

## **FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK**

Let me begin by congratulating all faculty and graduate associates of the Center for a successful 1999-2000 academic year. Your participation in activities, and sharing of your research and ideas certainly made my first year as Director a fun and productive one. I also wish to welcome the new associates of the Center. We are very pleased that this year, William Ackerman (Geography, Lima Campus), Douglas Berman (Law), Sharon Davies (Law), Gwendolyn Cartledge (Education), Lisa Keister (Sociology), Deborah Merritt (Law and the Glenn Institute), Alan Michaels (Law), James Moody (Sociology), Jack Nasar (Architecture), and Victor Streib (Visiting Professor of Law) join us as CJRC Faculty Associates. Your participation will help to make our intellectual climate even more vibrant.

Among other activities, during 1999-2000 we launched a seminar series, sought grants, and selected recipients of our small research grants (see recipients below). This year, we are building upon last year's success in three important ways. First, we have further developed our infrastructure by adding research space separate (Rm. 147 Journalism) from our administrative office (Rm 231 Journalism). Please drop in and visit us at either place. The research office has work and meeting space for faculty and graduate affiliates engaged in research projects. Second, we have expanded the seminar series to include 6-8 stimulating local and national speakers. During autumn quarter, we enjoyed presentations by Robert Bursik (University of Missouri-St. Louis) co-sponsored with Sociology, and Kate Federle (Ohio State University). During winter quarter, we are looking forward to talks by Mary Pattillo-McCoy (Northwestern University) co-sponsored with the Urban and Regional Analysis Initiative, and Victor Streib (Ohio Northern University). During the spring we will again host the Walter Reckless Memorial Lecture (speaker to be announced), and talks by George Tita (University of California-Irvine), and others. Third, we are engaging in more planned collaboration with other Centers, initiatives, units, and agencies to further foster our interdisciplinary mission. Of particular note, this year we are participating in conferences and seminars of the Urban and Regional Analysis Initiative, the College of Law, and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. We have also begun discussions with others, including Debbie Merritt of the Glenn Institute, to develop future collaborative programs.

Hopefully, this brief synopsis of some of our activities indicates that things are taking shape within the Center. However, our agenda is by no means fully set. We welcome any ideas that will contribute to our general goals of promoting research on crime and justice issues, fostering intellectual exchange about crime and justice, and interfacing with criminal justice policy-making organizations on issues that can be informed by research. I certainly also appreciate your volunteering (or agreeing) to present in our seminar series on your own work.

I would like to conclude by again expressing my gratitude to all of you who have participated in and supported CJRC activities. I am especially grateful to Mark Davis (Office of Criminal Justice Services), Kate Federle (Law), and Laurie Krivo (Sociology) for serving as an advisory committee (and in Laurie's case for organizing this year's seminar series), Mary Wood and April Denton for having served as Center administrators, María Vélez for editing this newsletter and providing special support services, and Jessica Kiner for lots of clerical support. I look forward to the continued success of the Center and to working with all of you.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST**

January Seminar:

Friday, January 26th, 9-10:30 AM in Bricker 385. Professor Mary Pattillo-McCoy will speak on "Ethnographic Lessons on Urban Structure, Crime and Racial Disadvantage." Prof. Pattillo-McCoy is the author of *Black Picket Fences* (1999) and of numerous articles on the black middle class and ethnographic research methods. This event is cosponsored by the Urban and Regional Analysis Initiative.

February Seminar:

Friday, February 16 from 9:00-10:30 am in Journalism 106 (the Hall of Fame Room). Professor Victor Streib will discuss "The Death Penalty for Juvenile Offenders." Professor Streib is currently a Visiting Scholar (WI and SP quarters) at the Center for Law, Policy and Justice in the College of Law at OSU. He is Professor of Law at Pettit College of Law, Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio.

## **WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING**

A paper by Jeremy M. Wilson, "River boat Gambling and Crime in Indiana: An Empirical Investigation," was accepted by Crime and Delinquency.

Joseph F. Donnermeyer was appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board for Criminology. He also was the chief writer for the State of Ohio summary report from the Ohio Conference on Terrorism and Domestic Preparedness, held June 5th and 6th in Columbus. Extra copies of the report are now available through the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Department of Public Safety.

Jeremy Wilson and Joseph Donnermeyer were awarded a \$47,000 grant through the Justice Program Units of the Office of Criminal Justice, State of Ohio to examine community based problem-solving teams in the Columbus Police Department

James Moody, Lauren Krivo, and Ruth Peterson are collaborating on a project examining whether social networks, perceptions of crime and deviance, and related solutions are similar across racially and economically distinct neighborhoods. Their survey is currently in the field in white and black neighborhoods in Columbus. More information will be provided later in the year as the project develops.

## **CJRC GRANT RECIPIENTS**

CJRC 2000 Grant Recipients

Graduate/Professional Student Research Award

Lisa Craven-Brown (Psychology), "Juvenile Sex Offending"

Summer Faculty Research Fellowship

Paul Bellair (Sociology), "Local Labor Market Opportunity, Subcultural Formation, and Adolescent Violence."

Faculty Research Small Grants

Christopher Browning (Sociology), "Social Networks, Social Cohesion, and Urban Crime: Is Social Organization Always Beneficial?"

Katherine Federle (Law), "Estimating Domestic Violence Delinquency Filings in Franklin County Juvenile Court."

Lisa Keister (Sociology), "Delinquency and Wealth Ownership: A Proposal to Study the Impact of Adolescent Deviance on Adult Wealth Outcomes."

Lauren Krivo (Sociology), "Perceptions of Crime and Deviance in Racially and Socioeconomically Distinct Neighborhoods."

Jack Nasar (Architecture), "Crime, Fear and Barricaded Communities."

## **FEATURED FACULTY PARTICIPANT**

Professor William V. Ackerman,  
Associate Professor of Geography  
The Ohio State University - Lima Campus

Bill's research is in the broad area of urban/economic geography with a focus on problems in smaller communities and rural areas. Recent publications focus on crime in smaller communities, community policing,

crime mapping techniques, economic revitalization and land use conflict at the rural/urban fringe.

Of particular interest to Bill is crime in Lima, Ohio. Lima is a small city, just under 50,000, that suffered substantial job loss during the massive deindustrialization of the 1970s and 1980s. As a result, levels of poverty, unemployment, and crime, as well as the number of single parent families, increased and became more concentrated in older, downtown neighborhoods.

Bill sought to determine if Lima's high crime rates were an exception or typical of other rust-belt cities in Ohio. A study of 111 Ohio cities with populations between 10,000 and 99,999 revealed that ten of these smaller cities had violent crime rates significantly above average. All were classic rust-belt cities which had experienced substantial post-industrial economic set-backs. All but three of these cities were explainable employing a socioeconomic model. However, Lima, Mansfield, and Springfield had rates of violent crime that were higher than expected given the socioeconomic status of these communities. Bill has concluded that in Lima and Mansfield the organizational breakdown resulting from the massive social disorganization of the post-industrial era was probably responsible, in part, for the failure of these communities to acknowledge their crime problem and deal with it aggressively. Indeed, small communities are hesitant to acknowledge crime problems for fear of being labeled as high-crime cities, further discouraging new business and industry.

Understanding crime is an important policy issue and so Bill believes in the concept of building partnerships between local police departments and professors conducting research on crime. Building partnerships is especially important for smaller communities where budget constraints limit police options, and where crime seems to have an inordinately strong influence on social and economic performance. To that end, Bill shares his results with Lima Police Chief Greg Garlock who in turn uses these results in implementing police strategies. For example, Bill's research provided the basis for decisions regarding the location of the community policing stations in Lima.

In addition to his research interests, Bill loves teaching and won the Ohio State University Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1999. He also won the Lima Campus Outstanding Research Award in 1999.

Bill's interests in solving problems faced by smaller communities is grounded in his rural roots, and his knowledge of the types of problems that these communities face. He was born and raised in rural northeastern Wyoming, where between academic careers, he was president of a small town bank. I have never gotten totally away from my rural roots. I own a home and 280 acres of land in the Black Hills of northeastern Wyoming where I spend my summers and all other vacations. So if you are trying to find Bill during the summer, don't be surprised if you have to look for him in the Black Hills riding his Harley.

## **CREDITS AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

Thanks to all of you who sent your suggestions and announcements. We encourage you to keep us informed about any events that might be of interest to CJRC participants as well as any suggestions that you have for activities or programs. To contact the newsletter editor, please email María Vélez at [velez.17@osu.edu](mailto:velez.17@osu.edu) or by phone at 247-6736. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send María your email address.