Teaching at HSU
As an undergraduate student majoring in criminal justice at HSU, I made the comment to my advisor, Dr. Alan Stafford, now Dean of the Cynthia Ann Parker College of Liberal Arts, that I one day hope to teach at the college level. In 2005, I was blessed by a faculty appointment in the very program from which I was graduated.

HSU is truly a community dedicated to providing excellence in education enlightened by Christian faith and values. It is both a joy and an honor to know that I am able, at least in some small way, to facilitate a learning environment from the perspective of a Christian scholar and practitioner. This position continues to be the greatest vocational experience of my life.

Educational Philosophy
The picture and caption below aptly captures my teaching philosophy:
Working collaboratively enhances the process and I strongly believe that everyone has something to bring to the learning environment. I have experienced firsthand the benefit of being taught by college professors who are genuinely interested and invested in their students’ success. I take that responsibility very seriously. We may never know how something we say or do will affect another person in a profound way. It is for that reason that I attempt to communicate and demonstrate value for the academic process and for each student I meet. I am genuinely interested in the personal and professional growth and development of others and consider it a deep honor to help students pursue their goals.

I am aware that there are different learning styles represented in any given classroom and the method that reaches one quite easily may leave another lost or lagging behind. It is, therefore, my goal to bring various instructional methods into the classroom to engage preferred learning styles as much as possible. I combine lecture, class discussions, video and audio, questions that promote critical thinking of the subject matter, PowerPoint presentations, guest speakers, tours, group work for the social learner, and visual and experiential opportunities to teach the material.

Experiential, transformative learning is essential for a pre-professional program and I attempt to incorporate “hands on” activities for students whenever possible. Whether students are conducting an examination of the etiology of violent behavior, polling members of the community on ethical and systemic issues, participating in a mock legislative hearing as they present and review bills they have drafted to a mock criminal justice committee, rappelling face first from a tower, or firing simunitions rounds during a mock hostage rescue mission, students are afforded the opportunity to be challenged and to learn, grown, and be transformed from those experiences.

**Profession**

Building and maintaining professional relationships with agency representatives who are not only in a position to hire our graduates, but to educate them, as guest lecturers or via the internship experience is vital to the growth and development of a pre-professional program. I attend monthly meetings at the Abilene Police Department (APD), collaborate with the APD to involve our students in service learning projects, and coordinate and facilitate the Hardin-Simmons University Criminal Justice Advisory Board made up of the Chief of Police, the Chief of the Juvenile Justice Center, the Chief of the Community Supervision and Corrections Department, and a local judge to ensure that our curriculum is contemporary and relevant. As a member of the Regional Crime Victims Crisis Center Board of Directors I have been able to establish professional relationships with the District Attorney’s office, the Sheriff’s Office, and the Child Advocacy Center with a primary goal to educate and involve students in community awareness events. I have also taken students to violence awareness events such as the Domestic Violence Awareness luncheon sponsored by the Noah Project. Aside from cultivating relationships locally, I participate in the regional Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice (SWACJ) to stay current on scholarly literature and trends within the discipline. I have also been appointed to serve as a member of the Abilene Police Department Academy Advisory Board.
Students are provided the opportunity to participate in tours of the Taylor County Jail, the Substance Abuse Treatment Facility, the Juvenile Detention Center, and the maximum security prison northeast of Abilene. In addition, students are taken to conferences when possible. Attending the Gang and Youth Violence conference held in Ft. Worth was made more meaningful for professional development by taking students from the Juvenile Justice System class. Ethical inquiry was made more meaningful by inviting practitioners who hold key positions in the criminal justice system to serve on an Ethics Panel. Talking about the Death Penalty is interesting. Taking the Death Penalty class to Huntsville and standing outside of the building during an execution while observing protesters and supporters standing nearby expanded the education process. The following morning, students were allowed into the death chamber where the Texas death row inmate was executed. Such real world experiences are a critical part of remaining actively involved within the field as a professor and helping students make connections from the classroom to the patrol unit, probation office, or courtroom.

I also teach a graduate research course in the Counseling and Human Development Department. I maintain a limited private practice as a licensed professional counselor (LPC) and contract with the Taylor County Community Supervision and Corrections Department offer group counseling for female offenders on community supervision. I am a LPC Supervisor and assist LPC Interns by supervising their hours as they pursue state licensure.

Research
I have a great many areas of interest for continued research within the discipline. I am eager to continue my dissertation research related to disproportionality in most restrictive educational and justice environments. Social justice, including systemic issues proliferating disparity between groups of people, remains an area of interest for further research as well as an exploration of ethical decision making and police culture. Other research interests include empathy development and neurobiological correlates for violent behavior.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the Department of Criminal Justice or Hardin-Simmons University.

Dr. Karin S. Brown, LPC
325.670.5819
kbrown@hsutx.edu