

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

As we expected, the co-sponsored (with the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis) visit of Jens Ludwig on May 3, 2002 was enlightening, and thought-provoking. Jens described the particulars of the Moving to Opportunity (MTO) program in Baltimore, including how it works, what families participate, and why and where families move. He discussed in detailed his evaluation of the consequences of MTO for crime among juveniles, and also provided us with overviews of findings from studies of the impact of MTO on additional outcomes (e.g., academic achievement, physical and mental health) in other communities (e.g., Chicago, New York, Boston). Of particular note, Jens challenged those of us who study neighborhood effects to think about the consequences of using non-experimental data. This evoked very interesting discussion from the large and attentive audience, and continued discussion between Jens and CJRC and CURA participants throughout the day. Overall, I think that we were all pleased that we were able to join with CURA in bringing Jens to campus.

Next week, we will hold our signature event, the Walter C. Reckless Memorial Lecture. David Harris, Eugene N. Balk Professor of Law and Values at the University of Toledo College of Law, will be our guest. He will speak on "Racial Profiling to Fight Crime and Terrorism: Lessons Learned and the Path Ahead." We will also honor Geno Natalucci-Persichetti, Director of the Ohio Department of Youth Services, as the recipient of the CJRC Public Service Award. Remember that this year the event is being held in the Stecker Lounge of the Ohio Union (not the Faculty Club) at 7:00pm. I hope to see you all there.

UPCOMING CENTER EVENTS

The 2002 Reckless Lecture

David Harris, Eugene N. Balk, Professor of Law and Values, University of Toledo College of Law, will speak on "Racial Profiling to Fight Crime and Terrorism: Lessons Learned and the Path Ahead." The Reckless Lecture will take place on Wednesday May 22th at 7:00 pm in the Stecker Lounge of the Ohio Union.

WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING

Mark Davis (formerly of OCJS) will be starting a new phase of his career as Associate Director of the Institute for the Study and Prevention of Violence at Kent State University.

The School of Public Policy and Management reported in Research Matters that faculty affiliate Robert Greenbaum (see CJRC News, Vol. 2, Issue 9) was appointed by Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman to the Economic Advisory Committee to examine the City's finances.

Brian Kowalski (Sociology) recently was awarded a Summer Publishing Fellowship by the Sociology Department. This fellowship will provide him the opportunity to prepare his master's thesis on the "Community Context of Recidivism" for journal submission. CJRC participants will recall Brian's presentation about this research last fall (November 16, 2001). See also, CJRC News, 2002, Volume 2, Issue 4.

A paper on "Race and Population Change: A Longitudinal Look at Cleveland Neighborhoods" written by Townsend Price-Spratlen (Sociology) and Avery M. Guest was recently published in Sociological

Forum. Townsend also received the Sociology Department's Undergraduate Committee's "Excellence in Instruction Award" at the Undergraduate Studies departmental reception on May 10th.

Richard Lundman (Sociology) was also honored as the recipient of the "Excellence in Instruction Award" at the Sociology Department's Annual Undergraduate Reception.

Jim Sutton (Sociology) successfully defended his thesis on May 3rd. It examined "Women in Blue: Predictors that Buffer Female Police Officers from Perceived Gender Discrimination."

Stacia Gilliard (Sociology) followed Jim on May 15th with defense of her thesis on "Routine Traffic Stops: The Influence of Extralegal Factors on Police Decisions to Issue Traffic Tickets." Congratulations to them both.

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." The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m., Friday, June 14, 2002.

Consistent with the CJRC's 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

For further details about these funding opportunities please contact Dr. Ruth Peterson, CJRC Director, at peterson.5@osu.edu or visit the CJRC web page:

<http://www.sociology.ohio-state.edu/cjrc>

Directives and applications are now available for the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program. The deadline for grant submissions is June 12, 2002. The current solicitation may be obtained either by downloading the application materials from the website of the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS):

Byrne Request for Proposals (<http://www.ocjs.state.oh.us/Grants/Current%20Solicitations.htm#2002>) or by requesting hard copies of the application. To do so, please call the Byrne Coordinator, Venita Butler-O'Bannon at (614) 466-0352.

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>.

CALL FOR PAPERS

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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Boise State University
1910 University Drive
Boise, ID 83725-1955
(208) 426-3251
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Mental Health and Corrections. The Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice invites submissions for a planned special issue on Mental Health and Corrections. Manuscripts must be received no later than July 1, 2002. The issue, sponsored by the Division on Corrections and Sentencing of the American Society of Criminology, will focus on the problems and programs associated with managing offenders with mental illness. Examples of appropriate topics include diversion programs for mentally ill offenders, mental health courts, the epidemiology of mental illness in specific criminal populations, treatment alternatives and effectiveness, and mental illness and capital punishment. All papers will be peer reviewed. Manuscripts should be no more than 30 typed, double-spaced pages including tables, figures and references. Please send four manuscript copies, along with the manuscript on disk, to:

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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

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 will take place on October 7th and 8th, 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/addictionsconfprogram.htm>

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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FEATURED GRADUATE STUDENT PARTICIPANT
Kent Shafer

Kent Shafer is a graduate student in the School of Public Policy and Management (PPM) at The Ohio State University. He is currently seeking his Master's Degree in the PPM program. His long term goal is to obtain a Ph.D. in Public Policy. He received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Mt. Vernon Nazarene College.

Kent has been a full-time police officer for the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) for over twenty years. He currently is the Commander of the Strategic Response Bureau (SRB), a community policing program. The mission of the Strategic Response Bureau is to provide innovative responses to street-level crime problems, and to establish and maintain partnerships with the community. Kent's involvement in the SRB stems from his longstanding concern for making police departments accountable to citizens as well as responsive to their needs. To that end, he has spent considerable time advocating for police reform.

Three initiatives are paramount in reflecting Kent's concerns and in shaping his research interests. The first relates to his experiences in tackling the street gang problem in Columbus. Although by the mid-1980s many citizen groups were aware of gang problems and had complained about them to the police, the CPD's position was that there was not a gang problem. According to Kent, it took the assaults of the then mayor's son and governor's daughter by gang members, along with drive-by shootings between rival gangs to make the CPD realize the problem. This illustrated to Kent how the police can be non-responsive to citizens' concerns. To address the gang problem in Columbus, Kent helped to orchestrate a holistic approach combining intervention, enforcement, and arrests. This approach has been very successful; the gang problem has been significantly curtailed, and the department has enjoyed national recognition for its approach.

Importantly, Kent's involvement in the gang unit also influenced his desire to attend graduate school. Specifically, he met Dr. Ron Huff, former OSU professor and CJRC director, who was studying gangs in Columbus. At first, Kent worked with Ron mostly as a contact for gang information, but he quickly became more involved in the research process. They collaborated on a State-funded project involving a longitudinal study of gang members in Columbus. This longitudinal study provided important insights into the trajectory of gang members. For instance, Kent and Ron determined that gang members quickly (in less than two years) progress from property to violent offending. They also found that intervention is most effective during the early stages of gang involvement (i.e., while committing property crimes); once gang members become more involved in violent crimes, it is much more difficult to intervene successfully. Kent's collaboration with Ron has continued. Just recently, Kent co-authored with Ron, a chapter in the third edition of Ron's *Gangs in America* about the effectiveness of community policing. Kent says that "Dr. Huff is truly a mentor."

Second, Kent's interest in police reform led him to develop the Strategic Response Bureau, the CPD's community policing unit. To do so, he sought funds to hire 38 community policing officers. Funds were awarded by the federal government's initiative to put 100,000 more police on the street. In designing the SRB, Kent prioritized improving police-community relations and making crime control more effective. He developed the community liaison officer whose sole job is to exchange information with the community and serve as the link between the CPD and the community. The SRB also incorporates investigative and enforcement functions so that crime can be more effectively tackled. These features help to provide a holistic approach to crime control, which in Kent's view makes the SRB an "ideal unit."

Third, Kent is currently involved in the re-engineering of the CPD. The impetus for this endeavor was a conference on reform efforts put together by the New York Police Department. Returning from the conference with lots of ideas, Kent and his staff conducted focus groups with about 10 percent of the CPD including upper management and representatives of the police union. Through these integrated focus groups, they were able to identify concerns within the organization that needed to be rectified. This process culminated in a report with recommendations for reform to the police chief, mayor and safety director. The report was accepted by these executives and it is hoped that reforms will be implemented, as funding becomes available. One initiative involves decentralizing the CPD. Kent and his staff have designed a reorganization scheme that divides Columbus into five districts which each district being its own “mini-police department.” Thus, each district is designed to be self-sufficient with its own detective and patrol units. Citizens will not have to go downtown for police business, but would go to their district office instead. In true academic fashion, Kent is documenting this re-engineering process in a manuscript that he hopes to publish as a book.

Kent hopes that his work as a police officer and as a researcher lead to two important policy-related outcomes: (1) increased citizen involvement and satisfaction with the police, and (2) a better understanding of crime and actual crime reduction. Pointing to favorable evaluations by residents of the community policing program, Kent feels that the first of these has begun to happen in Columbus. From this, it appears to Kent that the CPD has made important inroads to becoming an accessible organization. Regarding the second goal, Kent believes that his efforts with the SRB and the gang unit have helped to address street crime and street gangs. More generally, Kent hopes that his involvement in and research on police reform will provide real strategies for crime reduction. His research in particular should help to identify police culture and the kinds of conditions (i.e., processes or systems) that are conducive to police reform.

On a more personal note, Kent enjoys raising his two kids, Carlee (9 years old) and Daniel (6 years old). “They keep me busy,” he says. During the summer, Kent, Carlee, and Daniel enjoy boating, backpacking and roller-blading together. In the winter, they like to snow ski.

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.