

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

A VERY HARDY THANKS TO PAT WHITE of the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a very informative presentation on the variety of funding opportunities available through NSF, especially its Law and Social Sciences program. The talk was especially helpful in pointing to the range of types of grants that are available for graduate students and faculty, the grant proposal review process, and the kinds of mistakes that may be fatal in developing a proposal. I hope that many of you will follow up on her suggestions that you peruse their web page and apply for grants through the Law and Social Sciences and other programs. Remember that it is their job to give away money for basic research. We need to take advantage of the many programs available and submit proposals to gain our fair share of the resources.

Administratively, the last month has involved meetings and reports to our various oversight offices: the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Policy Initiative Oversight Committee. Many of these discussions have centered on the impact of budget restructuring on CJRC (and other Centers and Initiatives). For the most part, our general activities are not immediately in jeopardy due to budget restructuring and constraints. Still, we face important challenges in the long haul. Chief among these are: (1) how to use our resources to "grow" our budget; (2) how to work with Principal Investigators and their department chairs to gain a share of indirect returns from successful grant applications; and (3) how to finance graduate tuition and fees for Graduate Administrative and Research Associates when such fees cannot be paid for through grants. I will be working with the CJRC Oversight Committee and College administrators to address these issues over the next few months or longer. In the meantime, I welcome any thoughts that you have on these and other Center issues.

Finally, I wish to express my CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL of you for completing another successful quarter. I hope that the upcoming quarter break (spring break for our law school associates) will provide a much deserved respite for everyone. Looking ahead to Spring Quarter, we anticipate another great series of seminars, including: a talk by our own David Jacobs on April 19, 2002; the jointly sponsored (with the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis) visit of Jens Ludwig (Professor of Public Policy, Georgetown University) on May 3, 2002; and the Reckless Lecture by David Harris (Professor of Law, University of Toledo) on May 22, 2002. HAVE A GREAT BREAK AND I WILL SEE YOU AT THESE TALKS NEXT QUARTER!!!

WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING

Rudolph Alexander (Social Work) recently had his autobiography, *To Ascend into the Shining World Again*, published by Throe Enterprises, a publishing company he started. The autobiography addresses the legal issues surrounding Rudy's experience with the criminal justice system. In 1968 when he was 17, Rudy was charged with murder and received a death sentence. Rudy's main motivation to write this account was to discuss the racism he encountered during this time and how people can be trampled by the legal system. Copies of the book can be purchased from Rudy (alexander.2@osu.edu). A copy will also soon be available at the OSU library.

On March 1st Katherine Federle (Law) presented "The Best Interests of the Child and Other Policy Issues" at the Seminar on Special Needs Adoption, sponsored by the Moritz College of Law's Justice for Children Project, in cooperation with the Ohio Adoption Law Roundtable, the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, and the Central Ohio Juvenile Lawyers Association. Kate argued that while best interests is the polestar in all adoption cases, including special needs adoptions, best interests actually may be undermined by the implementation of certain policy choices. Therefore, Kate called for serious reconsideration about the choices society makes when it claims to act in the child's best

interests. She suggested that a better approach may be to empower children in this process by recognizing they have rights.

Recent research by David Jacobs (Sociology) and Jason Carmichael (Sociology) on the factors associated with states' legalization of the death penalty was recently highlighted in OSU Today. David was also interviewed about this research by the Washington Post and the Columbus Dispatch.

In April, Kenneth Litwin (Sociology) will be presenting a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association in Vancouver, British Columbia entitled "Hierarchical Linear Modeling in Criminological Research."

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

A conference on Enhancing Transitions Through the Use of Gender Specific Services will be held on April 18th at 807 Kinnear Road. The purpose of this conference is to provide a forum for professional development and discussion through plenary sessions, presentations of research and practice models, and dialogue among conference attendees. State agency personnel, legislators, academicians and policy makers are invited to attend. Presenters will be Dr. Meda Chesney-Lind (Department of Women's Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa), Dr. Joanne Belknap (Department of Sociology, University of Colorado-Boulder), and Melissa Dunn (DRE & Associates, Carrboro, North Carolina). The conference is part of The Enhancing Transitions through the Use of Gender Specific Services Project which seeks to enhance and further expand the existing knowledge base regarding gender specific services through the development of a web site that contains materials and videotaped information provided by experts around the country in Gender Specific Programming and related juvenile justice topics. To find out more, please check out The Accountability-Based Sanctions website at: <http://hec.osu.edu/abs/>.

For more information about the conference or the Gender-Specific Project, please contact:

Courtney Yarcheck
Conference Coordinator
tel: (614) 688-5916
email: yarcheck.1@osu.edu

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 or 614-877-2306, ext. 366.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY announces a call for papers for its Annual Meeting 2002 to be held on November 13th - 16th in Chicago, Illinois at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel.

The deadline for paper submission is April 1st. The theme is RE-INVENTING JUSTICE: Theories, Innovations and Research. The 2002 Program solicits papers for presentation in six broadly-defined areas: Theories of Crimes, Criminality and Justice (both normative and empirical); Innovations and Experiments in Justice and in Crime Prevention; Types of Crime, Victims and Offenders; Crime and Justice Over the Life Course; Crime and Justice in Social Settings; and What We Do and Don't Know: Systematic Reviews and Methods. There will be four types of sessions: 1) Presidential Plenary Poster Session, based on title and abstract, 2) Presidential Panel Sessions, based on peer-reviewed 5-page previews, 3) Panel Session papers, based on a title and abstract, and 4) Round Tables, based on title and abstract. For more information, please go to the ASC website: <http://www.asc41.com/cfppg2002.html>.

Proposals are sought for the research conference on Treating Addictions in Special Populations: Research Confronts Reality. This conference is sponsored by the State University of New York at Binghamton and Broome Community College. This national multi-disciplinary forum is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2002 in Binghamton, New York. Researchers, educators, policy-makers, practitioners, service-providers and students are invited to submit proposals addressing the multidimensional treatment issues that have emerged for individuals of special populations affected by substance-related disorders and process addictions. Workshop, research paper, and poster presentation formats that focus on research studies, public policy development, and/or clinical practice and services will be reviewed. Contact information is as follows:

School of Education & Human Development
Binghamton University
Academic B-130
P.O. Box 6000
Binghamton, New York 13902-6000
607-777-4447
<http://sehd.binghamton.edu/pdr/index.htm>

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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(208) 426-3251
chemmens@boisestate.edu

Access to Justice. The Journal of Law & Social Challenges is soliciting articles for a special volume on "Access to Justice". Papers can include topics such as the provision of legal services at all levels, the availability of judicial remedies, financial and structural barriers, the impact of alternative dispute resolution, and judicial and legislative challenges. For more information, contact:

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The Law & Society Review plans to publish a special issue on socio-legal topics related to Constitutional Ethnography. The due date for submissions is August 15, 2002. The purpose of the issue is not to examine doctrinal developments taken in isolation, but rather to embed the study of constitutional government in a larger social, economic, historical and cultural context. The Review is open to papers using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies from a wide variety of disciplinary perspectives, including: anthropology, cultural studies, economics, history, law and legal studies, literature, political science, psychology, and sociology. The Special Editor for the issue is Kim Lane Scheppele. Papers should be submitted to:

Law & Society Review Editorial Office
University of Houston Law Center
100 Law Center
Houston, TX 77204

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

2002 ASC Gene Carte Student Paper Competition.

The deadline is April 15, 2002. These awards are given to recognize outstanding scholarly work of students. For further information, please check out the website: <http://www.asc41.com/cartesp.html>.

Research on Family Violence and Sexual Abuse Post-doctoral Fellowships.

The University of New Hampshire Family Research Laboratory (FRL) has fellowships for research on family violence available beginning immediately. Applicants interested in starting dates beyond June, 2002 may apply pending funding from sponsor. These NIMH-funded positions are open to new and experienced researchers with doctorates in the fields of psychology, sociology, social work, law, nursing, public health and medicine. The fellowships are intended for work in the area of child abuse, marital violence, elder abuse, sexual abuse, child victimization, rape, homicide and other family-violence related topics with special attention to mental health impact. Scholars use the one-year fellowships (with possible one-year extension) to collaborate with FRL faculty on a current project, to work on one of the many data sets archived at the FRL or, in the case of senior candidates, to work on their own projects. Annual stipends run from \$28,260 to \$44,412 depending upon the number of years since receipt of doctorate. Applications from scholars with backgrounds in developmental or cognitive psychology, or interests in family violence in minority families, or families of persons with disabilities are particularly encouraged. For more information about applying, please go to the FRL website: <http://www.unh.edu/frl/fellship.htm>.

FEATURED FACULTY PARTICIPANT

David Jacobs

Department of Sociology

The Ohio State University

David Jacobs is Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Sociology at The Ohio State University. Dave received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Vanderbilt University and his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Georgia. Before arriving at OSU in 1997, he taught at Northwestern University, the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, and the University of Oregon.

His current research seeks to advance a political sociology of crime and crime control. This perspective highlights the role of political factors such as racial and economic threat and conservative ideology in driving police strength and punishment. Dave's approach stems from his general interest in studying the role played by punishment and coercion in maintaining social cohesion. To that end, Dave has studied the influence of political factors on crime control outcomes such as police strength (police per capita), incarceration rates across states as well as over time, prison sentence length in 337 U.S. counties, and the legalization of the death penalty. In addition to studies of crime control, Dave is also interested in analyzing other topics in political economy.

Two current papers illustrate Dave's political approach to the criminal justice system. In the first paper, Dave and CJRC graduate affiliate, Jason Carmichael (Sociology), used a political approach to study the legalization of the death penalty. They examined the role of racial and economic threat as well as political factors such as Republican strength and conservative ideology. Using data from all 50 states in 1970-1, 1980-1, and 1990-1, the analysis was conducted in two stages. First, they examined the factors that explain whether states legalized the death penalty. They found that more unequal states with reduced levels of social cohesion, higher proportions of African Americans, a more conservative public, and a stronger Republican party were more likely to have the death penalty. Interestingly, they found that neither the state's murder nor the violent crime rate was related significantly to the likelihood of a legal death penalty. Second, Dave and Jason investigated the factors associated with states re-legalizing their death penalty statutes after 1976, when the U.S. Supreme Court allowed states to use the death penalty only if they made significant changes to their statutes. Previously in 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court had struck down federal and state capital punishment laws, leading to a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. Dave and Jason found results similar to those in their first set of analyses. The states most likely to comply quickly with the then new Supreme Court requirements were unequal states with lower levels of social cohesion, higher proportions of African American residents, conservative ideologies, and Republican strength. Again, neither the state's murder nor the violent crime rate was related significantly to the time it took states to make their death penalty statutes constitutional. These findings suggest that the politics of class and race are important factors in the legalization of the death penalty, indicating that the legal system is not colorblind. In addition, these findings illustrate the political nature of punishment. This paper appears in the February issue of the *American Sociological Review*. Dave and Jason are extending this work with a current investigation of the determinants of the number of death sentences in the states.

A second paper investigates the determinants of state imprisonment rates in a pooled cross-section of data from 1970, 1980, and 1990. In this analysis Dave is interested in assessing the impact of race and Republican strength on imprisonment rates and whether these influences have historically contingent effects. Using fixed-effects models, he found that Republican strength explained state imprisonment rates better in 1980 and 1990 than in 1970. In fact, the effect of Republican strength peaked after 1988 and the election of George Bush perhaps due to his extreme emphasis on law and order in that campaign. Dave also found support for the influence of ethnic threat on

state incarceration rates. The percentage of Latinos significantly influenced the imprisonment rate, especially in 1990. Increases in the African American population also led to higher state imprisonment rates, especially in 1980 and 1990. In a random effects model, he tested the role of religious fundamentalism on state imprisonment rates, and found that states with a more religiously conservative population experienced increases in imprisonment rates. This paper was published in the September 2001 issue of *Social Forces*.

Dave's interest in political explanations for crime and crime control has influenced the courses he teaches. He has taught courses on the politics and the sociology of crime control. In his graduate course he covers issues in the criminal justice system such as the behavior of the police, prosecutors, and the sentences handed out by the courts. He has taught undergraduate courses on the Control and Prevention of Crime and Delinquency. In addition to crime-related courses, he enjoys teaching additional sociology classes such as Macro Theory and Political Sociology.

In his spare time, Dave enjoys taking landscape photographs and watching movies.

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. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send María your email address.