

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

NICE GOING!!! On May 22nd, we celebrated our 13th Annual Walter C. Reckless Lecture. In the wake of the events of September 11, 2001, David Harris' (University of Toledo) talk provided a very timely and thought provoking view of the role of racial profiling in the U.S. David's comments suggest caution in using this strategy on two grounds: evidence suggests that it is a costly but not very effective tool for addressing crime, and historically profiling has been found to be a useful tool only when it is grounded in studied behavior. These and other intriguing comments kept the audience's attention and led to a great deal of post-lecture discussion. The Center was pleased to honor Gino Natalucci-Persichetti as this year's recipient of CJRC's Public Service Award. Thanks to Sharon Davies and Simon Dinitz for their introductions of our guests. Thanks also to Stacy Amour, Kerry Bell, Danice Brown, and Jamie Selhorst for assisting us in making this another successful Reckless Lecture.

CONGRATULATIONS!!! More generally, as we approach the end of the academic year, we can say without reservation that it has been one of considerable progress for the CJRC. Apart from our excellent Reckless Lecture events, we can celebrate: growth in the number of faculty and graduate/professional student affiliates; another wonderful seminar series; and most importantly, many, many accomplishments of individual affiliates. Congratulations to all of you who have been recommended for tenure and/or promotion, received grants, become fellows, earned degrees, advanced to candidacy status, published articles/books, and the like.

Summer quarter gives us a brief respite to (1) reflect on the Center's long term goals and how to achieve them, and (2) plan for the next academic year. Thus, you will hear from us less regularly during the next couple of months but we will be hard at work. One activity that we hope to engage in is a series of informal small group meetings so that Center affiliates who do not know one another may meet and begin to interact. This idea was posed by Doug Berman last year but we were not able to implement it during the year. Doug, it's coming. In the meantime, please forward any suggestions that you have for ways that the Center can facilitate participation and its primary mission of being a focal point for interdisciplinary research on issues of crime/delinquency and juvenile and criminal justice. Suggestions are also welcome regarding internal and external seminar speakers, including for the Reckless Lecture.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for the many large and small ways that you helped to make 2001-2002 such a successful year. I owe a special debt of gratitude to several of you. First to Laurie Krivo, thanks for the past two years of organizing and hosting our seminar series. We all benefited intellectually from the great job that you did. Lori Muccino thanks for stepping in to assist us with a variety of administrative tasks, but most of all for the Reckless Lecture events that were made to look effortless to the rest of us. Finally to María Vélez, who for the last two years has kept us all so well informed through CJRC News. María, you set a very high standard with the newsletter; we will miss you next year, but wish you the very best in your new role at the University of Iowa (see featured student below).

## **WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING**

Khalilah Brown-Dean (Political Science) recently received a Presidential Fellowship from the University to support a year of full time study toward completing her dissertation (see CJRC News Vol. 1, Issue 6). She also was awarded a grant from the graduate school to supplement her dissertation research.

Joseph Donnermeyer (Human and Community Resource Development) was awarded a \$97,000

grant by the State of Ohio's Office of Criminal Justice Services to study "Agricultural Terrorism and Local Preparedness" (see CJRC News Vol. 2, Issue 3). Joe also served as the opening speaker for a national conference in Omaha, Nebraska on "Rural Issues in Juvenile Accountability," sponsored by the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Moreover, Joe was selected for the Mid-Career and Senior Faculty Teaching Enhancement Program sponsored by the Office of Faculty Development at OSU.

Katherine Federle (Law) recently was awarded a Coca Cola Critical Difference for Women Faculty Grant for Research on Women, Gender, or Gender Equity. The \$5,000 grant will enable Kate to continue her research on "Domestic Violence Filings Against Minors in Juvenile Court" that was initially funded by the CJRC last summer (see CJRC News Vol. 2, Issue 5).

Rachael Woldoff (Sociology) received a Dissertation Fellowship from the Sociology Department at OSU; this fellowship will allow Rachael to concentrate on completing her dissertation next year. She is also a recipient of this year's Department of Sociology Teaching Excellence Award.

Ken Litwin (Sociology) successfully defended his dissertation in May. It is entitled "Victim and Area Characteristics and Homicide Clearance: A Sociological Analysis."

Danielle Payne (Sociology) was selected to attend a competitive summer course through ICPSR on the Quantitative Analysis of Crime and Criminal Justice (see CJRC News Vol. 2, Issue 6). The course is being taught by Professor James Lynch from American University, and focuses on substantive and methodological issues related to analyzing various sets of Bureau of Justice Statistics data.

In May, Kimberly Post (Sociology) successfully defended her Master's Thesis, "Social Status and Violent Delinquency: A Sociological Analysis."

Jeremy Wilson (Public Policy and Management) accepted a tenure-track position in the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Toledo (see CJRC News Volume 1, Issue 2). He will begin his appointment in the Fall of 2002.

## **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 [peter5@osu.edu](mailto:peter5@osu.edu) or visit the CJRC web page:

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

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

The Ohio Criminal Justice Conference. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction is sponsoring the Ohio Criminal Justice Conference and seeks papers to be presented on topics including Adult Corrections, Juvenile Justice, Community Corrections, Policing, Sentencing and Courts, Mental Health in Criminal Justice, and Violence. THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS AUGUST 2, 2002. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn East in Columbus on Tuesday, October 15, 2002. For more conference information, please go to: [www.drc.state.oh.us/web/conference.htm](http://www.drc.state.oh.us/web/conference.htm) or contact

Kelly Ward  
Department of Rehabilitation & Correction  
Bureau of Planning and Evaluation  
1050 Freeway Dr. North  
Columbus, Ohio 43229  
(614) 752-1315  
FAX (614) 728-1033  
[Kelly.Ward@odrc.state.oh.us](mailto:Kelly.Ward@odrc.state.oh.us)

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:

Nahama Broner  
JCCJ Guest Editor  
RTI International  
113 University Place, Suite 1009  
New York, NY 10009  
e-mail: [broner@rti.org](mailto:broner@rti.org)  
telephone: 212-353-0315

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:

Helen Paik  
The Editorial Staff  
The Journal of Law & Social Challenges  
[haepaik@hotmail.com](mailto:haepaik@hotmail.com)

University of San Francisco  
School of Law  
130 Fulton Street  
San Francisco, CA 94117  
(415) 442-2241  
[jlsc\\_usf@yahoo.com](mailto:jlsc_usf@yahoo.com)

### **FEATURED GRADUATE STUDENT PARTICIPANT**

María Vélez  
Department of Sociology  
The Ohio State University

María is in the final stages of her graduate education at The Ohio State University, and after completing her doctorate in Sociology, she will join the Sociology faculty at the University of Iowa this August. Previously, María obtained her B.A. in Political Science from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas in 1992, and then a Master's in Government from the University of Texas at Austin in 1994.

While still an undergraduate, María's experiences within and out of the classroom helped her develop

a critical lens towards issues of social and political inequality, and she has continued to examine important social problems within her research. María notes that St. Mary's was one of the focal points of grass-roots mobilization efforts to bring change to the economic and political status of Latino groups in the region. In addition, María was active with the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project ([www.svrep.org](http://www.svrep.org)). "I realized that Latinos, if mobilized, could be very powerful politically, especially in San Antonio."

After completing her M.A., María further refined her intellectual interests as an instructor of government at Austin Community College, and as an advocate for homeless children within the Austin Independent School District. María's role was to educate the schools about the rights of the children, as well as to assist with the acquisition of school supplies, bus passes, and other resources necessary for academic success. While in Austin, María said she began to notice patterns about the children, particularly that many were minority youth, and that the boys were often involved with street gangs. María then began reading ethnographic accounts of gang activity, and found herself drawn more and more into the sociological analyses of social problems. Upon reflecting on these experiences and interests, and with the advice of her undergraduate mentors, María decided to pursue a Ph.D. in crime and community at Ohio State, and to focus her doctoral work on better understanding the linkages among disadvantage, minority status, and crime.

Naturally, much of María's academic work has centered around topics of mobilization, collective efficacy, and the differential levels of economic and political resources available within different communities. In sociological terms, her research includes assessments of public social control, or the ability of neighborhoods to secure external resources necessary for the reduction of crime and victimization. María has published research in Criminology that suggests that individuals living in neighborhoods with high levels of public social control are less likely to be victims of household and personal victimization; this relationship holds true especially in disadvantaged communities.

In her dissertation work, María continues to build on the idea that linkages between neighborhoods and local political and economic officials are important for the distribution of crime by analyzing the mechanisms through which public social control may explain the linkages between racial composition and crime. With a Graduate Student Research Award from the CJRC, María collected a wealth of secondary and archival data on homeowner loans, block grants, and other aspects of resource allocation across Chicago's multi-ethnic neighborhoods. Her research suggests that inequality in public social control is consequential for the spatial patterning of crime. María finds that predominantly Latino and African American neighborhoods in Chicago receive significantly lower levels of residential loans and block grants, net of important controls such as disadvantage and prior homicide levels. Lower levels of resources, namely residential loans, directly lead to higher levels in neighborhood homicide rates as well as property victimization risk. Most importantly, the lower levels of residential loans in minority communities partially explain their higher levels of homicide and property victimization.

As her future research evolves, María intends to maintain her focus on understanding the relationships between social and political inequality and crime, especially pertaining to different racial and ethnic groups. She is hopeful that research on the spatial patterning of crime may provide policy answers that can reduce violence, particularly in minority neighborhoods that suffer from higher rates of crime than predominantly white neighborhoods. Most importantly, María hopes that her research will help identify mechanisms of empowerment that successfully facilitate linking municipal resources with community activism in an effort to promote healthy neighborhoods for all groups of peoples.

When she is not hard at work, María enjoys spending time watching movies with her husband Dr.

Wayne Santoro who is also starting a faculty position in Sociology at the University of Iowa. María and Wayne, along with their three cats, recently moved to the tiny town of West Liberty, Iowa where she hopes to continue her community empowerment efforts in a very diverse small town where about half of the residents are Latino (<http://www.westlibertyiowa.org>). “It’s a great opportunity for me, and a really special place.”

### **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.