight over was just over 14 hours and the flight back to the States took just over 15 hours. Second, I saw and experienced what life, if only from a visitor’s eyes, is like for them in the UAE. It is a place where modernity meets the sand. The people are gracious and polite, or at least they were to Dr. del Carmen and me, and the country is very tidy. Transportation is modern, multi-modal, and well designed -- they drive on the right like we do. The architecture was amazing with modern, creative building designs blended with traditional middle-eastern. Building is going on everywhere. I actually counted 13 large construction cranes, all in a row, on what appeared to be new construction of high rise buildings in Dubai. Wow! Dubai, is a modern, fast-paced, urban juggernaut. It is has a bustling and hectic pace to it. It seemed to me to have more than one “downtown” center with very tall and dense centers -- it was like having several downtown Dallas’s in several areas. It was a sight to see. Third, we had very productive meetings with the Ministry of Education, leaders of Zayed University and the University of Modern Science. We hope to create on-going and leading-edge programs between these prestigious institutions and Tarleton. Finally, I got to see and experience many great things while on our visit. I saw an indoor ski slope. I saw the third largest mosque in the world, Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque and actually went inside for a tour and Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi. I experienced traditional Arab and Lebanese food -- most of which was good -- some I did not enjoy. Of course, I saw several huge malls -- one had Ferrari World in it. We were treated to a cruise in the harbor next to Palm Island in Dubai. In short, we experienced a lot in just 6 days. Our hosts, mostly our students, who by the way, did a great job of both tour guides and liaisons with the various entities and officials we were able to meet. Our sincere thanks to them for making our visit both productive and enjoyable. From an MPA perspective, several things come to mind.

The country is relatively young—formed in 1971—has had rapid and sustained growth. It is not a democracy, but the country seems to be run with the best interests of its citizens in mind. It is an affluent place, which means all kinds of social problems that confront us in the USA are not present in the UAE. However, other challenges await this young country such as a large guest-worker population, dwindling oil supplies and developing technologies that reduce dependence on oil, small size of endogenous Emiratee population and rapid growth of both infrastructure and urban centers. The UAE government is very much focused on futures thinking and strategic planning. The UAE has one of the most aggressive modernization schedules I have seen. By 2030, the UAE has a goal of 100% autonomous driven vehicles, at least of government vehicles. That is mind-blowing. I wonder if they have any idea of the problems that might accompany this innovation? The USA is trying to grapple with these issues now -- think Google cars, car crashes, breakdowns, traffic law violations, rules that apply to ADVs that might not apply to people driven vehicles, etc. Glad to be back in the USA, but I, truly, enjoyed my experience in the UAE. Thank you to our students who took such great care of us. By the way, one of our MCJ students had some issues with coming back to Tarleton to receive his Masters in Criminal Justice degree in May 2016 and missed his commencement. So, being the number 1 student focused university in Texas and beyond, Dr. del Carmen donned his regalia, had our student done his cap and gown, and bestowed upon him his MCJ degree -- we believe that is the first MCJ degree, possibly any degree, conferred outside the USA and in the UAE. Awesome to see his family’s eyes light up as Dr. del Carmen said the words and gave him his degree.

Dr. G M Cox Assistant Professor, Director MPA Program Tarleton State University

Master of Public Administration

Eight students have graduated this past spring and summer, including six UAE students. These graduate students are a milestone for the MPA program. From August 2015 to fall 2016 the program has grown from 20 to over 75 students. As the program has grown, so has the need for faculty. Dr. GM Cox has added four adjunct faculty to handle the course load. The new instructors all have their Ph.D. and are seasoned professionals in the public administration field. The new faculty include Brian Wish, Coby Pewitt, Kathy Rowe and Bill Munn. Currently the students in the MPA program represent a very broad range of practitioners in Public Administration, nonprofits and NGOs, including educators, police officers, fire fighters, assistant city managers, public works, corrections and probation personnel, and administrative personnel from local and state agencies. The MPA program is offered both online and face-to-face. Great opportunities await the growth of the program. For further information on the program, contact: GMCox@Tarleton.edu
PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

DR. KATHERINE BROWN, Assistant Professor, published with co-author Detective (Takoma PD, WA) LINDSEY WADE A Child is Abducted: What Happens Next. *Investigative Review*, 7(2).

DR. RANDY BUTLER, Program Coordinator, and co-authors DRS. ALEX DEL CARMEN, Executive Director and Professor, and Assistant Professor MEGHAN HOLLIS published Navajo Juveniles and Alcohol-Related Arrests in Arizona: A Longitudinal Comparative Analysis. *The Law Enforcement Executive Forum*, 16(2), 2016.

DR. GEORGE EICHENBERG, Professor, authored Missouri State Militia Cavalry in the Civil War in the Cavalry Journal: *the Journal of the United states Cavalry Association*, Vol. 41 (3), 2016

FACULTY of the School of Criminal Justice, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies have provided about 1,000 interviews to radio and television since January. Over 100 million people have heard or seen them speak on topics ranging from police use of force incidents, active shooters, school violence, homicide and domestic violence, and scary clowns to police administration, cyber crime and security, and fraud.

DR. SHANNON HANKHOUSE, Assistant Professor, authored Job Search Methods of College Students Seeking Employment in Law Enforcement. *the Police Chief*, February 2016.

DR. MEGHAN HOLLIS, Assistant Professor, was nominated for Sage Senior Faculty Professional Development Teaching Award (for 2017 Meeting), Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Her list of publications and related activities include:


CHAIR, Student Engagement Committee, Crime, Law, and Deviance Section of American Sociological Association.

Named Book Reviews Editor at *Crime Prevention and Community Safety*.

DR. GARY LACEFIELD graduated in October, 2016, from the FBI’s Citizens Academy.

DR. RANDY BUTLER and DR. CHRIS COPELAND graduated in the same month from the DEA’s Citizens Academy. DR. ALEX DEL CARMEN, DR. COPELAND, and DR. BUTLER have previously graduated from the FBI’s Citizens Academy.

DR. GARY LACEFIELD, Assistant Professor and Director of the Institute of Mediation, Arbitration, Legal Studies, and Forensics, on September 9, 2016, was inducted as a board member to the Cyber Future Foundation and will serve on the Cyber Peace Initiative Committee. The Cyber Peace Initiative (CPI) Committee serves as a counterpart to the negative connotations of cyber space, and works towards building a positive and peaceful environment where pole of the world can collaborate and thrive. The CPI is in partnership with various international agencies who seek to develop and promote frameworks for maintaining law and order as well as promoting ethical and moral standards in a borderless cyber world.

Graduate Student EDDIE RODRIGUEZ presented Police Perception of Body Worn Cameras: An Exploratory Study of U.S. Law Enforcement at the 16th annual conference of the European Society of Criminology, Sept. 22, 2016, held in Munster, Germany. The presentation is a joint research project for publication by Mr. Rodriguez and Dr. Chris Copeland, Assistant Professor.


Referred Chapters in Books:

SHELLEY, TARA O’CONNOR and TARA OPSAL, (in press), Environmental Victimization: A Case Study of Citizen’s Experiences with Oil and Gas Development in Colorado, USA. In *Greening Criminology in the 21st Century* (Matthew Hall, Jenney Maher, Angus Nurse, Gary Potter Nigel South and Tanya Wyatt, editors), Ashgate.


Evaluation and Technical Reports:


Invited Presentations:

October 2016, Drug Store Cowboys: Pharmacy Robbery and Burglary for Controlled Substances. Invited Speaker, the 7th Annual Prescription Drug Abuse Symposium, Indiana Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force, Indianapolis, IN.


May 2016, Pharmaceutical Drug Abuse - Batten Down the Hatches! Invited Speaker, National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), San Diego, CA.

March 2016, Pharmacy Robbery and Burglary: The Offender Perspective, the 16th annual conference of the European Society of Criminology, Sept. 22, 2016, held in Munster, Germany. The presentation is a joint research project for publication by Mr. Rodriguez and Dr. Chris Copeland, Assistant Professor.

Graduate Student LLYNEA SHERWIN presented Small Arms Trafficking on the Dark Web, at the 16th annual conference of the European Society of Criminology, Sept. 22, 2016, held in Munster, Germany. The presentation is a joint research project for publication by MS. SHERWIN, DR. RANDY BUTLER, DR. STEVE JONES (Southwestern Adventist University), and DR. CHRIS COPELAND, Assistant Professor who is project lead. DR. RANDY BUTLER chaired Ms. Sherwin’s session and presented Monitoring Municipal Law Enforcement in the United States: Historical and Contemporary Views in another session. DR. ALEX DEL CARMEN, Executive Director and Professor, is the lead for a future publication based on this presentation.
Richard (Dick) Cummins has a lifelong interest in leadership and leadership development. An entrepreneur for over 20 years, Dick observed firsthand how some groups of people were more successful than others and recognized a key predictor of success is the quality of leadership within groups. After selling a furniture manufacturing business in 1993, Dick and his wife Judy relocated to Bryan, Texas and embarked on an educational journey concentrating on leadership education and leadership development.

Dick was a faculty member at Texas A&M in the department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication, as well as in the Bush School of Government and Public Service. In 2002 he was honored for his teaching and service to the Bush School with the Silver Star Award, an honor designated by the Bush School. In 2002, Dick became the Founding Director of the Hollingsworth Leadership Excellence Program for the Corps of Cadets at A&M, a program that offers leadership courses for 650 students each semester.

On September 1, 2016, Dick assumed the appointment as head of the Department of Leadership and Strategic Studies in the School of Criminal Justice at Tarleton State University. He works closely with the Texan Corps of Cadets in the cadets’ leadership development.

Dick regularly consults with government agencies, non-profit organizations, and corporations on executive development and leadership initiatives.

After completing undergraduate studies at West Texas State University in 1972 and a master’s degree from Texas A&M in 1973, Dick owned and operated businesses until 1993 when he returned to Texas A&M to pursue a Ph.D. that was conferred in 1995.

Dr. Tara O’Connor Shelley received her PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University and her MS in Justice, Law and Society from the American University. She previously worked as an Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Crime and Justice (CSCJ) in the Department of Sociology at Colorado State University. Prior to joining academia, Dr. Shelley worked for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), and the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA). Dr. Shelley has over 20 years of professional research and evaluation experience involving 25 federal, state, local and privately funded research grants. During her career, Dr. Shelley has worked with well over 50 federal, state and local criminal justice agencies on assorted projects. More recently, her work has led to over $1.1 million in external funding for research and evaluation. She is the author of 26 technical reports related to the results of her evaluation research, has co-edited two books, and has authored 40 journal articles, book chapters, and magazine/newsletter articles. Dr. Shelley has recently published in Deviant Behavior, Social Psychology Quarterly, Critical Criminology and Violence and Victims.

CPT Gina Williams started her military career as an enlisted soldier in 1990. Her first assignment was in 1991 with Evans Army Hospital in Colorado Springs Colorado where she served as an Army Medical Specialist in Labor and Delivery, the Family Practice Clinic, Troop Medical Clinics and volunteered in the Emergency Room on occasion. Her assignments have taken her around the globe including a deployment to Afghanistan, a tour to Germany, and two tours to Korea.

CPT Gina Williams received her commission as an Adjutant General Corps Officer in 2009 from the Army Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning Georgia. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Management from the Limestone College and two Master of Arts degrees; in Human Resources Development and Management and Leadership from Webster University. Her military education includes the Army’s Medical Specialist Course, Mental Health Specialist Course, Officer Candidate School, Adjutant General Corps Officer Basic Course, and the Adjutant General Captains Career Course.

CPT Williams’ awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Achievement Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Clusters), Afghanistan Campaign Medal (with 1 Campaign Star), the Overseas Service Ribbon (4th Award), the Korean Defense Service Medal, the NATO Medal, and the Army Good Conduct Medal. CPT Williams is married and has three children and three dogs.

Due to her national expertise on Pharmaceutical Diversion, Dr. Shelley was recently invited to speak at several national conferences related to this topic:


Dr. Shelley also presented her research on Rural Courts and Justice at the European Society of Criminology meetings in Munster, Germany.