

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

Hello, everyone. We start the quarter with sad hearts due to the loss of our good friend and colleague, Simon Sy Dinitz, Professor Emeritus and renowned criminologist, who died on March 3, 2007 following an illness. Sy (in collaboration with C. Ronald Huff) founded CJRC, and was indefatigable in his support of the Center. It is hard to believe that he will not be with us for this years Walter C. Reckless Memorial Lecture. However, his humor, insight, and dedication as a teacher and scholar will continue to inspire all of us who had the pleasure to know and work with him. And, because of his contributions to scholarship, criminal justice policy, and mentoring of future scholars, his influence will continue to accrue through the aspirations and accomplishments of those whose lives he touched. At this years Reckless Lecture, we will take a moment to pay a brief tribute to our good friend Sy.

This years Eighteenth Annual Walter C. Reckless Memorial Lecture is just a week away. It is being held on Thursday, April 12, 2007 at the Faculty Club Grand Lounge (see details below). The speaker is John Hagan, the John D. MacArthur Professor of Sociology and Law at Northwestern University and Senior Research Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. John will be presenting important information on public criminology, or the ways in which we can employ criminological knowledge to societal ends. His presentation is entitled, The Importance of Public Criminology: From Darfur to Iraq, and will address two central questions: 1) What is the role of criminology in knowing and showing when genocide has occurred?; and 2) What is the role of criminology in explaining and prosecuting genocide? These types of questions present complex challenges for those seeking to understand and address crimes against humanity. Please plan to join us for this important event, and RSVP by returning the response card in your recent invitation. If you did not receive an invitation but wish to attend, please let Anne Miller know at 292-7468.

Moving on, as a wrap-up to Winter quarter, we had two great seminars. First, in January, Steven Messner of the University at AlbanyState University of New York presented his research entitled, A Multilevel Analysis of the Risk of Household Burglary in the City of Tianjin, China. Steves research takes an important step toward assessing the broader applicability of criminological knowledge gleaned from analyses of crime in Western countries. He and his colleagues developed a crime victimization survey which they administered to residents in Tianjin, Mainland Chinas third-largest city. His multilevel analysis of the data considered the extent to which neighborhood social structural characteristics are associated with the likelihood of household burglary. His results indicate that while some processes that are important in U.S. studies of neighborhood effects, such as neighborhood poverty, are not associated with the likelihood of burglary, others, such as the extent to which neighbors possess collective efficacy, are negatively associated with household burglary. One important conclusion that may be drawn from his research is that current theory is potentially generalizable to other countries and cultures, but may require modification to fit the specific socio-political and cultural circumstances of those countries.

Finally, The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction selected Coretta Pettway as the agencies April Employee of the Month for her role in planning, coordinating and organizing our second seminar, the Faith-Based Programming, Reentry and Recidivism Symposium. The Institute for Excellence in Justice, a collaborative partnership between ODRC and the CJRC hosted the symposium at the Ohio Institute on Correctional Best Practices on February 9, 2007. Seeking to facilitate an ongoing dialogue between research, the faith community, and corrections, over 240 participants attended a variety of sessions focused on research addressing the impact of faith-based programming or reentry and recidivism; what is being done in Ohio; government funding sources and opportunities; and the legal issues surrounding church-state collaborations. Additionally, over 30 faith and community organizations set up resource tables and provided a wealth of information on their

programs and services. The featured speaker was Dr. Byron Johnson (Professor of Sociology and Co-Director of the Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University). ODRC Director Terry Collins and State of Ohio Representative John White welcomed the group and introduced the discussion. CJRC affiliates, Ed Rhine (ODRC), Townsend Price-Spratlen (Sociology), and Douglas Berman (Law) all took part in panels, as did OSU Law Professor, David Goldberger. Participating members of the policy community included: Chris Money and Shannon Teague (Department of Youth Services), Debbie Roeger (Opening Doors), Gary Sims (ODRC), Steve McFarland (U.S. Department of Justice), and Greg Trout, Austin Stout, Joe Mancini (Ohio Attorney Generals Office). Art Baron, Patti Filipski, Betty Moore, Gary Sims, Wanda Suber and Gloria Vasquez assisted Coretta in coordinating the event. Thank you, Coretta, for your hard work on this very successful event, and a well-deserved congratulations on your award!

--Ruth

### **UPCOMING CJRC EVENTS OF INTEREST**

Please join us for these upcoming events.

Thursday, April 12, 2007 18th Annual Walter C. Reckless Memorial Lecture, featuring John Hagan, John D. MacArthur Professor of Sociology and Law at Northwestern University and Senior Research Fellow of the American Bar Foundation: The Importance of Public Criminology: From Darfur to Iraq. 6:30 p.m. reception (lecture begins at 7:00 p.m.) to 9:00 p.m., OSU Faculty Club Grand Lounge, 181 South Oval Drive. Parking is available at the Ohio Union garage on North High Street.

Friday, May 11, 2007 Lori Burrington (Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology, Ohio State University): "Family Resources, Neighborhood Structure, and Problem Behavior: A Multilevel Re-Examination of the SES/Delinquency Relationship." Journalism 243, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Coffee, juice and refreshments will be served.

Friday, June 1, 2007 William Sabol (Chief, Corrections Statistics Unit, Bureau of Justice Statistics): "Local Labor Market Conditions and Post-Prison Employment: Evidence From Ohio." 131 Page Hall, Leadership Educational Center, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Coffee, juice and refreshments will be served. This seminar is the final "Excellence in Justice" symposium of the 2006-2007 academic year.

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

Kerryn Bell (Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology) has an upcoming publication in Crime and Delinquency entitled, Gender and Gangs: A Quantitative Comparison.

Walter DeKeseredy (University of Ontario Institute of Technology) and Joseph Donnermeyer (HCRD, Rural Sociology) have a paper with their colleagues Martin Schwartz, Kenneth Tunnell, and Mandy Hall entitled, "Thinking Critically about Rural Gender Relations: Toward a Rural Masculinity Crisis" that will appear soon in the journal Critical Criminology. They also presented a paper with Martin Schwartz on the ways in which second generation CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design) can be used to curb woman abuse in rural communities in March at the annual meetings of the American Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Seattle.

Joshua Dressler (Moritz College of Law) was selected to be a 2007 University Distinguished Scholar.

Leesa Kern (Ph.D. from Ohio State Sociology, and currently Assistant Professor of Sociology, Otterbein College) was appointed to the Neighborhood Safety Working Group run by the city of

Columbus's Department of Public Safety. She will be assisting them with data analysis in their evaluation of anti-gang programs.

Brian Kowalski (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction) and Richard Lundman (Sociology) have a recent publication entitled "Vehicle Stops by Police for Driving While Black: Common Problems and Some Tentative Solutions." The article appears in the *Journal of Criminal Justice* 35: 165-181.

Danielle Payne (Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology, and Assistant Professor, Bowling Green State University) has an upcoming publication with Benjamin Cornwell in the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. The article (which is currently online and will appear in the June issue) is titled, "Reconsidering Peer Influences on Delinquency: Do Less Proximate Contacts Matter?"

Clint Roberts (Graduate Student in Statistics) has been selected as a winner of the student paper competition jointly sponsored by the Government Statistics, Social Statistics, and Survey Research Methods sections of the American Statistical Association (ASA). His paper is titled "Imputing Missing Data in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports." As part of the award, Roberts will receive travel support to present his paper in a session at the 2007 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Salt Lake City this summer. Clint's work was done as a part of an ASA/BJA grant with professors Elizabeth Stasny (Statistics) and Michael Maltz (CJRC and Sociology).

Victor Streib (Pettit College of Law, Ohio Northern University) is the editor of (and contributor to) the recently published *State of Criminal Justice 2006* (Chicago:ABA), a volume featuring the contributions of 41 authors.

### **CALLS FOR PAPERS, CONFERENCES, AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

The Ohio Criminal Justice Research Conference will be held on April 11, 2007 at the Midwest Hotel and Conference Center in Columbus, Ohio. Please see the conference website for additional information about this annual, and very worthwhile, conference at [www.drc.state.oh.us/web/conference.htm](http://www.drc.state.oh.us/web/conference.htm).

The *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice* has announced a special issue. All manuscripts will be peer-reviewed. Manuscripts should be no more than 25 typed, double-spaced pages including tables, figures and references. The issue is on the topic, Evidence-Based Practices for Responding to Victimization. This volume will focus on assessments of programs developed for the purpose of assisting persons with some of the consequences of victimization. Such research may include programs designed to alleviate emotional distress, provide financial assistance, prevent re-victimization, or inhibit retaliatory offending. It may also include assessments of efforts to involve victims in the criminal justice system--for example, through victim impact statements, restorative justice panels, or statements at parole board hearings. Inquiries about the appropriateness of topics should be directed to Janet Lauritsen, JCCJ Guest Editor, via email (at [Janet\\_Lauritsen@umsl.edu](mailto:Janet_Lauritsen@umsl.edu)) or telephone (314-516-5427). Please send four manuscript copies, along with the manuscript on disk, to Janet Lauritsen, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Missouri-St. Louis, One University Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63121.

Deadline:

September 1, 2007

This Issue's Feature:

## IN THE NEWS

### Texas Reviews Juvenile Sentences; Possibility of Mass Release

An estimated 60% of the 4,700 juveniles held in Texas juvenile prisons may have had their sentences improperly or arbitrarily extended, in some cases in retaliation for complaints the juveniles filed against the system. The problem came to light following allegations that some prison officials were coercing imprisoned juveniles for sex. As a result, many of those currently held may be released following review of their cases.

One problem in Texas is its policy of indeterminate sentencing, which leaves the length of sentences and conditions of release largely in the hands of prison authorities. The most prominent recent case involved the recent release of Shaquanda Cotton, a 15-year-old African American girl with no prior record who was sent to prison for up to 7 years on a felony count for shoving a hall monitor at her high school in Paris, Texas, while White students from the area received probation for more serious offenses (including a 14-year-old girl who received probation for burning down her own home). After Shaquanda's case drew national attention, she was released from the Ron Jackson Correctional Complex in Brownwood, Texas on March 31, despite protests from officials at the facility, who argued that she had not met the social and behavioral goals required for release under her indeterminate sentence and had been in possession of contraband (an extra pair of socks). (Associated Press, March 31, 2007 and Chicago Tribune, March 27, 2007).

### Violent Femmes?

Danielle Payne (PhD Candidate, Sociology, and Assistant Professor, Bowling Green State University) found a recent article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on the question of whether girls are becoming more violent. The consensus of many of the prominent criminologists interviewed (including Margaret Zahn, Jody Miller, and Darrell Steffensmeier) is that violence among girls is not on the increase, despite media coverage that indicates that girls are going wild. The article cites the work of the Girls Study Group, a group assembled by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The Girls Study Group website is located at: <http://girlsstudygroup.rti.org/>, and has information that may be useful for researchers and instructors. The full Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article is available here: <http://www.pittsburghpostgazette.com/pg/07028/757491-84.stm>.

### Juvenile Attacks on the Homeless

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, the number of reported attacks on the homeless (many by juveniles) increased markedly over the last year, and 142 non-lethal attacks and 20 deaths were reported nationwide in 2006. (There are indications that the number of reported attacks is considerably less than the actual number of attacks taking place.) In some cases, the violence is filmed by the participants and the resulting videos are posted on the Internet. As a result, several states (including Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, and Texas) have begun to consider tougher penalties for these types of violent offenses. Most recently, Senate Bill 122 has been introduced in California to include homelessness as a status protected by the states hate crime laws (Contra Costa Times, March 25, 2007). The problem drew even more attention in late March of this year, when two 10-year-old boys were arrested along with a 17-year-old for beating a man in Daytona Beach, Florida. During the attack, one of the 10-year-olds dropped a cinder block on the mans face (Orlando Sentinel, March 29, 2007). The National Coalition for the Homeless Report, from February 2007, may be read here: <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/getinvolved/projects/hatecrimes/index.html>

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 e-mail Lori at [muccino.1@osu.edu](mailto:muccino.1@osu.edu). If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Lori your e-mail address. From The Director's Desk