

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

Although this is the first newsletter for the summer, we have been engaged in a host of administrative and substantive activities. Administratively, several changes are in the works. First, the Center's reporting line will now include the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and specifically Associate Dean Don Haurin. In addition, the Advisory Board for the Center has been expanded. A diverse array of faculty from across the University will join Mark Davis (Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services), Katherine Federle (Law) and Laurie Krivo (Sociology) as Advisors. This should facilitate our efforts to collaborate across disciplines and colleges. Second, we have acquired an additional room in Journalism (JN 151) that will become our graduate research office. As a result we will be able to accommodate several additional graduate research associates on your projects. Our current research office (JN 147) will be transformed to provide an office for the Director and two project offices to accommodate post-doctoral fellows and faculty engaged in collaborative projects. Our meeting space and library will be retained in JN 147.

Substantively, we are looking forward to a very stimulating seminar series during the academic year. Laurie Krivo is again coordinating the series, and expresses her thanks to those of you who have volunteered to present your on-going work. We will preview the series in an upcoming newsletter. In addition, several new projects will be underway during the year. María notes below the recipients of this year's small grants awards. CONGRATULATIONS to all of the recipients!!! These projects are quite interesting and contribute to the Center's substantive research goals. In addition, an interdisciplinary research team (including faculty affiliates Ackerman, Donnermeyer, Krivo and Peterson) are receiving a grant from the Office of Criminal Justice Services to examine "Crime in Ohio: Analysis of Ohio Incident-Based Crime Data." Finally, we hope to collaborate with faculty affiliate Randy Roth on projects related to historical trends in homicide nationwide, and the death penalty in Ohio. The specifics of these projects are not yet worked out; we will be meeting to discuss the possibilities over the next few weeks and months.

As always, I would like to hear from you regarding the Center and its activities. I welcome questions and suggestions, criticism and praise. Please give me a call (292-7468) or e-mail me at [peterson.5@osu.edu](mailto:peterson.5@osu.edu).

## **WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING**

CJRC recently selected award recipients for its third annual small grants competition. Thus, congratulations are in order for grant recipients in three categories.

### **CJRC 2001 GRANT RECIPIENTS**

#### **Faculty Summer Fellowships**

Robert Greenbaum (Public Policy and Management), "The Impact of Violence on Neighborhood Business Activity and Residential Choice" Thomas Nelson (Political Science) and Kira Sanbonmatsu (Political Science), "The Origins and Consequences of Perceived Racism in the Criminal Justice System"

#### **Faculty Research Small Grants**

Dawn Anderson\_Butcher (Social Work) and Janet Fink (Physical Activity and Educational Services, College of Education), "Examining the Impacts of Project SMART, a Columbus Public School District

Anti-Truancy Program” Sanford Gordon (Political Science), “Elected Justice: How Voters Choose Prosecutors and Trial Judges”

Graduate/Professional Student Research Award

Skybo, Theresa A. (Nursing), “Assessing the Physical and Psychological Impact of Witnessing Violence on Elementary School Children” María B. Vélez (Sociology), “The Determinants and Consequences of Public Social Control in Chicago Neighborhoods: Race, Disadvantage, and Crime”

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

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

## **CALLS FOR PAPERS**

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

(1) 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  
(775) 784-6114  
mcorreia@unr.edu

(2) Sexuality, Law, and Justice. The deadline for submission is October 1, 2001, but manuscripts submitted over the summer will receive faster editorial review. Manuscripts focusing on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-gendered issues in the criminal justice system are especially encouraged. Manuscripts must be written in English; be typed, double-spaced; have in citations, notes, and references in APA format; and be between eight (8) and twenty (20) pages in length, excluding tables, figures, and references. Three “blind copies” of the manuscript should be submitted for anonymous review. A fourth, complete copy of the manuscript, accompanied by an abstract of 100 words or less and a brief biographical sketch of the author(s), indicating affiliation, research grant numbers, acknowledgments, research interests, and recent publications must also be submitted. Tables, figures, and drawings must be submitted on separate, camera ready sheets. Please send

manuscripts to the guest editor of the Journal for this special edition:

Henry F. Fradella, J.D., Ph.D.  
The College of New Jersey  
Department of Law and Justice  
P.O. Box 7718  
Ewing, N.J. 08628  
(609) 771\_2271  
Fradella@tcnj.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:

David V. Baker  
Associate Editor  
Behavioral Sciences Dept.  
Riverside Community College  
4800 Magnolia Ave.  
Quad 121-E, Riverside, CA 92506-1299  
dvvbaker@rccd.cc.ca.us

Prentice Hall College Publishing invites scholars to submit manuscripts for its Women's Issues in Criminal Justice series. Through this series, the Editor and contributing authors will explore issues that impact women and justice such as studying the effects of the criminal justice system on female criminals, criminal justice practitioners, and victims. Topics include women who abuse drugs or alcohol, the disparate treatment of women, and women and employment within the criminal justice system. Please send all proposals and inquires to:

Dr. Roslyn Muraskin  
Department of Criminal Justice  
Long Island University,  
Brookville, NY 11548.  
email: Muraskin@liu.edu

#### **FEATURED FACULTY PARTICIPANT**

Professor Douglas Berman  
Associate Professor of Law  
The Ohio State University

Professor Douglas A. Berman was recently promoted to Associate Professor in the College of Law at The Ohio State University. He received his J.D. from the Law School at Harvard University and his

Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Princeton University.

There are two major themes that characterize Doug's research agenda. First, he is interested in the impact of structured sentencing systems on sentencing outcomes. This interest largely stems from Doug's hands-on experiences while clerking for two federal judges immediately after law school and while working for a large private firm. During these experiences, Doug devoted about half of his time to federal criminal cases and so he was "front and center" with federal sentencing guidelines. As a result, he began writing about federal sentencing guidelines for legal journals. A core theme in these writings is that sentencing guidelines are good because they subject sentencing to legal rules. As such, they are an important mechanism to guide judicial discretion. Doug has further developed his expertise, and completed some of his writings while serving as the Editor of the Federal Sentencing Reporter for seven years.

Among other issues, Doug has studied the impact of sentencing guidelines for capital and non-capital cases. In particular, he is interested in how political dynamics shape the administration of the death penalty. To what extent are law makers (executive and legislative) swayed by public sentiment about the death penalty? Do statutory changes to the death penalty translate into changes for other parts of the criminal justice system (e.g., non-capital trials and sentencing proceedings)? Doug believes that the death penalty can be a catalyst for change in other parts of criminal justice because problems brought to light (e.g., wrongful conviction) within the context of the death penalty can shed light upon problems facing the entire system. A focus on statutory reform served as the basis for the symposium entitled "Addressing Capital Punishment Through Statutory Reform" organized by Doug at the Law School last March. Panels discussed problems plaguing the current system of capital punishment, and also assessed the value of and possibilities for legislative reform of the modern administration of the death penalty.

A second research issue relates to how the quality of defense counsel influences sentencing outcomes. For Doug, effective defense counsel is particularly important with sentencing guidelines because of the "pockets of discretion." Good quality lawyers with lots of experience, time, and money are aware of these "pockets" and therefore can argue more effectively on behalf of clients than lawyers with less experience, bigger caseloads, and less money. Doug plans to examine the influence that the quality of defense counsel has on federal sentencing outcomes, and looks forward to collaborating on this work with other CJRC participants.

For Doug, one of the most important criminal justice issues is the extent race defines the criminal justice system. Although sentencing guidelines have provided facial neutrality, Doug argues that there is room for improvement because we still do not have substantive neutrality. One example is the disparities in sentencing for crack versus cocaine possession established by the sentencing guidelines. Particularly noteworthy is the much greater amount of cocaine it takes to equal the sentence for crack possession. And although the legislators who devised these guidelines were probably not overtly discriminatory, Doug argues they likely viewed these two acts very differently. Drawing from research on the psychology of prejudice, Doug argues that white legislators perceive cocaine use as largely a white phenomenon that should be treated more compassionately while the same legislators perceive crack use as largely a black phenomenon that should be treated more harshly and with less compassion. Therefore, differential treatment of the two groups is not surprising, but the example highlights the need for substantive neutrality in sentencing guidelines.

Doug's research and policy interests shape his teaching agenda a great deal. He teaches Criminal Punishment and Sentencing as well as the first year Criminal Law Class. In both courses he discusses issues surrounding sentencing guidelines and the death penalty. He also teaches a variety

of seminar courses on the death penalty, the structure of sentencing guidelines, and police practices.

When not busy at the Law School, Doug enjoys spending time with his wife, Christine, and their two daughters: Charlotte is two years old and Rebecca is two months old. They live in Dublin and enjoy going out to eat and watching movies, though Doug cautions that these activities have been curtailed dramatically with the birth of their two daughters. Doug also enjoys playing golf and is an avid sports fan. He invites other CJRC participants to talk with him about baseball and other sport statistics. Doug says that he and his wife love Columbus, "It is a great place to raise a family."

### **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.