

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

WELCOME to the first 2001-2002 edition of the CJRC newsletter. I hope that all of you had a fun summer; I know that many of you had a very productive one (e.g., see our center participants' activities below). I also wish to welcome new associates of the Center. We are pleased that this year, Sanford Gordon (Political Science), Robert Greenbaum (Public Policy), Dana Haynie (Sociology, who we are also welcoming to the university), Alan Murray (Geography), and Randy Roth (History, who we are really just welcoming back) have joined us as CJRC Faculty Associates. Sandy, Rob, Dana, and Alan, we know that your participation will bring additional vitality to the Center. Indeed, I am grateful to several of you who have already participated in CJRC activities or who are already helping us to plan interesting future projects.

Last month, I told you that our offices for graduate research associates were moved to Journalism 151 and that Journalism 147 was being renovated. I am pleased to report that the RENOVATIONS ARE DONE!!! We now have an office for the Center Director, two nice project offices, and an outer room for small meetings. Please stop by and take a look; a good time to do so is before or after Randy Roth's talk on "Child Killings" this Friday. I wish to express a SPECIAL THANKS to SBS Deans Jan Weisenberger and Don Haurin for their assistance in getting the space and facilitating the renovation process.

Finally, I would like to welcome members of our newly appointed CJRC Oversight Committee. They are: Donald R. Haurin (Chair, Social and Behavioral Sciences), Lawrence A. Baum (Political Science), Mark S. Davis (Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services), Katherine Hunt Federle (Law and the Justice for Children Project), Lauren J. Krivo (Sociology), Morton E. O'Kelly (Geography and SBS), Toby L. Parcel (Sociology), Barbara J. Polivka (Nursing), Susan K. Sears (Education), and Bruce A. Weinberg (Economics). Thank you all for serving on this advisory committee; I look forward to your ideas about how we can best realize Center goals.

## **WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING**

Khalilah Brown, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Political Science, received the Madison Scott Research Grant to support her work on public opinion regarding felony disenfranchisement laws. In addition, she will present a paper (with Professor D'Andra Orey from the University of Nebraska) at the Southern Political Science Association. This paper investigates the influence of race, racism, and symbolism on public support for the Confederate flag.

Seth Feinberg successfully completed his candidacy exams in Sociology. Seth's areas are Crime and Community, with a special emphasis on urban policing and social control.

CJRC faculty and graduate affiliates have been quite productive. The following are among recent papers and books that have been published or accepted for publication.

Dr. David Jacobs (Sociology): (1) "Racial Politics and Redistribution: Isolating the Contingent Influence of Civil Rights, Riots, and Crime on Tax Progressivity" (with Ronald Helms in *Social Forces* 2001); (2) "The Politics of Punishment across Time and Space: A Pooled Time- Series Analysis of Imprisonment Rates" (with Jason T. Carmichael in *Social Forces* 2001); and (3) "Towards a Political Sociology of Punishment: Politics and Changes in the Incarcerated Population" (with Ronald Helms in *Social Science Research* 2001).

Dr. Richard Lundman (Sociology): (1) Ermann, M. David and Richard J. Lundman (eds.), *Corporate*

and Governmental Deviance: Problems of Organizational Behavior in Contemporary Society (Oxford University Press 2002); and (2) Lundman, Richard J., Prevention and Control of Juvenile Delinquency (Oxford University Press 2001).

Dr. James Moody (Sociology): "Peer Influence Groups: Identifying Dense Clusters in Large Networks" in Social Networks (2001).

Dr. Alan Murray (Geography): "Exploratory Spatial Data Analysis: Techniques for Examining Urban Crime" (with J. S. Western and P. Mullins in the British Journal of Criminology 2001). In addition to this new article, Alan and Bill Ackerman (Geography) were invited to discuss "Assessing Spatial Patterns of Crime in Smaller Communities" at the 4th Annual International Crime Mapping Research Conference in San Diego, California.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST**

Please mark the following dates for CJRC's 2001-2002 Seminar Series on your calendar. All talks will be held in Journalism Room 106 (the Hall of Fame Room) from 9:00-10:30 a.m. The Hall of Fame Room is next door to the Journalism Library.

Friday, October 5th. Randy Roth, Department of History, Ohio State University, will speak on "Child Killings: An Historical Perspective."

Friday, October 26th. Jody Miller, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Missouri at St. Louis, will discuss "Sex Play, Violent Play: Urban Girls Negotiation with Gender Violence." As the date approaches, we will provide more information about Professor Miller's visit.

Friday, November 16th. Brian Kowalski, Department of Sociology, Ohio State University will discuss his research on "Community Context and Recidivism: An Initial Study of Recent Ohio Releasees."

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

Gender, Crime and (In)Justice. The Journal of Contemporary Ethnography announces a special issue on Ethnographic Perspectives on Gender, Crime and (In)Justice. The deadline is December 31, 2001. This issue will focus on problems related to gender inequality, situated femininities/masculinities, and their relations to crime, juvenile delinquency, and justice. In addition to traditional topics within criminology and criminal justice, the themes of crime and justice will be considered broadly to include legal, human rights, and labor issues associated with the commercial sex industry and other criminalized activities, as well as issues facing women in prison. All papers will be peer reviewed. If you are unsure whether your topic or research is suitable, or are interested in reviewing for this issue, contact the Special Issue Editor, Jody Miller, via e-mail at [millerja@msx.umsl.edu](mailto:millerja@msx.umsl.edu) or phone at 314-516-5426. Please send four manuscript copies and a U.S. \$10 submission fee (payable to Jody Miller) to:

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JCE Guest Editor  
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The Supreme Court and Criminal Justice. The Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice announces a special issue that will explore recent Supreme Court decisions affecting the administration of criminal justice. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2002. Articles are invited on a variety of topics, including, but not limited to, recent search and seizure decisions, corrections law, administration of the death penalty, and the interpretation of federal statutes. Contributors can examine one case, or a series of cases. All article submissions will be subject to blind peer review. Persons interested in submitting an article should contact the special issue editor at the address below:

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### **UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

Several faculty and graduate students will be presenting at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology to be held on November 7 - 10 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. In a future newsletter, we will provide further information about the time and locations of these presentations in Atlanta. The theme for the conference is "Criminology, Justice and Public Policy in the 21st Century." For more conference information, please visit the ASC web site: [www.asc41.com](http://www.asc41.com).

The 15th Annual Training Conference of the Correctional Accreditation Managers Association will be held in Columbus, Ohio on May 4-7, 2002. The theme of the conference is "Exploring Excellence in Corrections." Panel topics will include accreditation procedures, the impact of correctional standards and accreditation in view of the Prison Litigation Reform Act, and correctional litigation and accredited programs. The Correctional Accreditation Association of Ohio (CAAO) is serving as the sponsoring agency for the 2002 CAMA Conference. The cost of advanced registrations will be \$85.00 per person with a \$100 per person on-site registration. Room reservations at the Hilton Hotel must be made by April 12, 2002 and will be \$119 for single or double occupancy. For more information, contact Julie Riley, SPPM graduate student and CAAO Executive Board Member at [riley.15@osu.edu](mailto:riley.15@osu.edu) or 614-877-2306, ext. 366.

### **FEATURED FACULTY PARTICIPANT**

Professor Gwendolyn Cartledge  
School of Physical Activity and Educational Services (PAES)  
The Ohio State University

Dr. Gwendolyn Cartledge is a Professor in the School of Physical Activity and Educational Services (PAES) within the College of Education. Her specific area is Special Education for children with behavioral problems. She received her Ph.D. in Special Education with a focus on behavioral disorder from The Ohio State University. She received her Master's and Bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

In general, Gwendolyn's research is motivated by a concern that the labeling of students as having

behavioral problems has important implications for how they are treated as well as how well they succeed as adolescents and adults. For instance, these labeled students achieve at lower levels academically, and graduate at lower rates than other students. As such, they are at-risk for getting into trouble. Given this risky trajectory, Gwendolyn believes it is very important to provide these students with social and academic skills so that they have greater school success and are less likely to transition into the criminal justice system. According to Gwendolyn, the risky trajectory appears to be more likely for African Americans. This is because African American youths are at a greater risk of being labeled as having behavioral disorders than whites when they act out aggressively. White youth who act out aggressively are more likely to be diagnosed as having emotional problems. These differences in diagnoses are quite consequential for young people. Because behavior disorders are seen as deliberate (e.g, the student chooses to misbehave), students so diagnosed are punished for their actions. On the other hand, emotional disorders are viewed as being out of the control of adolescents, and as such elicit a rehabilitative response from the schools (e.g, hospital treatment rather than expulsion from school).

In a current project, Gwendolyn explores this issue further by examining the discipline patterns of a predominantly poor and African American school in Columbus. Preliminary findings indicate that out-of-school suspensions increased systematically during the academic year so that by the end of the year at least one-third of the student body had been suspended. To put this in context, data compiled by some national authorities on disciplinary measures suggest that schools should not expect to have more than 20% of their students referred for disciplinary actions in any given year. However, this Columbus school had 50% of its students referred and over 30% experienced out-of-school suspensions, greatly exceeding suggested standards. This pattern of increasing suspensions suggests that being suspended leads to a trajectory of more suspensions. This means, according to Gwendolyn, that there is no evidence that school suspensions serve as a deterrent for other students or help curb disruptive behavior among suspended students. Unfortunately, the fact that students are being suspended at such high rates means that a substantial number of youth are losing valuable academic classroom time. In general, Gwendolyn argues that to suspend students from school goes against the educational wisdom that the best remedy for maladaptive behavior is good academic and social learning, which can take place under good school conditions. She states that our schools need to include positive interventions for mal-adaptive behavior so that young students can learn behavior management skills as well as the desperately needed academic skills. Indeed focusing on punitive responses to negative behavior such as excessive in-school or out-of school suspension may be counterproductive in that it inadvertently rewards disruptive behavior by giving misbehaving youth what they want: to be out of school or the academic setting. In future research, Gwendolyn plans to examine the intervention techniques that are used by schools when confronting African American males that have acted out aggressively in school settings. She has just been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to conduct an in-depth study over the next four years.

Gwendolyn believes that teachers can play a key role in improving school-level responses to students with behavior problems. She has been involved in providing professional training for teachers through year long seminars that provide information about how to react more positively to the negative behavior of students. During these in-service seminars, she targets a few schools in Columbus and Springfield, Ohio, so that she can meet with the same teachers over the year. To reach a larger number of teachers, Gwendolyn plans to design a web-based, distance learning course which would allow teachers to access information about the best strategies for dealing with students who have been labeled as having behavioral disorders, or who act out aggressively in the classroom. She hopes that by providing professional training to teachers about these issues, teachers will become more skilled at helping students to become more socially appropriate in their behavior.

Gwendolyn also enjoys teaching at OSU. Currently, her classes are mainly for graduate students. Drawing from her interest in school violence, she teaches a doctoral seminar on “Violence in the Schools” every two years. In this class, she discusses what schools can do to deal with school violence. Her main courses address students with behavior disorders. In these classes she presents information on the characteristics and management of students with behavior disorders. She also instructs on methods for teaching social skills to school-age students.

On a more personal note, Gwendolyn enjoys reading biographies, and in connection with her professional interests she is especially interested in prison narratives.

### **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.