The Police Studies Centre, located at the SFU Surrey Campus, is boosting its efforts to connect with the policing community.

The Centre aims to foster graduate training, to facilitate research on policing issues, and to provide non-credit training courses and workshops for the law enforcement and security communities.

“The Centre offers a unique opportunity for faculty members, graduate students and personnel from law enforcement and security agencies to collaborate on program initiatives and research.
“projects,” says Curt Taylor Griffiths, Director of the Police Studies Centre.

“We have a variety of people affiliated with the Centre who are working to advance knowledge on policing issues. Valuable partnerships have also been developed with private industry to facilitate activities of the Centre that are beneficial to this research and training.”

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

• An evaluation of the B.C. Transit Police Deployment Model
• A cross-national, multi-site study of police body-worn cameras
• A research project pertaining to “The Future of Right-Wing Terrorism in Canada”
• A work study project concerning police shootings in Canada
• “Gunshot Detection Technology” in the Vancouver area
• Challenges faced by women in policing in the Lower Mainland, B.C.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES THIS SPRING AND SUMMER

NON-CREDIT TRAINING COURSE

Special Constable Ryan Prox, Vancouver Police Department who is an adjunct professor in the School, is teaching “IBM i2 Analyst’s Notebook and iBase Intelligence Analysis Training for Law Enforcement.” This one-week training course attracts in-service personnel from law enforcement and security agencies.

The course will be offered at the IBM campus in Ottawa, Ontario from April 27 to May 1.

Participants in this course include police personnel from across Canada, as well as from a number of international jurisdictions, including Trinidad and Tobago, the Caymans, and the UK.

Other non-credit training courses are in development, including one on Internet Investigative Techniques to be taught by Assistant Professor Richard Frank.

TWO-DAY WORKSHOP

From June 22 to 23, the Police Studies Centre in collaboration with IBM, Public Safety Canada, Latitude Canada, Esri Canada, and the Vancouver Police Department is holding a workshop on “Intelligence-led Policing and Crime Analytics: The Leading Edge.”

This two-day workshop is designed for mid- and senior-level managers in the public safety and security fields. Keynote speakers from several international jurisdictions will discuss the creation and use of intelligence-led strategies that are designed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of police operations.

Visit the Police Studies Centre website to register for either of these training sessions.

For additional information on the activities of the Police Studies Centre, contact Curt Taylor Griffiths, Director, or Richard Parent, Associate Director.
SPECIAL EVENT

FACULTY AND STUDENTS PRESENTED AT
MAJOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Last month, 25 faculty and students from the School of Criminology presented their research at the Western Society of Criminology’s 42nd Annual Conference.

This year’s conference took place from February 19 to 21 in Phoenix, Arizona. Over 200 participants from various universities in the United States and Canada – along with a few international universities – attended the conference.

The School is a major sponsor of the Annual Conference, donating $5,000 to the Western Society this year. $2,500 of the donation went towards supporting the conference, and the other $2,500 supported the Society’s journal Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society.

The Annual Conference is a prime networking opportunity for faculty: the conference always takes place in a pleasant location and the Western Society aims to keep costs low.

It also has a reputation for being graduate student friendly, making it an excellent first conference.
for graduate students or even undergraduate honours students.

“In my experience, everybody attending the Annual Conference is there to be supportive of the presenters. They are attentive and they listen, and at the end of your presentation they will often compliment you before providing constructive feedback,” says Associate Director David MacAlister, who sits on the Society’s Board as Executive Counselor.

“Some of the faculty from other institutions commented on how good our students’ presentations were – they said their presentations were amazing. So that was really good to hear,” says MacAlister.

The Western Society also holds an annual fundraiser to provide a travel scholarship for one or two students to attend the conference. The conference raised $800 this year by selling off books donated by publishers to the Book Exhibit.

VANCOUVER IN 2016

The 43rd Annual Conference is scheduled to take place in Vancouver from February 4 to February 7, 2016.

All graduate students are asked to consider volunteering at the conference:

“We are the big local institution in the host city of the conference next year. They will be counting on us for extra resources, and asking our graduate students to volunteer,” says MacAlister. “There are always last minute things that need done at conferences, like helping set up projectors and picking up people at the airport.”

Graduate students are also encouraged to apply to participate in the conference if they have research that will be completed by the end of February 2016. The deadline to submit abstracts is October 2, 2015.
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

DR. ERIC BEAUREGARD APPOINTED ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Professor Eric Beauregard was recently appointed as one of the new Associate Editors of Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment.

The journal is entirely devoted to the topic of sexual aggression, sexual violence, and the treatment of sex offenders. It provides a forum for the latest original research and scholarly reviews on both clinical and theoretical aspects of sexual abuse. The journal has an impact factor of 2.280 and is ranked 5 out 52 in Criminology & Penology.

It’s a highly specialized journal, which makes Beauregard perfect for the Associate Editor role – his own area of research deals specifically with the behaviours of sex offenders.

He looks at what can influence the offender’s behaviours with the victim, what can influence the interaction between the offender and the victim, and the different outcomes that can result from this interaction.

Over the past three years, Beauregard’s been conducting a major research project that investigates the behaviours of sexual murderers.
Beauregard is comparing 350 cases of sexual homicide, including 100 cases that were unsolved at the time of data entry. His collaborator Melissa Martineau provided the data from the Behavioural Science Unit of the RCMP located in Ottawa, Ontario. The cases span from across Canada except Ontario and Quebec.

The research provides a rare glimpse into the behaviour traits that enable sexual murderers to go undetected – knowledge that will be instrumental in aiding police investigations.

“It’s a unique opportunity because one of the major weaknesses of our research in criminology is that we deal mainly with offenders that get caught,” says Beauregard.

“What we don’t have access to are offenders who typically avoid police detection or being incarcerated. So this project is giving us the unique opportunity to investigate the behaviours or potential actions that these offenders are taking to avoid being detected by the police.”

Beauregard and Martineau initially investigated if undetected sexual murderers exercised “forensic awareness strategies,” such as cleaning up the crime scene to avoid leaving evidence of fingerprints, hair or body fluids. In other words, it was assumed undetected offenders used more precautions than the offenders who got caught.

Surprisingly, Beauregard discovered that sexual murderers as a group are not concerned about forensic evidence. He found that many of them didn’t take any action to clean up the crime scene after the crime or even during the crime.

“A common argument is that crime shows are educating offenders in terms of forensic evidence and how it can be recovered from the crime scene. That apparently, these shows are making criminals smarter by teaching them to remove evidence,” says Beauregard.

“Well, maybe, but we couldn’t find any evidence of that in our research. It’s not the majority of offenders who seem to be concerned about forensic evidence at the crime scene.”

Beauregard’s research findings did identify some common behaviours that helped offenders avoid detection:

• Spending time to hide and conceal the body,
• Traveling a further distance to commit the crime, and
• Moving during the crime.

He also notes that some of these criminals avoid detection because of luck not calculated decisions.

“We’ve completed several studies so far, and we are not done yet. We are still looking at other aspects of their behaviours because I think sexual homicide is a very important topic for Canada, and especially for this province considering the BC Missing Women Investigation and the Robert Pickton case,” says Beauregard.

Beauregard and Martineau are also writing a book to summarize all of the research they’ve gathered on sexual homicide. The book will provide new knowledge and statistics on sexual murderers.

“The cases of sexual homicide are actually quite rare so it is hard for an investigator to develop investigative experience in these cases. We need to provide them with a book that will collect all the evidence we have on sexual homicide to potentially help them investigate their cases,” says Beauregard.

He’s also in discussions with the police in Scotland to gain access to all of their cases of sexual homicide that took place in Scotland. This access will allow him to conduct a comparative analysis to see if Canadian cases are comparable to the cases in Scotland.

Overall, Beauregard’s research efforts are helping determine the behaviours of sexual murders. This research is key to helping the police prevent and solve crimes of sexual homicide.
Further Reading


UPCOMING EVENTS

POLICING CAREER FAIR
April 10 - 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
SFU Surrey Campus

TING OCCASIONAL FORUM ON JUSTICE POLICY
On the Properties & Organizational Challenges of Security Networks
April 16 - 1:30 p.m.
Halpern Centre, Room 126
Registration is required

WORKSHOP ON INTELLIGENCE-LED POLICING AND CRIME ANALYTICS: THE LEADING EDGE
June 22 to June 23
Registration is required

CENTRE FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE TRAINING WORKSHOPS

- April 27 to April 29: Introduction to Circle with Kay Pranis
- April 30 to May 1: Exploring Race & Power Through Circle (Advanced) with Kay Pranis
- May 2: One-Day Basic Training with Kay Pranis
- May 4: Launching “Circle Forward: Building a Restorative School of Community” with Kay Pranis
- May 5 to May 6: Building Community is Schools with Rita Alfred
- May 7 to May 8: Responding to Harm in Schools with Rita Alfred

Registration is required for all training workshops.

CONTACT CRIMCOMM@SFU.CA FOR DETAILS
FRIDAY, APRIL 10 FROM 2:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY
Policing Career Fair

R.C.M.P, VPD, NEW WESTMINSTER POLICE, DELTA POLICE, EDMONTON POLICE, PALADIN SECURITY, BC CORRECTIONS, AND MANY MORE!

SFU SURREY CAMPUS - MEZZANINE LEVEL
250-3450 102ND AVENUE

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT GABRIEL SAURO AT CRIMSADV@SFU.CA