

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

WELCOME to the first 2002-2003 academic year edition of CJRC News. Clearly from the reports below many of you were very productive during the summer, but I hope that you were able to play and relax a bit as well. As we start the academic year, I would like to provide you with a brief report card on how we are doing in the Center. To begin, over the past three years we have established a physical presence on campus. Our offices in Journalism are the location for 5 faculty and graduate research projects. During the same period, we have doubled in size from about 15 active Faculty members to 33, including our newest members: Joshua Dressler (Law), Harwood McClerking (Political Science), and Thomas Nelson (Political Science). Equally important, the faculty membership has become more diverse in terms of disciplinary backgrounds. Faculty associates are from 14 departments/units and nine colleges. We are less diverse in terms of graduate/professional members, with most being from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and then disproportionately from Sociology. I hope that we will be able to improve on the diversity of this group during 2002-2003, and would appreciate your help in identifying students who are interested in crime and delinquency and criminal and juvenile justice. A final administrative accomplishment has been building, and continuing to improve, a nice communication infrastructure in our newsletter and web page.

Related to our goal of providing intellectual exchange on criminal justice issues, from 1999-2002 we held 20 seminars through our main and Reckless Lecture series, and participated in 7 additional seminars/conferences held by our colleagues around the University and the State. Toward the goal of catalyzing cutting edge research on crime and justice, we have provided 7 faculty with Summer Research Fellowships which are starting to payoff in terms of successful grant application, and we have supported 8 faculty and 5 graduate students with small research grants which are now beginning to yield research publications and dissertations. Overall, I hope that you agree with me that CJRC has progressed well over the past three years.

At the same time, I hope that there will be considerable forward progress during the coming year and the next few. It would be great to develop one or more collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects, or a data collection partnership with another Center/department or perhaps a criminal justice policy agency. Should we start a working paper series, or plan a collaborative conference? I look forward to working with you on these or any other ideas that you have for moving the Center closer to our long run objective of being a nationally prominent place for focused interdisciplinary research on crime and criminal justice. Please share your ideas and let's work together to realize our common goals.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST**

Please mark the following dates for CJRC's 2002-2003 Seminar Series on your calendar:

Friday, October 18th, Dr. Joanne Belknap, Associate Professor of Women's Studies and Sociology, University of Colorado, will present a talk entitled "Theoretical Perspectives on Girls, Gender and Delinquency."

Abstract: Drawing on two data sets, this presentation examines how delinquent girls' and boys' reports of their childhood (1) fit criminological theories, and (2) are gendered. One data set consists of intensive interviews with 22 girls tried and convicted as adults in a large midwestern prison. The other data set comprises 444 surveys completed by girls and boys in juvenile institutions in Ohio in 1998.

Dr. Belknap's talk will be held in Journalism Room 106 (the Hall of Fame Room) from 9:00-10:15 a.m.

The Hall of Fame Room is next door to the Journalism Library. Paul Bellair and Bruce Weinberg will be in touch with you about other venues for interacting with Dr. Belknap during her visit.

Friday, November 22nd, Dr. Raymond Montemayor, Associate Professor of Psychology, Ohio State University will present on this date also in Journalism Room 106. The title and description of Dr. Montemayor's will be announced in future newsletters and memos.

### **WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING**

Professor Paul E. Bellair (Sociology) who was recently awarded a grant by the National Institute of Drug Abuse. His project examines "Neighborhood Disadvantage, Gangs, Drugs, and Violence." Paul actually earns double congratulations because he also became a parent this summer.

Professor Chris Browning (Sociology) who was recently awarded a grant by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. His project, "Life Course and Contextual Determinants of HIV Risk" will examine neighborhood and individual level determinants of sexual victimization and prostitution among Chicago youth.

Professors Sharon Davies (Law), Katherine Federle (Law), and Alan Michaels (Law) all of whom have been promoted to Professor.

Professor Alan T. Murray (Geography) who was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure.

Professor Townsend Price-Spratlen (Sociology) whose research on 1930 NAACP activism was accepted for publication. Townsend's paper is entitled "The Urban Context of Historical Activism: NAACP Depression Era Insurgency and Organization-Building Activity" and will be published in a forthcoming edition of The Sociological Quarterly.

Mary Reiter (Sociology) and Matisa Wilbon (Sociology) who recently completed their candidacy exams in the area of Crime and Community. The next step for these successful CJRC graduate affiliates is dissertation research.

### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) requests proposals to conduct research using data from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD). NACJD houses quantitative and qualitative data from NIJ sponsored research, and makes it available online for downloading machine-readable copies (in SPSS, SAS or ASCII), together with data dictionaries and study abstracts. The archive is maintained by the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan, and is supported by NIJ. Of particular interest are projects that will utilize data sets resulting from projects supported by the NIJ, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), and by other Office of Justice Programs (OJP) offices and agencies.

Application information is available at the NIJ Web site: [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding\\_app.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding_app.htm)

For more information on the National Institute of Justice, please contact:  
National Criminal Justice Reference Service  
Box 6000

Rockville, MD 208496000  
8008513420  
e-mail: askncjrs@ncjrs.org

Deadline for submissions October 25, 2002

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

The International Society of Criminology requests presentation submissions for their upcoming conference. Contact Professor Tony Peters: [tony.peters@law.kuleuven.ac.be](mailto:tony.peters@law.kuleuven.ac.be) Further information can be obtained from the website for the International Society of Criminology.

“Reducing Crime and Promoting Justice: Challenges to Science, Policy and Practice”

Annual meeting of the Law and Society Association. The conference theme Rivers of Law draws on Pittsburgh's topography. Pittsburgh lies at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, which together form the Ohio River. The Ohio River has played important historical roles: as a pathway of American westward migration, as a border between slavery and freedom, and as a great industrial concourse. The river metaphor evokes many attributes of the interplay of law and society: currents and countercurrents, nature and regulation, borders and unions, erosion and change, and dams that direct resources toward some and away from others (to name just a few). Submissions may be in the form of fully formed panels or individual papers. Because panels organized by participants tend to be more cohesive and useful for everyone, the Program Committee strongly encourages panel proposals and stands ready to assist those who might otherwise propose individual papers to form panels. Electronic submission of proposals is preferred though not required. Please see the web page for further details: <http://www.lawandsociety.org/>

“Rivers of Law: The Confluence of Life, Work and Justice”

June 5-8, 2003

Pittsburgh, PA

Deadline for submissions December 17, 2002

### **FEATURED FACULTY PARTICIPANT**

Alan C. Michaels

Associate Dean for Faculty and Professor of Law

Michael E. Moritz College of Law

Alan obtained his undergraduate degree in Social Studies from Harvard in 1983. After graduating with high honors, he returned to his native New York to attend Columbia University School of Law, where he received his J.D. in 1986. Following school, he worked as a Law Clerk in the Second Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals, and then with the U.S. Supreme Court as a clerk for Justice Harry A. Blackmun. After two years doing litigation of collusion cases for the Major League Baseball player's union, Alan went on to serve as Assistant District Attorney for New York County (Manhattan) where he prosecuted both street crime and white collar offenses. He came to Ohio State in 1995, was tenured in 1999, named Associate Dean in 2001, and recently was promoted to Professor and named Edwin M. Cooperman designated Professor of Law.

From his educational and occupational experiences, Alan said he always knew his real interests fell

within the legal analysis of criminal justice. “It was my favorite subject in law school. It’s so intrinsically interesting, having real people, real lives in the balance.” For him, criminal law is most closely related to moral philosophy. “Criminal law is exciting because you have the highest-level questions of right and wrong, and the lowest-levels of the newspaper tabloid.” He also cites his devotion to public service as the key motivation to leave his home in New York for a position in Ohio. Alan views teaching and research as an important service to both the legal and non-academic communities, and teaches courses on criminal procedure and adjudication, as well as white-collar crime and an advanced criminal law seminar.

Alan describes his work in three primary areas of interest: 1) criminal procedure (adjudication in particular), 2) mens rea, or the mental state an actor may have at the time of an offense, 3) and the Constitutional limits of legislatures and their ability to define crime. He has published work in the Columbia Law Review, the Federal Sentencing Reporter, and his research on strict liability was recognized as the top paper of 1998-99 by the Association of American Law School Scholarly Papers competition, and was later published in the Harvard Law Review.

Strict liability captures the idea that an individual is guilty no matter the intent of the actor. For example, strict liability would call picking up the wrong umbrella from a coat room stealing, regardless of whether it was accidental and unintentional. Alan used an inductive approach to analyze the application of strict liability in state and federal courts. He suggests that Supreme Court decisions on the application of strict liability in criminal law have charted an ambiguous middle ground, an unarticulated set of guidelines that restrict the implementation of strict liability in some situations, yet leaving the option available in other cases. Alan’s research utilized case law in which strict liability was used to further refine this ambiguous principle. “That type of research is most gratifying for me,” he said. “I approach topics by looking at areas of apparent confusion, and try to bring clarity and order.”

Alan has just completed a collaborative authorship with law colleague Prof. Joshua Dressler involving an annual update of Understanding Criminal Procedure. This work is a comprehensive review covering questions of criminal procedure. “It’s always exciting when you have the chance to lay out what the law is for others to build on.” Also, he recently finalized an article examining trial rights at sentencing. While criminal law is quite specific about the rights of a defendant during the adjudicatory stage of the court process, there has been ambiguity in the application of these rights during sentencing procedures. Alan’s research provides a taxonomy of rights at sentencing, and identifies and analyzes a principle that explains these results.

Being a native New Yorker, Alan said he has really grown fond of his life in Ohio. “The two things that make New York a great place to live are being young and without children, or old and rich, and I’m not either,” he said jokingly. Alan is particularly happy with the quality of life in Columbus, and he and his wife (CJRC member Sharon Davies) enjoy raising their children here. When he is not hard at work, Alan likes to spend time with his children, and currently maintains a 145 average in the law school bowling league.

## **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 new newsletter editor, please email Seth Feinberg at [feinberg.13@osu.edu](mailto:feinberg.13@osu.edu). If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Seth your email address.