

Crime Victims' Institute



In this issue

Dr. Cortney Franklin appointed CVI Director **P.1**

Dr. Brittany Hayes joins CVI **P.2**

Domestic Violence Awareness Month **P.2**

In the Works **P.3**

Focus On... **P.3**

CVI Advisory Board **P.3**

TSUS Board of Regents **P.3**

Upcoming Events **P.4**

Our Mission

The mission of the Crime Victims' Institute is to :

- Conduct research to examine the impact of crime on victims of all ages in order to promote a better understanding of victimization
- Improve services to victims
- Assist victims of crime by giving them a voice
- Inform victim-related policy-making at the state and local levels.

CVI's Community Outreach

- Texas Victim Services Association Board Member
- Victim Services Coalition Member

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The Crime Victims' Institute
College of Criminal Justice
Sam Houston State University

Dr. Cortney Franklin appointed Director of CVI



Dr. Cortney Franklin is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Sam Houston State University and has served as the Assistant Director of the Crime Victims' Institute from January 2016 through July 2017. In her role as Assistant Director, she edited several special research series, including human trafficking and campus sexual assault; published technical reports on campus victimization resources, and on intimate partner violence among sexual minorities. Her scholarly research focuses on victimology and violence against women, with recent attention to criminal justice system responses to victims. She has published more than 30 scholarly articles and book chapters on sexual assault, intimate partner violence and human sex trafficking. This work has appeared or is forthcoming in referred journals including, *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, *Violence Against Women*, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *Journal of School Violence*, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, *Journal of Family Violence*, *Violence and Victims*, and *Women and Criminal Justice*.

In addition to her new appointment as Director of CVI, Dr. Franklin is also the Principle Investigator on a \$393,000 Office of Violence Against Women federally-funded grant to evaluate the Houston Police Department's mandatory sexual and family violence training to facilitate victim-centered and trauma-informed responses to survivors of sexual and family violence.



Dr. Brittany Hayes joins CVI as Assistant Director

Dr. Brittany Hayes is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Hayes joined the faculty at SHSU in 2014 after completing her M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D. at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York. Her research has examined intimate partner violence, particularly abuse that occurs during the process of separation and risk factors for intimate partner abuse in developing nations, as well as factors that influence behaviors and attitudes. Her scholarly work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, including the *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, *American Sociological Review*, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *Journal of Family Violence*, and *Violence Against Women*. Recently, Dr. Hayes and Dr. Eryn O'Neal launched a campus climate survey at SHSU in Spring of 2017.



As part of Sexual Assault Awareness month at SHSU in April 2017, she was invited to speak at the awareness raising event, "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" and was a panelist for the screening of *The Hunting Ground*. She has chaired one Masters thesis committee, advised one McNair Scholar, and been a member of two dissertation committees. She is an editorial board member of both the *Journal of Family Violence* and the *Journal of School Violence*. In 2017, Dr. Hayes was awarded the Sage Junior Faculty Professional Development Teaching Award.

CVI is excited to welcome Dr. Brittany Hayes as the new Assistant Director. Dr. Hayes will work with the Director, Dr. Courtney Franklin, on pursuing grant opportunities and facilitating agency relationships to improve best practices for trauma-informed responses to victims of crime. In addition, Dr. Hayes will launch a special series on hate crime.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Alondra Garza, B.S.
Cortney A. Franklin, Ph.D.

Efforts aimed at combatting domestic violence span five decades with continued attention from scholars, policy-makers, advocacy groups, and state coalitions. Domestic violence is far-reaching, encompassing a wide range of violence including physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological abuse. Official data and self-reports have indicated the pervasiveness with which domestic violence occurs, where nearly 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will likely experience severe physical abuse perpetrated by an intimate partner. It is also important to note that, despite common misconceptions, this type of abuse happens as often or more frequently in same-sex partnerships. Survivors of domestic violence face adverse physiological and physical health consequences, including chronic physical discomfort resulting from injuries, abrasions, migraine headaches, gastrointestinal problems, and gynecological disorders. Anticipated fear of re-victimization by an abusive partner can also produce posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, elevated startle responses, and hypervigilance to the abuser's needs (Campbell et al., 2002). Sexual minority survivors suffer additional deleterious consequences surrounding shame, embarrassment, fear of being disbelieved by service providers, and apprehension surrounding sexual orientation.

The National Coalition against Domestic Violence held the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) in October 1987 with the goal of connecting individuals, communities, advocacy groups, and organizations concerned with increasing awareness to educate the public and empower

survivors. This October marks the 30th anniversary of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Efforts to bring attention to domestic violence and honor survivors are constant, currently the hashtag #DVAMTurns30 is being endorsed by the National Coalition to encourage social media users across various platforms to engage in conversation by adding their voice and taking a stance against violence.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES
If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, there is help:

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-7233

National Teen Dating Violence Hotline
1-866-331-9474

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
www.ncadv.org

Texas Council on Family Violence
www.tcfv.org





In the Works...

Look for upcoming publications from the Crime Victims' Institute:

- Federal Efforts to Combat Campus Crime
- Bystander Intervention Efforts to Prevent Victimization
- Social Disorganization, IPV, and the Rural/Urban Divide
- Strangulation in Travis County, Texas
- Intimate Partner Sexual Assault

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Focus On:

Matthew Bills

CVI Graduate Research Assistant

Matthew Bills began the Ph.D. program in Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University in the Fall of 2017. In May of 2015, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice, with a minor in psychology, from Sam Houston State University. He continued his graduate education and in August of 2017, earned his Master of Arts degree in criminal justice from Sam Houston State University. His Master's thesis examined the role of self-control and risky lifestyle variables in predicting victimization among juveniles. His broad research interests include juvenile victimization and victimization on college campuses. He has also recently been involved in a campus climate survey project, led by Dr. Brittany Hayes and Dr. Eryn O'Neal.

Matthew will be authoring a research report on hate crime in Texas and will be working on a project to assess predictors of repeat domestic violence calls for service to aid police departments in identifying relevant factors for victim service intervention.





Upcoming Events



Domestic Violence Awareness Month	October
34th Annual Adult Protective Services Conference South Padre Island, TX	October 3-6, 2017
Partners in Prevention Conference Texas Department of Family and Protective Services San Antonio, TX	October 3-5, 2017
Southwest Anti-Violence Summit: Bridging Boarders, Building Allies Center Against Sexual and Family Violence El Paso, TX	October 12-13, 2017
Nuestras Voces National Bilingual Sexual Assault Conference San Antonio, TX	November 2-3, 2017
American Society of Criminology Philadelphia, PA	November 15-18, 2017

Share your ideas:

We welcome your input. Please send issues or topics you would like to see CVI conduct research on to :

crimevictims@shsu.edu

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