

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

CONGRATULATIONS!!! You have completed the 2000-2001 academic year with flying colors. In the last CJRC News, I noted some of the accomplishments of the Center during the academic year. Below, our newsletter editor (María Vélez) reports on some of the recent accomplishments/transitions of a number of our faculty and graduate affiliates. Congratulations to all of you who have received grants, become fellows, earned degrees, advanced to candidacy status, published articles/books, and the like. On behalf of Center affiliates, I am especially pleased to offer congratulations to several of our faculty affiliates who have been recommended to the Board of Trustees for tenure and promotion to associate professor. Congratulations Paul Bellair (Sociology), Lisa Keister (Sociology), Townsend Price-Spratlen (Sociology), and Bruce Weinberg (Economics)!!!

During the upcoming summer quarter, we will be taking steps to make next year even more successful than 2000-2001. To this end, we need to hear from you. Please forward suggestions that you have for internal and external seminar speakers, including for the Reckless Lecture. Also, please begin to think in terms of potential research projects that could involve colleagues from a variety of disciplines. As I noted in the previous newsletter, we need to "think large" about potential projects, and begin to talk with one another to ready ourselves to respond to calls for proposals. Finally, I would be very pleased to hear your ideas about how the Center can facilitate interdisciplinary work on crime and justice issues, or better achieve any of its goals. E-mail is an easy way to get the information to me: peterson.5@osu.edu.

WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING

CJRC Faculty Participant, William Ackerman (Geography), and Alan Murray (Geography) received a \$3000 grant from the City of Lima Police Department (summer of 2000) to complete a spatial analysis and mapping of the 1999 crime statistics for Lima. They also received a \$5000 grant (summer 2001) to further analyze spatial characteristics of the 1999 and the 2000 data.

Khalilah Brown, a CJRC graduate student participant (Political Science), passed her comprehensive general exams and was admitted to candidacy. She also received a Madison Scott Research Grant to conduct public opinion research on issues relating to felony disenfranchisement laws.

CJRC faculty participant Sharon Davies (Law) was recently selected to be a Fellow in the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Academic Leadership Program for 2001-02. The CIC is an academic consortium of Big Ten Universities and the University of Chicago. Its members are the chief academic officers of those institutions. The primary objective of the CIC Academic Leadership Program is to develop the leadership and managerial skills of faculty who have demonstrated exceptional ability and administrative promise. The program involves Fellows in a series of three 2-day seminars, rotated among the CIC institutions.

Brian Kowalski, a CJRC graduate student participant (Sociology), successfully defended his Master's thesis this past week. His thesis examines the impact of community characteristics such as employment opportunities and disadvantage on the likelihood of recidivism for Ohio parolees.

CJRC graduate student Javonne Paul (Political Science) recently passed her comprehensive general exams and was admitted to candidacy.

Rachael Woldoff, a CJRC graduate student participant (Sociology), passed her comprehensive general exams and was admitted to candidacy this past quarter.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Criminal Justice Research Center (CJRC) requests proposals relating to research on issues and problems related to its primary research foci: "Crime and Community," "Youth, Crime and Justice," and "Criminal Justice Policy." Consistent with our interest in fostering policy-relevant research in these areas, we are soliciting three types of proposals:

- (1) Summer Faculty Research Fellowships
- (2) Faculty Research Small Grants
- (3) Graduate/Professional Student Research Awards

The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m., Friday, June 15, 2001. Please visit the following web page for further details about these funding opportunities:

http://cjrc.osu.edu/call_proposals.html

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Substance Abuse Policy Research Program is requesting proposals for research projects that seek policy-relevant information about ways to reduce the harm caused by substance abuse in the United States. Experts in public health, law, political science, medicine, sociology, criminal justice, economics, and other behavioral and policy sciences are encouraged to apply. Total project awards are funded up to \$400,000 and may extend up to three years. The deadline for receipt of letters of intent for this special solicitation is August 20, 2001. For the full text of the Call for Proposals, visit The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation website at:

http://www.rwjf.org/app/rw_applying_for_a_grant/rw_app_cfp_abstract.jsp?cfpCode=SPR

The Aspen Institute Roundtable on Comprehensive Community Initiatives for Children and Families announces a Small Grants Program competition to fund research to develop and test innovative ways of measuring social capital and community capacity at the community level. Using funds provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Roundtable expects to make 6-10 awards of \$50,000 each and 1-3 awards of \$100,000 each for the period January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002. We are soliciting applications from researchers, practitioners, and community groups who have research capacity or research partnerships. Initial concept papers (no more than 3 pages in length) describing the proposed research are due by July 13, 2001. Finalists will be asked to submit a 10-page proposal in the fall. Copies of the RFP can be printed or downloaded from the Aspen Roundtable web site at:

<http://www.aspenroundtable.org/>

CALLS FOR PAPERS

The Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice announces calls for papers for THREE special issues.

(1) Juvenile Justice and the New Millennium. The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2001. This special issue will explore research on juvenile justice and juvenile delinquency related issues. Manuscripts should be approximately 7 to 12 double-spaced typewritten pages (excluding tables, figures, and references).

Manuscripts must be sent to:
Suman Kakar
Department of Criminal Justice
College of Health and Urban Affairs

Florida International University, Miami, FL 33199
Phone:305-348-5992, fax: 305-348-5848
e-mail: kakars@fiu.edu

(2) Social Capital, Crime, and Criminal Justice. The deadline for submission is August 15, 2001. Manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced, and not to exceed 20 pages in length. Four copies of the manuscript should be submitted, accompanied by an abstract of 100 words or less, and a brief biographical sketch of the author(s), indicating affiliation, research interests, and recent publications. Manuscripts should follow APA guidelines for citations, notes, and references. Please send manuscripts to the edition editor listed below.

Mark E. Correia, Guest Editor
Department of Criminal Justice /214
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, Nevada 89557
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(3) The Supreme Court and Criminal Justice. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2002. This issue will explore recent Supreme Court decisions affecting the administration of criminal justice. 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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Boise State University
1910 University Drive
Boise, ID 83725-1955
(208) 426-3251
chemmens@boisestate.edu

The Justice Professional invites scholars to submit manuscripts for a special edition of its journal on "Native Americans and the U.S. Criminal Justice System." The deadline for submissions is August 2001. Manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced, and not to exceed 30 pages in length (including tables, charts, notes, etc.) Four copies of the manuscript should be submitted, accompanied by an abstract of 100 words and a brief biographical sketch of the author(s), indicating affiliation, research interests, and recent publications. Manuscripts should follow APA guidelines for citations, notes, and references and should be addressed to:

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FEATURED GRADUATE STUDENT

Beckett Broh

Department of Sociology

The Ohio State University

Beckett is currently in her third year as a Ph.D. student in the Department of Sociology, where she also received her Master's degree. Beckett received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Women's Studies from Albion College. She is a Graduate Associate for the CJRC, attending to both administrative and research responsibilities.

Beckett's general research area is in the sociology of education. She is most interested in studying issues related to educational inequality and how race and class shape the processes that lead to the achievement gap between African Americans and whites. For instance, she has begun a project with Doug Downey (her advisor) that investigates the influence of schools in the patterning of educational inequality. They are particularly interested in the longstanding debate over whether schools exacerbate or alleviate the achievement gap between African Americans and whites. To address this debate, Beckett and Doug are employing "seasonal comparisons research" which compares students' skill changes during the academic year (a time when schools are the primary influence) with skill changes that take place during the summer (a time when the family is most influential). Assessing how the gap changes, if at all, while school is in session will shed needed light on how schooling contributes to educational inequality for racial groups in U.S. society. Their study utilizes data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Kindergarten Cohort, the first nationally representative, longitudinal data-set that contains information on very young students. To date, they have completed some preliminary analyses, but are currently waiting for the next wave of data to conduct their primary analysis.

Beckett also has been working on publishing her master's thesis. In this study, Beckett examines two primary questions: 1) why does participating in school sports promote academic achievement? and 2) are the benefits of participation unique to sports or does participating in non-sport activities also improve achievement? Employing a longitudinal design and data from the National Educational Longitudinal Study, she examines the effect of participating in extracurricular activities during 10th and 12th grades on grades and test scores for students in 12th grade. She finds that participation in interscholastic sports or music leads to higher grades and test scores, while participation in intramural sports or vocational clubs impairs achievement. Importantly, results also indicate that the positive impact of sports participation on grades and test scores is primarily due to how these activities promote student development and strengthen social ties between students, parents, and schools. Beckett recently resubmitted this paper to the Sociology of Education, where she received a Revise and Resubmit.

In addition to conducting research, Beckett enjoys teaching about race, class, and education. In fact, she has taught courses with these general interests in mind both at OSU and Denison University.

When Beckett is not conducting research or teaching, she is busy working for the CJRC. One of Beckett's major accomplishments for the CJRC was the creation of the website (www.sociology.ohio-state.edu/cjrc). It now features a brief history of the CJRC, faculty affiliate profiles, the seminar schedule, on-going research at the CJRC, and previous issues of CJRC News. Beckett welcomes your suggestions for improving the website. She can be contacted at cjrc@osu.edu. Beckett also has been instrumental in organizing CJRC events such as the Reckless Memorial Lecture and taking care of general administrative and research duties for the Center.

Outside of graduate student life, Beckett enjoys coaching basketball and Special Olympics soccer for Upper Arlington High School where she has been coaching for the past five years. When not working or coaching, Beckett enjoys spending time with her partner renovating their home.

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 or by phone at 247-6736. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send María your email address.