A History of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and Evolution of the School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology

five years of firsts

H. Elaine Rodney
A History of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and Evolution of the School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology

five years of firsts

H. Elaine Rodney
December 2002
# Table of Contents

**Foreword**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 1: Great Dreams Compel Giant Steps</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How House Bill 1550 Got Passed</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Center Director Arrives</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What Happens Now?</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 2: The Next Giant Step</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Momentous Day</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making Contacts</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 3: One Way to Get Three Million Dollars!</th>
<th>15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Tune of 3.0 Million</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Now We’re On the Map</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 4: O Happy Day!</th>
<th>21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Juvenile Justice Programs and Creation of the School of Juvenile Justice</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 5: Another Degree – Another Name
First Master’s Students and First Graduates
We Keep Growing

Chapter 6: The Ultimate First!
A First for Prairie View and First in the Nation!
The “33”
Books and More
Another Legislative Mandate, HB1118!
Where is Everyone?
Other Things We Have Been Doing

Chapter 7: The Others Who Came
Hello to Some, Farewell to Others

Chapter 8: Toward A New Day
Advancement of the University
Some More Good Things
Rejuvenation of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center

Chapter 9: Reminiscing
Who’s Missing
Some Lighter Moments
Although the history of 5 years might seem short to some, so much has happened so fast, that if not documented, much could get lost, therefore, this writing of the history of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and the evolution of the School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology. Special thanks to my husband, Laxley Rodney, who along with Mrs. Carole Allen, a consultant to the Center, gave me encouragement and support. Furthermore, as Founding Director of the Center and Dean of the School, if I do not document their establishment and development, those who succeed me might find it difficult to retrace the events, knowing that conversations and little known facts can sometimes distort the picture.

After writing the first few drafts, I relied on the founding team of faculty, Drs. Richard Tachia, Edward Schauer, and Charles Bailey to review the documents since they were part of the Center’s development. Dr. Frank Williams also provided his input. Mrs. Sherlene Husfeld, my administrative assistant, who witnessed the development, combed the files for accuracy of dates, events and names,
and the typing of the many drafts of the manuscript. My gratitude also goes to Mrs. Gloria Tachia, who assisted in the typing while Ms. Husfeld was on sick leave. Special thanks, too, go to Mrs. Carole Allen, for her suggestions for the manuscript.

I must also express my indebtedness to Mr. Tempton, for his support while serving as Vice President for Fiscal Affairs, and now as Interim President. My gratitude also goes to Mr. Robby Dewitt, former Associate Vice President for Fiscal Affairs, who assisted me with many fiscal requests during the infancy of the Center.

Expressions of gratitude also go to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Joahanne Thomas-Smith, who has always helped and provided moral support when I thought it was going to be too difficult to make it through with all the pressures of the job.

To former President Hines, who conceptualized the Center, along with Mr. Ronald Jones, Mr. Frank Jackson, and the legislators who worked to get the bill passed, members of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Committee and all who have supported the Center throughout the years, thank you for your service to the State of Texas. Over the period you have extended yourselves again and again.

Finally, a special thanks to all whom made the Center and its accomplishments a reality.

H. Elaine Rodney
great dreams compel giant steps
How House Bill 1550 Got Passed

The proposal to create The Center for the Study and prevention of Juvenile Crime and Delinquency was conceptualized by former President Charles A. Hines and Mr. Ronald Jones, Vice-President for Student Services in 1996. Mr. Frank Jackson, Special Assistant to President Hines, and Mr. Jones sought advice from Senator Rodney Ellis on how to proceed in getting the creation of the Center into a bill. With the assistance of Mr. Jeff Archer of the Legislative Council for both Houses, along with Ms. Denise Davis, a draft of the bill was formulated for the various committees. It went to the conference committee where Representative Sylvester Turner of Houston, undertook the task of describing it to the committee members. Due to the fiscal note attached, however, it could not move through the committees until staff member Lawana Barton of Senator Royce West’s office, identified a juvenile bill being sponsored by Representative Toby Goodman which was on its way to the Conference Committee.
Through the influence of Representative Senfronia Thompson and Senator Royce West, Representative Toby Goodman added a rider to his bill while Representative Garnett Coleman also willingly agreed to add the rider to the Appropriations Bill. In a quick decision, Lawana Barton decided that the fiscal note could be fulfilled if $.25 of each dollar of certain court fees could translate into approximately $600,000. With token funds of $50,000 put forward by President Hines, the bill passed in May 1997. With tremendous support from Representatives Glen Lewis, Tommy Williams, Garnett Coleman, and Senator Steve Odgen, they persuaded Governor George Bush to sign the bill.

The Center Director Arrives

While at a conference, in Atlanta in spring 1997, I received a flyer advertising the position of Director of the Center. I applied out of mere curiosity, not knowing anyone at Prairie View and very little about the University. Having read the proposal that was submitted to the legislature in preparation for the interview, I saw a unique opportunity to become part of something that was new and different. After a rigorous selection process in which some 36 applications were reviewed by Dr. Hines and his search committee, I was offered the position. With a faculty appointment as Professor of Psychology, I accepted. It is not often in one’s career that one gets the chance to create and develop an academic unit, as I had the opportunity to do, and I was humbled by the fact. It has been a unique privilege to work with the Prairie View family, and more
specifically, those of the School of Juvenile Justice & Psychology, and the Texas JCPC.

Upon my arrival at the university on January 15, 1998, I was given the mandate as my only guidance to create the Center.

The Mandate (HB 1550). The Center was enacted to do the following:

- conduct and evaluate research in all areas relating to juvenile justice
- engage in graduate and undergraduate degrees offering, continuing education and in-service training
- serve as a state and national resource
- in connection with the education and research programs, provide technical assistance and engage in collaborative activities with agencies and communities as well as private entities, and
- that we may also enter into cooperative agreements and contracts.

What Happens Now?

Being the sole individual hired in January, I initially had no staff support except for a freshman college student, Erika Jones, the daughter of Mr. Ronald Jones. According to HB1550, specializations in Juvenile Justice were to be developed. With help from Erika, we developed a needs survey, and with the assistance of Mr. Ronald Server, Criminal Justice Program Coordinator administered it to
students majoring in the undergraduate criminal justice program. Erika tabulated the responses and Mr. Server and I developed the curriculum for the Juvenile Justice specialization for the criminal justice degree program. This resulted in a new degree program. In fall 1998, we started offering those courses.

Then two months later, Ms. Cynthia Williams was hired as secretary. She seemed familiar with some of the rules and regulations of the State, which was very helpful.

Establishing a budget and finding suitable office facilities was challenging. Funds were not available because the mechanism to transmit them to the University under House Bill 2272 was not yet operational. The state-mandated $50,000 match toward statutory funding under House Bill 2272, whereby we would receive 25¢ of each dollar collected from certain court fees, had been obligated against my salary. Ultimately, the problems were resolved, and the funds started coming on a regular basis. These funds have translated into approximately $1 million per year.

In the meantime, the Center’s objectives and Mission was developed—“to assist with the reduction of juvenile crime and delinquency in the State of Texas.” Mr. Shah Ardalan, of the President’s office, assisted in developing the Center’s logo, and found a printer to provide printing services. President Hines provided a list of experts to contact to serve on the Advisory Committee.
Saying, “Good morning, this is the Center for the Study and Prevention of Juvenile Crime and Delinquency” was such a long greeting with which to answer the phone, so with the approval of President Hines, it was shortened to “The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center.”

Ms. Sherlene Husfeld was hired as Administrative Assistant, to begin on April 1, so I turned my attention to finding a building from which to operate. With a student worker, a secretary, and an administrative assistant, we were too large to operate out of a hallway in the Administration Building! Mrs. Carol Campbell, Protocol Officer in the President’s office, and I, made numerous visits across campus to find office space for the expected 20 faculty and staff so President Hines agreed that we should occupy the offices in the Jesse M. Drew Memorial Complex-Annex. When we finally moved the end of March, I was advised that all furniture would remain in the building, but to my surprise, when we got there to set up the offices, nearly everything was gone. Because we had no furniture, equipment or supplies, some was loaned to us. It was quite frustrating using computers which erased data, attempting to use a typewriter on which the margins and tabs couldn’t be set and not having basic office supplies. However, it was also an exhilarating experience, being able to pick out new furniture, equipment and supplies.

Dr. Robert Mupier, Research and Evaluation Coordinator, the first professional staff member, was hired on May 11, 1998. Dr. Edward Schauer, Community Coordinator, was
the second to arrive on May 18th, Dr. Richard Tachia, Statistician, came on June 1, Dr. Charles Bailey, the Associate Director for the Center, was referred to as the “mystery man,” as his name was posted on the door, but due to other commitments, he didn’t arrive until October 26.

Since we would be traveling extensively across the state for meetings and conferences, it was clear that the wear and tear on our personal cars would not be taken too kindly by the staff, so a car was purchased. How proud we were to have our own vehicle with an emblem on the door!
A History of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and Evolution of the School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology

the next giant step

Chapter 2
A Momentous Day

On May 21, 1998, our first Advisory Committee meeting was held. Its purpose is to provide technical assistance and advise the Center Director. Eleven of fifteen charter members attended. Mr. Toby Goodman, Texas House of Representatives, presided; the other members in attendance were: Dr. Bob Carruthers, Superintendent of Waller County School District; Ms. Pat Esparza, Deputy Director of Operations, Housing Authority of the City of El Paso; Mr. Daniel Hernandez, Director of Community Development, Texas A&M University System; Dr. Charles Hines, President, Prairie View A&M University; Mr. Loyd Neal, Mayor, City of Corpus Christi; Mr. Sam Nuchia, Judge, First Court of Appeals, Houston; Mr. John Wiley Price, City Commissioner, Dallas; Dr. Laxley Rodney, Principal Investigator of the Minority Male Consortium, Central State University, Ohio; Dr. Joahanne Thomas-Smith, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Prairie View A&M University, and Mr. Royce West, Texas State Senator. Senator Royce West was elected as Chair of the Advisory
Committee and Representative Toby Goodman, Vice-chair. The second Advisory Committee meeting was held November 5, 1998, at which time the Charter and By-laws were approved. Over the years, most of the committee members have continued to serve us.

**Making Contacts**

By February, I realized I needed the assistance of others in the field of criminal justice to get ideas pertaining to the degree programs stipulated in the mandate. Even though I had published on delinquency activities, the field of criminal justice and Juvenile Justice was not yet a major academic field. One day while I was speaking with the Provost, Dr. Joahanne Thomas-Smith, the name of John Jay College of Criminal Justice surfaced. Her work-study student did a search of the internet which provided information pertaining to John Jay College. After contacting the graduate school, Dr. James Levine invited me to visit and arranged for me to meet with several faculty and staff, including the University President, Provost, and others. But of all the persons I met, it was Dr. Levine who was most helpful and continued to help any time I asked.

Dr. Levine visited Prairie View on three different occasions, without charging a fee, and assisted us with the curriculum development for the first Master’s of Science Degree in Juvenile Justice and later with the Ph.D. Degree in Juvenile Justice. Wanting to also affiliate with a research institute, I contacted Dr. Barry Krisberg, President of the National
Council on Crime and Delinquency, located in San Francisco, CA. Affiliations with both institutions were desirable and pursued, but unfortunately, we were not able to sign an official agreement.

During this time Senator Royce West was serving as Chair of the Interim Committee on Gang and Youth Violence. Attending several of the public testimonies on juvenile justice to understand the state’s needs on this subject gave me the opportunity to meet staff members of some state agencies.
A History of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and Evolution of the School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology

Chapter 3

one way to get 3 MILLION dollars!

Chapter 3
The tune of $3.0 million

It seems to me that the feeling of some at the university and others was that Prairie View would not succeed in carrying out the law of HB1550. Having never failed at any major endeavors, I decided to dispel that rumor. In thinking about what would be the most striking activity which would instill confidence, I turned my attention to leveraging the state’s funds through the avenue of writing grant proposals. This would also assist in funds to support the research function of HB1550. There was no time to waste; every minute was squeezed out of every day, and much midnight oil was burned by the faculty and staff.

The first grant proposal was written for funds which were congressionally earmarked for the Center through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Prevention (OJJDP) for .75 million dollars. Next, was a grant proposal to the Administration for Children & Families for $35,000. The third grant proposal was written to the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention for 1.2 million dollars. All three
were funded. Due to the research associated with the grants, Dr. Mupier and I had to seek approval for the University to receive an Institutional Review Board (IRB) from the Department of Health and Human Services in spring 1999. Dr. Marilyn McShane, Professor of Juvenile Justice, became the Chairperson of the Board in spring 2001. Upon her departure from the University, Dr. Mupier assumed these responsibilities.

In spring 1999, Drs Bailey, Tachia and I took on writing another grant which was funded by the Houston-Galveston Area Council in August 2000 for $202,262. This grant was implemented in the Waller Independent School District for the purpose of prevention. It has since been renewed and has now extended our service to the Jones Elementary School on FM 1098.

Another successful grant is the Tobacco Research Initiative undertaken by Dr. Snell and funded by the Texas Department of Health in fall 2001. So far, we have received approximately $693,000 for this endeavor.

Voilá! Our grant funds totaled over three million dollars!

**Now We’re “On the Map”**

These activities gave us more credibility and helped in establishing our partnerships with the juvenile justice agencies and school districts. With the professional team on board, we started visiting state agencies and others to
discuss ways of working with them on joint projects. Several were explored and implemented in research and collaborations with the Governor’s office, the Texas Youth Commission, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, the Hempstead Independent School District, the Waller Independent School District, Waller, Grimes and Austin counties juvenile probation department and others.
A History of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and Evolution of the School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology

Happy day!

Chapter 4
Master of Science degree in Juvenile Justice Programs and Creation of The School of Juvenile Justice – January 1998-1999

With more professional staff members joining us, it was now our job to further understand the agencies in Texas and think about what our first degree should be. There were numerous and interesting discussions among us about whether the Master’s Degree should be in Criminal or Juvenile Justice. However, there really was no doubt that Juvenile Justice should be the field of study in keeping with the proposal submitted to the Legislature.

Furthermore, I was excited about the possibility of creating and developing a new academic field. With feedback from our external constituencies and discussions with President Hines, Mr. Ronald Jones and others, we agreed to write our first application to the Board of Regents for the creation of the Master of Science Degree Program in Juvenile Justice. Concurrently, Dr. Edward Schauer and Dr. Charles Bailey were busy making connections across the state in regard to
collaborative activities and establishing partnerships, while Drs. Robert Mupier and Richard Tachia were trying to determine the state’s research needs.

Dr. Carla Woodley had been employed as Education Coordinator in July 1, 1998, and became the lead author for the Master’s Degree in Juvenile Justice. Most criminal justice programs have one or two courses in juvenile justice but there was no degree dedicated to the field. Another opportunity for another first! Dr. Tachia, Dr. Mupier, Dr. Schauer and Ms. Verna DeWees, from the Texas A&M University System, assisted us in creating this new field of study. Over the years Ms. DeWees has provided invaluable support for us. Dr. James Levine, Dean of the Graduate School at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, also provided expertise in developing the course of study for the new field. Dr. Thomas-Smith provided her input as well. The degree internship program was conceptualized to give students a chance to actually apply theory to practice. The program requirements called for students to complete 200 hours of a professional internship program with agencies or programs servicing juveniles. We submitted this first proposal to the Texas A&M Board of Regents for approval of the degree and simultaneous creation of the School of Juvenile Justice (the Center remained in the School as its foundation). The existing Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice was to be brought into the School together with the Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice with specialization in Juvenile Justice.
The four staff members (Drs. Mupier, Tachia, Schauer and Bailey) had previously held faculty positions in their former jobs, hence, the change of their contracts from staff to faculty to teach in the degree programs in addition to duties in the Center. Mr. Ronald Server was at the time, the sole full-time faculty member in the undergraduate programs, and had one part-time faculty, Mr. Claude Whitaker. All full-time staff except Mr. Server were now to work within the academic programs, as well as the Center. My title became Dean of the School of Juvenile Justice and Director of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center. The proposal was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on January 29, 1999, although a subsequent agenda item had to be submitted to the Board of Regents for formal appointment as dean.

With all these ‘firsts’, we had an exuberant return from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Upon return to the office, we found the staff had decorated and posted a banner saying, “Congratulations, Dean Rodney”. It was a big day for all of us.
Current Faculty and Staff

Founding Team
Psychology Faculty/Staff

Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Forensic Psychology Faculty/Staff
Undergraduate Criminal Justice Faculty

Center Staff
Dean/Executive Director
School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology and the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center
A History of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and Evolution of the School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology

Chapter 5
Our efforts at seeking out the needs of Texas continued and we started recruiting students for the Master’s Degree in Juvenile Justice. Dr. Snell was recruited at the SouthWestern Criminal Justice Association meeting in San Antonio, October 1998, and hired in January 1999. He was anxious to know what he would be teaching, as he wanted to begin preparation for those classes. I explained that although we had not yet enrolled students for the graduate program, for which he was hired, we would have much for him to do. Although a criminal justician, Dr. Snell took on the lead authorship for the second Master’s Degree in Juvenile Forensic Psychology, for which we received approval for fall 2000. This degree requirement includes a 400 hour externship program to give students the clinical experience necessary for the field. Again, the whole team contributed, and Dr. Snell was probably kept busier than he ever imagined. (Maybe that’s why he had a fish tank in his office!)

While writing the second Master’s degree program in
Juvenile Forensic Psychology, we brought the undergraduate psychology program under the School of Juvenile Justice which changed our name to the School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology. The approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board occurred on February 9, 2000. At that time, the Psychology Program had one full-time, faculty member, Mr. Metofe, (who soon obtained his doctorate degree) and Mrs. Veronica Hines as an adjunct. We were now a School, with faculty and students. Recruitment was on the top of the list, and we were attending state conferences and sending information to the agencies across the state to let them know that we had these two new graduate degrees and that we were enrolling students.

Boy, were we on a roll! We had a School of Juvenile Justice & Psychology, a Center, two undergraduate and two graduate degree programs, a handful of faculty and two administrative support staff members, plus a work study student. Administratively, Dr. Peter Metofe served as Coordinator of the Psychology Program, Mr. Ronald Server, Coordinator of the Undergraduate Criminal Justice Programs, and Dr. Clete Snell, Coordinator of the Graduate Programs. Dr. Snell often jokingly says he was initiated by fire, as he was just getting out of graduate school. He served as Coordinator of the Graduate Program from fall 1999 through summer 2000. Dr. Edward Schauer later took over for a year, but then accepted the challenge of working in the Undergraduate program.
First Master’s Students and First Graduates

In the fall of 1999, forty-three students enrolled in the Master of Science Degree program in Juvenile Justice. In fall 2000, seventeen students enrolled in the Master of Science Degree in Juvenile Forensic Psychology program. Our first graduates from the Juvenile Justice program were Krishanthia McKenzie, Lorraine Samuels and Ruby Shaw in summer 2001. In May 2001, Laura Bailey became our first graduate with a Master of Science Degree in Juvenile Forensic Psychology. To date, we have graduated a total of twenty-one students from both masters programs. Currently, we have seventy-four students enrolled in the two master’s programs. All full-time enrolled masters students have held assistantships ranging from $8,000 to $12,000 per academic year. In addition to the growth in the graduate programs, enrollment has continued to flourish in the undergraduate programs from 265 students in 1999, when we took over psychology and criminal justice to a current enrollment of 506. In 1999, the 100 Club of Houston, established two scholarships to assist students in the undergraduate Criminal Justice program and in 2000, made available an additional two scholarships.

We Keep Growing

Well, we started out as The Center for the Study and Prevention of Juvenile Crime and Delinquency, which was shortened to The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center. After the degree programs were put in place, the name was
changed to The School of Juvenile Justice, and with the addition of the Psychology department, became The School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology. And now, we plan to apply for another name change—The College of Justice Studies and Psychology, with its Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center. All these changes in so short a time!

Faculty growth continued, and in the fall of 1999 we employed Dr. Anthony Carona for the Master’s Degree in Juvenile Forensic Psychology, and Dr. Veda Brown in January 2000, for the undergraduate psychology program. While attending a conference in Houston, we met Dr. Lovett. I often jokingly explain that we held her down, using Drs. Bailey, Mupier and Tachia to influence her, and I closed the deal. She was hired for the Juvenile Forensic Psychology Program. Dr. Everette Penn came to the office to visit one Friday afternoon in spring 1999. He liked what he heard about the creation of the Center, the mission and objectives. He joined us in the fall of 2000 as a faculty member in the undergraduate criminal justice program. In fall 2001, Dr. Camille Gibson came from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, to join us. At the time of this writing, there are twenty-six full time faculty and staff, three part-time faculty members, and eight positions to be filled in the School and Center. Finding offices for all the new faculty became another challenge, as by this time, our original office space was filled to the limit.
A History of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and Evolution of the School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology

the ultimate first!

Chapter 6
A First for Prairie View and First in the Nation!

First Doctoral Degree Program for Prairie View and first Ph.D. Degree in Juvenile Justice in the nation, July 2000. Three graduate degrees in 2 1/2 years!!!

In May 1999, President Hines called and said, “Dr. Rodney, we need a Ph.D. and you’re going to have to bring it on.” I said, “Thank you for the confidence in me.” I called the faculty together. We were so few, that we could gather in the hallway. I told them of the newest challenge regarding the request from President Hines. Of course, we were very proud of the request made of us, but what a gigantic undertaking in addition to all the other projects going! Sometimes it was almost over-whelming. At the time, we were in the process of completing the proposal for the Master of Science Degree in Juvenile Forensic Psychology, and recruiting students to start offering the Master of Science Degree in Juvenile Justice that fall, while recruiting faculty and staff.

The lead author for the Doctoral degree was Dr. Schauer,
and like the other two degrees, we were all very actively involved in the process and worked together. The period was another extremely intense one. Our understanding is that it takes several years to develop and receive approval for a Ph.D., in many cases, up to 10 years. We finished the process in one and one-half years, from the point of request by Dr. Hines to the point of approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. And as usual, on almost a daily basis we gathered to conceptualize and discuss it. It meant delving deeper and deeper in the field than the two prior master’s degrees, and we worked long days, nights and weekends. We engaged in a thorough research of the literature, and solicited support from across the state and nation while recruiting faculty for this new degree program. During this time, the faculty and staff were also engaging in collaborative activities with state and community agencies and research.

In some ways, the Ph.D. application seemed easier to write than the two previous ones, mainly because we now had a pretty good understanding of the requirements of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. It went to the Board of Regents on January 27, 2000, was approved as usual, went to the Coordinating Board for its first reading, and was reviewed by a panel of external experts in fall 2000. We were fortunate that Drs. Frank Williams and Marilyn McShane, new faculty for the Ph.D. program, made a special trip to be present at the time the external reviewers were scheduled to be on the campus. We had a second reading
by the Coordinating Board and received approval in July 2000. After approval was granted, I was asked by the Chairman of the Board, to make a brief presentation, which was an unprecedented request and a great honor. It was truly an historic day for the University as well as for Senator Royce West, who also received approval for the University Center in Dallas. By fall 2000, the faculty and staff had grown to 27 and we had exciting plans afoot for the Center and the School.

While we had garnered a tremendous amount of grant funds, in order to maintain the rapid growth and expansion, additional state funds would be necessary. In the May 2000, Advisory Committee meeting in Austin, we proposed requesting an additional 25¢ from each dollar from the court fees to the legislature. Both Senator Royce West and Representative Toby Goodman, Chair and vice-chair respectively, of the Advisory Committee, supported the suggestion. And so, in the 77th legislative session of 2001, Senator West secured the 25¢ increase.

Drs. Frank Williams and Marilyn McShane, officially joined us September 2000. There was no time to waste, and Dr. Williams serving as the program coordinator, put the procedures in place, and with the faculty, developed the course content. Dr. Richard Tachia, who was subsequently appointed assistant dean in fall 2000, was already scheduled to teach in the program. On January 1, 2001 we started our first Ph.D. class with eleven students. Currently, twenty are enrolled in the program with an additional eight
students expected to enroll for the spring 2003 semester. All full time enrolled students have been awarded assistantships of $16,000 per academic year.

Dr. Myrna Cintrón joined the Ph.D. faculty in fall 2001. Like Dr. Clete Snell, she, too, was recruited at the SouthWestern Criminal Justice Association Conference in El Paso, October 2000.

By January 2001, Prairie View University had the most comprehensive curriculum in Juvenile Justice anywhere in the United States. In three years, we were offering:

- A specialization in Juvenile Justice at the undergraduate level
- A Master of Science Degree in Juvenile Justice
- A Master of Science Degree in Juvenile Forensic Psychology
- A Ph.D. in Juvenile Justice

The speed with which we were able to get the program written was in large part due to the quality of the program, quality of the faculty and research environment, financial resources available, ability of the team gathered, and support we received in the form of letters from highly respected persons across the state and nation. Dean Dan Mier-Katkin of Florida State University, College of Criminal Justice and Criminology also gave us feedback on the curriculum during the time we were writing the proposal.

Each time we went to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to hear the awaited vote of approval of

*Five Years of Firsts*
our application, most all the faculty would pile into a van and a car and head for Austin at 7:00 a.m. Of course, the night before was usually a sleepless one for some of us. Although we expected approval, we were none-the-less highly nervous, trying to anticipate the result. Each time Dr. Paul Mehta, Dean of the College of Education, also went with us, since each program to be approved for the University was linked to the Examination for Certification of Educators in Texas (EXCET) in the College.

Each moment was intense, each day was intense, and each week was full of accomplishments. As I reflect, it is difficult to understand how we did it. The faculty and staff never frowned or complained. All stood solidly behind me. They only kept working untiringly, writing proposals, developing curriculum, proof reading documents, publishing articles, recruiting faculty, staff and students and establishing collaborations.

**The Thirty-three**

Thus far, we have engaged in 33 collaborative activities and partnerships. Some of those collaborations are with the Texas Youth Commission, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, the Texas National Guard Challenge program, the Texas Department of Health, the Waller Independent School District, the Faith Community and Cooperative Extension program, and the University of Texas Medical Center to name a few. Pretty exciting time for the University and for us.
Books and More

In light of the fact that we were seeking approvals for graduate programs, an enhancement of the University library holding was vital. Therefore, in 1999, a total of $25,000 was set aside to do so, and again in 2000, an additional $25,000. To ensure that the funds were spent on the appropriate books, journals and periodicals, Dr. Clete Snell took charge of ordering the materials, working in conjunction with Mrs. Helen Yeh, the librarian. With the approval of the Ph.D. program in 2000, an additional $300,000 per year for the next 5 years have been earmarked for library enhancement. Dr. Marilyn McShane undertook the gigantic task of ordering those materials for 2000 – 2002. Upon her departure from the University in the spring of 2002, Dr. Camille Gibson undertook the job.

Our first donation of library collection in criminology, criminal justice and juvenile justice came from Dr. Sue Titus Reid of Florida State University, for a value of $15,000. This rare collection was boxed and delivered to the University library by Drs. Frank Williams, III and Marilyn McShane in February 2000. Today, the University library has obtained a remarkable collection through our efforts.

Another Legislative Mandate – HB1118!

Passed in 2001, the 77th Texas Legislature enacted HB1118 by adding Family Code Section 59.106, which stated that:

A. The Prairie View A&M University Center for the Study and Prevention of Juvenile Crime and
Delinquency shall study the relationship of the juvenile justice system to special categories of juveniles, including:
1. minorities,
2. female offenders, and
3. sex offenders.

B. The Center shall cooperate with the Criminal Justice policy Council, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and the Texas youth Commission in conducting those studies.

C. The Center shall report its findings and recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor by December 1, 2002.

This led to the completion of a preliminary study in December 2002 using state-wide data to examine the above listed problem. These studies will extend over the next five years.

Where Is Everyone?

All except one faculty member have moved from one position or from one building to another within the Center and the School. Although our ultimate goal is to have faculty members teaching across programs, we were not prepared for the rapid changes that would cause faculty to make so many adjustments. The foundation team came as staff members and were shifted from being full time staff members to faculty members, as we created the School.
Major adjustments had to be made even by the more recent faculty who joined us. It seems as though we are always in a mode of growth, expansion and change, thus requiring reassignment of faculty to fit changes in programs and being moved to wherever the greatest needs existed.

**Other Things We Have Been Doing**

Along with the above mentioned events, we have also been involved in over 30 research projects focused on juvenile justice problems. Over the period, 60 articles have been published, mostly in referred journals, 96 presentations have been made at conferences, and an Encyclopedia of Juvenile Justice developed—the first in the nation. We strongly believe in being the first!

The five years have been an extremely busy time for us, but the momentum continues. Events occurred faster than we had ever dreamed, but we kept our eyes fixed on the mission and the vision. If awakened at 3:00 a.m., I have no doubt that faculty members could recite the mission, “to assist with the reduction of juvenile crime and delinquency in the State of Texas.”
A History of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and Evolution of the School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology

Chapter 7
Hello to Some, Farewell to Others

There were other staff members who worked with us in the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center. Mrs. Freda Jackson joined us January 1999 to work with the research study examining the over-representation of minorities in the juvenile justice system. She later became program director in the Be A Star prevention program in the Waller Independent School District. Be A Star is funded by the Galveston-Houston Area Council. With funds from the OJJDP grant, Mrs. Thayla Edmond was hired in spring 2000, as secretary to that program. She is currently working as secretary/receptionist for the School and the Center. Mrs. Sandy Siegmund was hired to serve as the secretary to the Master’s Degree and Ph.D. programs in spring 2001, and Mrs. Olga Zamora was hired in fall 2001 as secretary to the undergraduate programs.

Dr. William Ross was hired in spring, 1999, as director of the prevention grant from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention in the two alternative schools in Houston. A staff of five people was employed in 1999 to assist him there; Mentors, Mrs. Sasha Cory-Varner, Mrs. Saydah Williamson-Taylor, Mr. Carlos Cestero, Mr. Jesse Green, and Mrs. Gloria Tachia, secretary. The services were in Community Education
Partnership School on Ferndale Avenue, and Beechnut Street in Houston, two alternative education programs. Due to the fact that the children being served would return to 26 home schools, it would have been a research nightmare, and we were forced to move the program to Hempstead. Upon departure of those staff members, they were replaced by: Mrs. Erika Legginton, Mr. Leander Nash, Mr. Edrick Smith and Mrs. Candice Firchau. When Dr. Ross left, Ms. Legginton became program coordinator. Mr. Mark Stelly and Miss Jamie Stelly were hired when Mr. Nash and Ms. Leggington later left. Mrs. Tachia became the receptionist/secretary, and later staff assistant in the School and Center.

Mr. Robert Burns who was hired in spring 1999 left to work in former President Hines office in spring 2001. Dr. Carla Woodley, after having served with us in the Center for one year as Educational Coordinator, was transferred to the undergraduate Criminal Justice program to serve as a faculty member and is no longer with us. Mrs. Wendy Williams, who worked in the federally funded grant, Collaborating for Violence Prevention, left at the expiration of the grant. Mrs. Velda Guillory, who worked first as a secretary in the OJJDP program, was transferred to the Criminal Justice program as its secretary, and later retired. Miss Cynthia Williams, who was the first secretary in the Center, left for a different job. Dr. McShane, Ph.D. faculty, also left for a different position. To all of them, we say thanks for helping to lay the foundation for one of the most comprehensive program in juvenile justice in the United States, and probably in the world.
Chapter 8

A History of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and Evolution of the School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology toward a new day
The Advancement of the University

The Ph.D. changed the status of Prairie View A&M University and required another level of approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). This meant going through the arduous task of writing a prospectus, submitting it nine months prior to the visit, followed by another report about two months ahead of the visit. Upon review of the report, a visit was scheduled with three members of the team to visit us. This all occurred between March and November 2001.

The highest level of anxiety during this time was the fact that we were not allowed to occupy the Harrington Science building, the facility described in the approved application. The Ph.D. students had no accommodations except for make-shift offices at cubicles in the library. However, the faculty had offices in the Memorial Student Complex Annex. After a major appeal the weekend prior to the visit, Mr. Larry Raab, Vice President for University Operations, his staff, and Mr. Tempton, the Vice President
for Fiscal Affairs, were able to have renovation done to part of an old dormitory to accommodate the faculty and students. On Monday, November 13, 2001, when the site visitors arrived, the faculty members were un-packing the boxes with their books and supplies, and trying to get their computers set up. The fumes from the paint applied the day before gave the story away to the site visitors. None-the-less, the site visit went well. The recommendations for improvement we received were due not to the quality of the program, nor to the quality of the faculty members, but were all due to other problems at a higher university level which were negatively impacting how the Ph.D. program was being carried out. The report from SACS approved the University to move from a level three to a level five in the ratings of SACS making it a fully comprehensive University. This allows the University to offer all subsequent Ph.D. programs without ever having to receive another focused visit from SACS. It was a great accomplishment.

Some More Good Things

The State of Texas was charged by the U.S. Office of Civil Rights, Department of Education, with not providing adequate resources to the University over the years. After many years of negotiation, a settlement was arrived at, whereby the University’s programs and buildings would be enhanced. One of those buildings will be the School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology. Therefore, one of the days to which we look forward, is fall 2005, the projected completion of the building. We currently house the
Psychology program in the Banks Building, the Criminal Justice programs in the Woolfolk building, the Ph.D. program is in L.O. Evans, and the graduate faculty and Center staff in the Jesse M. Drew Memorial Complex building. The research associates and survey-research center are scheduled to be in the Harrington Science building which is to be remodeled. Another Ph.D. Degree in Juvenile Forensic Psychology is scheduled no later than fiscal 2008, to be supported from the settlement between the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Education and the State of Texas.

Rejuvenation of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center

After the departure of Dr. Hines on May 21, 2002, I was advised by Interim President Tempton that the Center budget, which was taken from my authority by President Hines, would be returned to carry out the functions as stipulated in House Bill 1550. I was also promoted to the position of Executive Director. Immediately, I developed job descriptions for positions, some of which I had not been able to fill. These included a Director whose primary responsibilities are: assisting the executive director with the day-to-day operations of the Center as well as collaboration, providing technical assistance to communities, continuing education, and in-service training. Ms. Jo Ann Jones-Burbridge was employed on August 15, 2002 to fill this position. There were also two positions for research associates, which were filled by
Dr. Tana McCoy on August 1, 2002, and Dr. Erica Collins on October 1, 2002. Dr. Charles Bailey, who previously served as Associate Director to the Center and Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, took on his full-time responsibility of teaching and serving as Principal Investigator of the Be A Star grant. Mrs. Karen Scott joined us as a secretary of the Center on November 15, 2002.

As the fifth anniversary of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center is about to be celebrated, there is still much work ahead of us. We will have to nurture and sustain our programs, students and relationships with collaborators and partners across the state and nation. The Center and School are different from every other program at the University, and is the only one, to our knowledge, in the nation. The multiple functions and its complexity often times make it difficult for others to understand. None-the-less, we are proud that we have more than sufficiently fulfilled the mandate of HB1550.
A History of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and Evolution of the School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology

reminiscing

Chapter 9
Who’s Missing?

I have avoided trying to discuss any personal matters in this whole history. However, I think it would be incomplete without attending to one or two. I will always be indebted to the faculty and staff members in the School and in the Center. This is a team that is exceptional in every sense of the word, in team members’ abilities, their competence and in their hearts. Members were able to bring their families. I did not know that I would have been able to succeed in Texas or anywhere for that matter without the physical presence of my husband. The former President had discussed with him a position, but in the end it did not work out so I have been commuting from Texas to Ohio. There is no success that can make up for the loss we have experienced. A greater loss which I must mention, was Mze, Dr. & Mrs. Richard Tachia’s son, in November, 1999. We’ve been through pain, we’ve faced challenges, joys, and we had triumphs.
Some Lighter Moments

Being lost - This history would be incomplete without a recollection of some of our lighter moments, for example; on our first visit to the SouthWestern Association for Criminal Justicians, held in San Antonio, October 1998, Dr. Edward Schauer and I seemed to have spent two hours going back and forth along two or three streets within the vicinity of the hotel in which we were staying, yet could not find it. Fear began to strike me as the night grew later and later and the day’s weariness began to take hold of me. Finally, through a stroke of luck, we found the hotel.

Another such escapade was a day in the spring of 1999 when Dr. Richard Tachia and I went to Austin to attend a meeting in the Governor’s Office. Again, being unfamiliar with Austin and in trying to get around in the city, he accidentally dropped the car key. Luckily for us, Dr. Schauer was still in the office at Prairie View, and decided that he and his wife, Ila, would bring us another key. Of course, Dr. Schauer never exceeds the speed limit, plus the car he drove couldn’t make it to the speed limit. (By the way, he later gave the car away). Dr. Tachia and I sat on the bench along the street and waited and waited and waited. It seemed like it took him forever to get from Prairie View to Austin. When Dr. Schauer arrived, I must admit, seeing him was my happiest moment ever. Dr. Tachia and I got into the car and started from Austin to Prairie View. About an hour or so into the drive, Dr. Tachia, again in his usual calm way, stated that we had now lost our way. We made one or two stops and
asked for instructions on how to find our way back to Highway 290. The trip that should have taken two hours, ended up taking about six.

Another day in spring 1999, right after we had submitted the Ph.D. proposal application to the System, Ms. Verna DeWees, staff member of the Texas A&M University System, faxed a number of questions. I called the troupe together and parceled out the assignment, as that was the only way we could handle it. We worked and worked and worked until Dr. Schauer called for pizza to be delivered while we attacked the task. About 4:00 p.m., we were drained and could not express ourselves in writing any longer. We stood in the hallway as usual, trying to figure out the response to the last question, which was Dr. Schauer’s. (By the way, Dr. Schauer has remarkable writing skills.) This time, however, no-one would accept his response to the question, but no-one knew what to do. We were almost at the point of breaking. Suddenly, Dr. Tachia, who also is among the best of writers I have ever known, blurted out, “give me the disk.” In five minutes he returned with the perfect response and we faxed the fifteen page report to Ms. DeWees. At every moment in every incident, there was always some-one to pull us through. During those days, there were no channels of reporting, no work loads, no time to stop working — we just worked.

Finally, special recognition and thanks go to all of the Prairie View faculty and staff who provided any kind of moral support and assistance over the period. And most of
all congratulations for all the accomplishments to the existing faculty and staff as well as those who served and left the Center and the School.