

Public Safety Management News Briefs

Spring Graduates

Pamela Simek graduated with her B.A. in Public Safety Management. Tony Ellis received his B.A.A.S (Inverted Degree).



Pamela Simek

Tara McCall and Enrique (Rick) Patino graduated with a B.A. in Criminal Justice and Craig Holden with a B.A. in Criminology. Congratulations to all.

Faculty Focus: Dr. James Gaston

St. Edward's University has a wonderful group of faculty members. This issue we will focus on James M. Gaston, Ph.D. Dr. Gaston has been teaching a class in Planning and Decision Making in Public Safety Management. In addition, he serves on the Public Safety Advisory Group for the program. Jim has an excellent background in both academics and in public safety.



In addition, he has helped create the Texas Fire Chiefs Academy which offers summer classes to fire chiefs and fire chiefs to be intensive classes in one week classes in the summer months.

Jim has a Ph.D. in Human Resource

Development from Texas A&M University; a Master of Public Administration from Texas A&M University; and a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from University of Texas at Arlington.

He has served as the Executive Director for Texas Fire Chiefs Association for the last ten years where he plays a leadership role in the Texas fire service and influences national programs. He has been instrumental in the creation of the Texas Fire Chief's Academy which will be conducting programs at St. Edward's University this summer.

He has continued a consulting practice in the field for over 13 years. He has recently coauthored a management coaching book.

He has served as Acting Dean and Associate Professor at Palm Beach Atlantic College

Dr. Jim Gaston served as department head during the third year he was on the faculty at Palm Beach Atlantic College in Florida. He has served in various management, teaching, research, and leadership positions at Texas A&M.

He served as Director of Planning for the City of Arlington. He also has worked as a Planning Consultant, Fort Worth, Texas, Kent, Washington, and College Station, Texas. Jim brings a great deal of breadth and depth to the program.

Fire Chiefs Academy has Inaugural Session

After years of discussion and planning, the inaugural class of the Texas Fire Chiefs Academy was held at St. Edward's University in Austin. Nineteen fire chiefs and fire officers completed the first week of the Chiefs Academy.

The Chiefs Academy is a unique learning opportunity tailored to chief officers to provide a practical, comprehensive overview of the job Texas fire chiefs are expected to accomplish. The presenters are experienced practitioners with firsthand knowledge of local government and fire administration.

The Chiefs Academy is comprised of two one-week sessions separated by a year. A service project and exams are required during

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the interim. The Chiefs Academy is a residential program. Participants spend time together in a dorm on campus, sharing meals in the student center, enjoying summer evenings in Austin and learning from each other. The networking is fantastic. Professional contacts are made and friendships formed. The next classes will be in May 2008.

Public Safety Mgt Courses: Fall 2008

PSMG 2302	INTRODUCTION TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT {online} - Williams
PSMG 4301	COMMUNITY RELATION/PUBLIC SAFETY McDonald
PSMG 4321	HUMAN RESOURCE ADMINISTRATION IN GOVERNMENT {online} - De La Garza
PSMG 4330	BUDGET-PUBLIC & NONPROFIT ORGS - Parsells
PSMG 4331	MANAGING PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES {online} Campbell

Criminal Justice Courses: Fall 2008

CRIJ 1310	Criminal Law I - Hatch
CRIJ 2319	Introduction to Forensics - Gillespie
CRIJ 2326	Chemical Dependency Issues - Malone
CRIJ 4345	Contemporary Issues in C.J. – Craig Campbell
CRIJ 4349	White Collar Crime – Judge Campbell

Organizational Communication Courses: Fall 2008

COMM 3301	Foundations of Organizational Communication - Currey
COMM 3302	Leadership Theory & Group Performance - Moore
COMM 4341	Conflict Resolution in Organizations - Brattlie
ENGW 3335	Technical and Business Writing

Spring Courses

The Spring Schedule is not yet set, but the following PSM courses should be offered.

PSM: 4301, 4330, 4341, and 4349

For those of you interested in the application of psychological theories in the workplace, a new course will be offered by Dr. Sarah Hensler who offers the following description.

Industrial And Organizational Psychology: This course looks at the application of psychological theories and principles to the workplace. Selection and management of people in particular jobs, group interactions and employee motivation are covered. Research into consumer behavior, the relationship of human beings to machines, and the influence of the work environment on worker productivity and satisfaction are considered.

Advisory Board

The advisory board met in the Spring and discussed issues related to the program. One area to be explored is the addition of a certification program within the degree for emergency management which is part of the

New College five-year plan. If additional courses are offered students will be able to have more choices in course selection. The courses to be added are being researched and will be discussed at the Fall semester meeting.

Tony Martinez wins McNair Scholarship

Senior Public Safety Management student Tony Martinez has been admitted to the prestigious McNair Scholars program. The program was created by Congress and named for Dr. Ronald McNair, U.S. Astronaut who was killed in the Challenger voyage that resulted in his tragic death in 1986. Tony receives a scholarship as part of the program.

Tony's research project is titled *Integration of Public Health and Public Safety for Emergency Preparedness*. It is concerned with the



Tony Martinez

integration of public health and public safety as vital in the preparedness and planning for emergencies. Without the integration of public health and safety, responses to disasters have a potential for failure. History of failed disaster responses have shown that public health and safety did not integrate with one another and lives and property were lost. Public health and public safety agencies have the same mission: to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. Without the integration of these entities, efforts and resources in responding to disasters are duplicated. The Department of Homeland Security implemented policies that the integration of public health safety be a part of emergency plans for all local and state governments. Analysis of local and state emergency plans show the integration of public health and safety, however, the implementation of these plans could be improved.

The mission of the Public Safety Management Program is to develop effective leaders, promote career advancement, and encourage collaboration among public safety entities and between those entities and the public in order to enhance their ability to ensure public safety.