

Media News



The U.S. Customs and Border Protection recruiting events in the [CJ Mentoring Center](#)



A Brand New Program in the Criminal Justice Department - BEST: Borderlands and Ethnic Studies graduate certification students stand with Dr. Dulcinea Lara. From left, Reymond Manuelito, Dulcinea Lara, Stevie Paz, Natalia Martinez, Carlos Avila, Haley Stewart, Delia Torres. Not pictured: Teaching Assistant, Cynthia Wise. (NMSU Photo by Amanda Adame)



Message from the Department Head

Dear Alumni and Friends,

It has been an interesting semester to say the least!! We started in January with very high hopes for a successful and productive semester and then, well the entire country went into turmoil with the COVID-19 virus. We were notified the week before Spring break that classes were to be shut down for two weeks due to concerns over the spread of the virus (students received a two week Spring Break). During that two-week hiatus faculty were tasked with converting all of our on-campus classes to an online format for the remainder of the semester. This was no easy task for the university (or for other universities around the country), but our department was able to transition without too much difficulty. As many of you know, the Criminal Justice Department was one of the first departments at NMSU to offer fully online degrees at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. As such, our faculty are well versed in online education. In fact, the Dean asked two of our faculty, Marija Dimitrijevic and Carlos Posadas to head up a team of support personnel to assist others in the college with the transition. Our department was able to take the lead in getting our university positioned to continue our classes and help students finish the semester. I must point out that this transition has not been without problems as many of our students had to quickly adjust to the online format. We would like to assume that all our students have high speed internet at home and the equipment to scan, print and view online content. Many do not. I would like to compliment our university for stepping up and helping students by providing equipment and technical support. It has been a challenge, but a rewarding one. I think our students are adjusting to this new reality with hopes that by next fall things will be back to normal.

I have some sad news for those of you that have not heard. Ed Farris passed away on December 20, 2019. I mentioned him in the last newsletter and reminisced about taking my first CJ class (at that time Police Science) from him back in the mid-70s.

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Media News



The head of the US Marshals, Sonia Chavez, and Deputies were guest speakers in Professor's Ida D'Antonio CJ 410 CJ Administrative Systems course. (Photo by Ida D'Antonio)



CJ Graduate Students presenting at the Conference (Photo by graduate students)

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Message from the Department Head continued

In learning more and more about the criminal justice field and the impact that August Vollmer (the father of modern policing) had on our discipline, I felt privileged to have taken classes from a disciple of his. Ed helped start the program at NMSU and was instrumental in much of the early history of our field. Ed was also instrumental in the forming of what is now the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS). It is interesting to note that the ACJS annual meeting was canceled this past March due to the COVID-19 virus. It was scheduled to take place in San Antonio, this year and we had a group of faculty and graduate students that were looking forward to attending this event and presenting their research.

It is my hope that everyone is safe and healthy during this time. The department and our faculty are working very hard to ensure that our students receive the best education during these unfortunate times. We do not yet know what the future holds. The university will remain open with online only classes through the summer. It is our hope that things will be back to normal by the fall 2020 semester, but we are prepared if that is not possible.

I want to thank everyone who reached out to us after our last Newsletter and encourage others to send a quick e-mail updating us on what you are doing. We love hearing about your accomplishments and would love to see you back on campus if you are ever in the area. I also want to remind those of you who are still in the criminal justice field that we will have a large number of exceptionally qualified students who graduate each year and are looking for jobs. If your agency is hiring, please let us know. We are happy to send announcements to our students or add information about your agency in our Mentoring Center. I would also like to offer a special invite to any agency that would like to visit campus and talk with our students. The Mentoring Center was designed for just that purpose! We will provide you with an office to speak with students and our faculty.

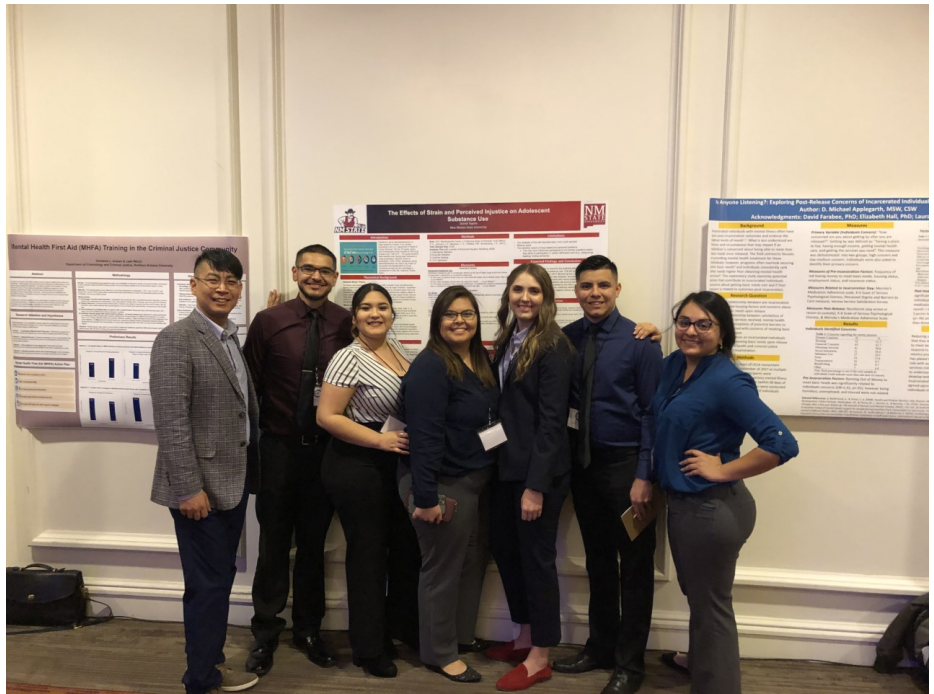
My best to everyone. Please stay safe and stay in touch!!

Dennis

dgiever@nmsu.edu

Graduate Students Attended the 47th annual Western Society of Criminology Conference

On January 7-8, 2020 a group of six graduate students attended the 47th annual Western Society of Criminology conference in Phoenix Arizona. Alberto Salzar and Daniel Topete presented the current work on their thesis's, Alberto presented his work via an oral presentation and Daniel presented his work via a poster presentation. They were supported by fellow graduate students: Kelsey Philips, Natasha Briones, Lizz Saavedra and Gloria Ruiz.



Dr. Hyunin Baek with graduate students Daniel Topete and Alberto Salazar who presented at the conference with other graduate students in the photo. Photo credit: Dr. Baek

“We had a great time presenting our work as well as having the support of our friends and fellow grad students. The conference as a whole was great as we were able to learn important research in our field and interact with professionals in the field of criminology.” - Daniel Topete.

Fun fact: All graduate students who attended the conference are all officers in the Criminal Justice Graduate Students Council as well as teaching assistants for the department.



Social networking for graduate students' future was important in this conference. Dr. Chris Eskridge (UNL), Executive Director of American Society of Criminology, speaking with CJ Graduate students. Photo credit: Dr. Baek

Our Alumni are doing some powerful national impact

Tulsa Police Officer Jesse Guardiola



Tulsa Police Officer Jesse Guardiola left, stands with US Attorney General for the Northern District of Oklahoma, Trent Shores, right. Courtesy Photo

Officer Jesse Guardiola, an NMSU Criminal Justice alum and an officer in the Tulsa Police Department has received the prestigious Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing for leading the Department's efforts in Hispanic outreach and community policing.

This award recognizes individual state, local, and tribal sworn law enforcement officials for exceptional efforts in innovative community policing strategies, criminal investigations, and field operations that have proven effective in enforcing our nation's laws.

Officer Guardiola's outreach to Tulsa's Hispanic community (Oklahoma) is a national model for community policing done right.

He developed a comprehensive Hispanic Outreach Program. The six-component program helps promote safety when an officer is confronted with a language barrier through Law Enforcement Survival Spanish Language Training while also combating the large underreporting of crime in the Hispanic community. Another component of Guardiola's Hispanic Outreach Program is educating local law enforcement and the community at large on the immigrant Hispanic culture.

This program has received national recognition. The Vera Institute of Justice, founder by a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) grant, selected Tulsa out of 350 police departments nationwide to present in New York City on promising police-immigrant relations practices. In 2012, the Tulsa Police Department was selected from a nationwide search to participate and present on Officer Guardiola's Hispanic Outreach Program. Officer Guardiola was invited to New York City to share his ideas in a national report that will be studied and promoted as a national model. The Tulsa Police Department is especially proud of this national recognition because the department's outreach program had at that time only been in existence for two years.

Additionally, Officer Guardiola's heart for the immigrant community and first-generation youth led to the development of not only the Hispanic Outreach Program but also of an additional program that focuses on the mentorship of at-risk Hispanic youth.



Officer Guardiola receiving the prestigious award. Courtesy Photo

BEST - Borderland and Ethnic Studies Program

A Brand New Program in the Criminal Justice Department

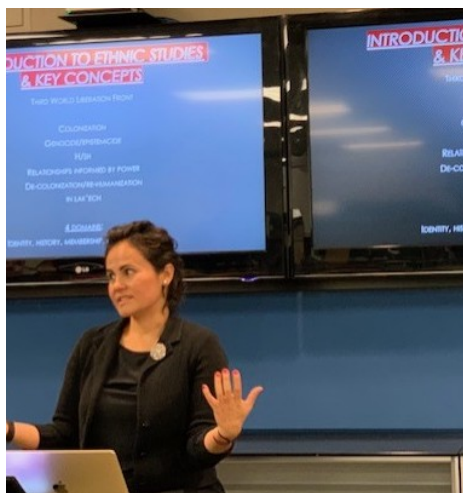


Students in BEST 510, Fall 2019

Greetings!

As the Director of [Borderlands & Ethnic Studies](#), a brand new program in the Criminal Justice department, I'm pleased to share that the program's graduate certificate received its final approval in March 2020 by the Higher Learning Commission.

In Fall 2020, the program will debut its prefix "BEST" in the NMSU catalog for the first time— while offering both online and traditional graduate seminars. The four core seminars focus on critical and conscious ways of viewing systems in relationship to people—looking at densities and vulnerabilities associated with historically marginalized groups. While the program is open to graduate students from all disciplines, including people who enroll in NMSU strictly to earn the graduate certificate, MCJ students can benefit from the program in key ways!



Dr. Dulcinea Lara teaching BEST 510: Foundations in Borderlands & Ethnic Studies, Fall 2019

As our world becomes increasingly complex and transitional due to human migration trends, technological advances, and environmental shifts, a graduate certificate in BEST is useful for all fields and for people in all professions. The pilot course, "Foundations in Borderlands & Ethnic Studies" taught in Spring and Fall 2019, included students from multiple areas and interests including: non-profit organizations, education, law, law enforcement, rhetoric, government, media/communications, and public administration.

The program looks to grow in the coming years, serving students interested in expanding their scope of thinking and applying their professional skills in a way that creates a more equitable and just experience for all.

Dr. Dulcinea Lara

Emeritus Faculty

Larry Mays, Emeritus Faculty



[Larry Mays](#)

Professor Emeritus

Courtesy Photo/NMSU

Larry Mays joined the faculty of New Mexico State University in July 1981 as the academic department head of what was then the Department of Police Science. In his first two years he completely revised the curriculum and moved to change the department's name (over some resistance) to Criminal Justice. He also began the plans for what would eventually become the Master of Criminal Justice degree. Under his leadership the department grew from 88 majors to about 400. Dr. Mays served as department head from 1981 to 1990 when he stepped down to become a full-time academic.

In 1993 Dr. Mays received the Donald C. Roush Award for teaching excellence and in 1997 he was recognized as the State of New Mexico Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching. His highest recognition at NMSU was being chosen a Regents Professor in 2005.

In 2008 Dr. Mays moved to Albuquerque to establish an on-site MCJ program at NMSU's Albuquerque Center. He retired from that position in 2011.

Even in retirement Dr. Mays has continued to stay active in the

publishing arena and between 2011 and 2020 he has written or revised ten textbooks including:

- American Courts and the Judicial Process (Oxford University Press, 2012, 2019)
- Juvenile Justice (Aspen Press with Tom Winfree, 2012)
- Do the Crime, Do the Time (Praeger Publishing with Rick Ruddell [former MCJ student, now a faculty member at the University of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada])
- Criminal Law: Core Concepts (Wolters Kluwer, 2014)
- Essentials of Corrections (John Wiley with Tom Winfree, 2014)
- Making Sense of Criminal Justice (Oxford University Press with Rick Ruddell, 2015, 2019)
- Introduction to Criminal Justice (Wolters Kluwer with Tom Winfree and Leanne Alarid of UTEP, 2015, 2019)

Rick Ruddell, Tom Winfree, and Larry Mays are also in the process of coauthoring a new corrections book entitled Contemporary Corrections which will be published by Taylor & Francis in the fall of 2020.

Larry and his wife Brenda (who retired from the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department after 25 years) live in Rio Rancho, New Mexico near their two children and seven grandchildren.



Criminal Justice Alumni Featured



We would like to thank everyone who reached out to us after our last Newsletter and encourage others to send a quick e-mail updating us on what you are doing. We love hearing about your accomplishments!

Please read more [here](#) and email us at cjustice@nmsu.edu

Brice Garrison, Misdemeanor Probation Officer, Latah County Probation is the most junior Probation Officer and has been in his position going on ten years now. Brice loves his career and the best part of his job is helping people that willingly take his help.

Rumbidzayi Gasa Nyamadzawo, Gasa Nyamadzawo & Associates. After graduation in fall 2009, Gasa worked at Dona Anna County Detention Center for twelve months. When she returned home in Zimbabwe, Harare, she continued with her law practice and also teaching at Bindura University of Science Education in the department of Police and Security Studies. She works with women groups to fight against gender based violence, domestic violence, sexual harassment at the work place and other public places.

Andrew Rivas, retired in 2005 from the United States Naval Reserve having served 23 years. During his service Andrew was activated several times putting his federal career on hold and deployed to East Timor, UN Bosnia, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraq Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Tina Parde, U.S. Probation Officer. Tina has continued to work with the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office (started with the feds in August 2009). In April 2015, she transferred to the District of Colorado, Denver office. She has worked in both the presentence and supervision units and is currently a Senior United States Probation Officer and supervises the mental health caseload for the District.

Major W. Troy Weisler, NM State Police, Investigations Bureau. Major W. Troy Weisler oversees the Department's Investigation Bureau, which includes basically all of their plain clothes investigators (Criminal, Crime Suppression, Special Investigations and our Technical Unit).

Please touch back to us and let us learn about your career and what you have done since you graduated. Please send a short note or email briefly describing your careers. We might include these in future Newsletters or on our website. It would be nice for our alumni to hear from others and what they have been doing since they left NMSU. cjustice@nmsu.edu



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College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Criminal Justice



Ed Farris [passed away](#) on December 20, 2019. In 1962 he was recruited to initiate the Police Science department at NMSU and headed the department until 1971. Ed helped start the program at NMSU and was instrumental in much of the early history of our field. Ed was also instrumental in the forming of what is now the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS).

Please visit the [CJ Giving Page](#) to see how you can contribute to the future success of Criminal Justice Students.