

# Criminal Justice Research Center News

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**Volume 9 Issue 1  
Summer 2008**

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**This issue's feature:  
The Institute for Excellence in Justice**

**Building the bridge between academic research, policy development, and effective practice.**

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

Hello, everyone. I hope that your summer is going well. Things have been very busy at CJRC. During July 7-25, 2008, we held the third annual Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute (SRI). You may recall that the SRI is designed to promote successful research projects and careers among faculty from underrepresented groups. This year, we hosted eight young faculty from around the country: *Elsa Chen* (Santa Clara University), *Jacqueline Johnson* (Adelphi University), *Kecia Johnson* (University at Albany), *Christine Martin* (University of Illinois-Chicago), *Anthony Peguero* (Miami [Ohio] University), *Andres Rengifo* (University of Missouri-St. Louis), *Angela Taylor* (Fayetteville State University), and *Patricia Warren* (Florida State University). They worked diligently during the Institute to develop a paper for journal submission. In addition, they participated in workshops, and engaged in developing networks with one another, OSU faculty, and a large group of national crime and justice scholars. We were also fortunate this year that *Robert Kaufman* and *Patrice Dickerson* convened the Midwest's Alliance for Graduate Education for the Professoriate (AGEP) summer workshop at OSU. Thus, the SRI and AGEP were able to hold a couple of joint sessions. This gave SRI faculty an opportunity to share with graduate students lessons learned about the joys and challenges of transitioning from graduate student to faculty member. The SRI culminated in the sixth Annual Workshop of the Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network (RDCJN). This too was an excellent event. The papers presented were stimulating; the break-out discussions on potential collaborations were extra-ordinarily productive; and we had the **rare but welcome** opportunity to suggest ideas for future initiatives in crime and violence directly to National Science Foundation (NSF) program officers. These suggestions were made during a session facilitated by NSF program officers *Patricia White* (Sociology) and *Susan Haire* (Law and Social Sciences). During this session too both Drs. White and Haire expressed very positive evaluations of the SRI and other activities of the RDCJN.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the SRI faculty and their mentors, OSU faculty members: **Christopher Browning, David Jacobs, Robert Kaufman, Richard Lundman, Elizabeth Menaghan, Townsend Price-Spratlen, and Vincent Roscigno** for your success in moving the papers toward journal submission-readiness. Thanks are due to CJRC staff members (**Debbie Flower-Smith, Renee Amacher, Susan Pennington, and Derrick Bryan**) who assisted with the many, many logistical details involved in bringing these events to fruition. Thanks also go to a number of OSU units for providing financial and/or in-kind support for the activities, including: the *Colleges of the Arts and Sciences*, and *Social and Behavioral Sciences*; the Departments of *Speech and Hearing* and *Sociology*, the *School of Communication* and the *John Glenn School of Public Affairs*; and the *Initiative in Population Research, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, and Women s Place*. I lack adequate words to express my appreciation to **Jason Whitesel** (Graduate Research Associate for the project) for all that he did to bring the SRI and RDCJN Workshop to fruition. He worked tirelessly from September forward to make sure that all bases were covered. Further, his work continues as he is now attending to post-event details, and has already begun planning for next year. Unquestionably the good time that was had by all during the 2008 Institute and Workshop are owed in no small amount to Jason s able planning and attention to detail. All I can say Jason is **THANKS! THANKS! AND THANKS AGAIN!**

Looking forward to 2008-2009, we are in the process of contacting potential speakers for our monthly seminar series, the Excellence in Justice (IEJ) symposia, and the Reckless-Dinitz Lecture. Two dates for Autumn Quarter are firm. **Laurie Krivo** and **I** will be your opening act on September 26, 2008. We will present findings from an investigation that relies on our National Neighborhood Crime Study data. Next up, **Christopher Uggen** (University of Minnesota) will be the featured speaker for the first of our IEJ symposia. Chris will discuss early findings from his new Minnesota Exits and Entries Project. This project takes a comparative perspective on re-entry by focusing on how young adults fare once they leave a variety of institutional settings, including: foster care; mental health treatment; chemical health treatment; the armed forces; the juvenile justice system; county jail; and, the state prison system. So, please mark your calendars for these events, and keep your eyes peeled for announcements regarding speakers and dates for the remaining talks in our various speaker series.

**--Ruth**

## **WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING**

**Walter DeKeseredy (University of Ontario Institute of Technology)** has been appointed as a Community Research Associate with the University of Western Ontario's Center for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children.

Walter has published several entries in the new *Encyclopedia of Interpersonal Violence* published by Sage and edited by Claire Renzetti and Jeffrey L. Edleson. He also has a new article out entitled "Toward a Rural Critical Criminology," with coauthor Joseph F. Donnermeyer that will appear in *Southern Rural Sociology* (2008, Vol. 23, No. 2). This journal is the official journal of the Southern Rural Sociological Association.

**Dorian L. Wingard** (*Board Services & Government Affairs; Columbus City Schools*) was recently appointed to serve on the board of Columbus Area, Inc. He also is a current member of class XV of Leadership Ohio and a recent fellow of the African American Leadership Academy (AALA). The AALA, a joint project of the United Way of Central Ohio Key Club and the Academy for Leadership and Governance, is designed to expand and prepare African American leaders of tomorrow for leadership positions throughout central Ohio.

**Joshua Dressler** (*Moritz College of Law*) has joined the Law School Advisory Board for the American Casebook series of the Thomson Reuters Publishing Company.

**Raymond Montemayer** (*Psychology*) received the 2007-2008 Distinguished Teaching Award from the Department of Psychology.

**Katherine Federle** (*Moritz College of Law*) will be presenting "The Law and Psychology of Juvenile Offending: Neurological Realities and Public Policy Choices (working title)," at the National Conference of State Legislatures in Columbus, Ohio on September 11-12, 2008. She will also be presenting "The Rights of Children in Matters Involving Their Custody," at Complexities of GAL Practice, given by The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Guardian Ad Litem Project on August 11, 2008.

Kate also presented her work entitled "Family Law," at the Third Annual Conference of the National Association of Appellate Court Attorneys in Portland, Oregon on July 3, 2008.

**Angela Harvey** (*Sociology; OSU-Newark*) received a \$67,085 Investment for Impact Grant from OSU-Newark to conduct a qualitative study of competency to stand trial in two juvenile court jurisdictions in Ohio. Angela (with Deanna Wilkinson and Mark Davis) also received a \$20,000 collaborative seed grant from the Criminal Justice Research Center.

**Deanna Wilkinson** (*Human Development and Family Science*) received the SRA Young Investigator Award from the Society for Research on Adolescence. She is also working on two new research projects. The first is entitled "Building Capacity for Community and Youth Impact in Distressed Urban Neighborhoods" Doctoral student Anita Parker (Sociology) will be her research assistant and collaborator. The second project is entitled "Intervening with First-Time Gun Offenders and Gang-Involved Youth: A Pilot Study of Several Competing Intervention Strategies."

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

The next deadline for the ***Law and Social Science Program of the National Science Foundation*** is 8-15-08. This program supports social scientific studies of law and law-like systems of rules, institutions, processes, and behaviors. These can include, but are not limited to, research designed to enhance the scientific understanding of the impact of law; human behavior and interactions as these relate to law; the dynamics of legal decision making; and the nature, sources, and consequences of variations and changes in legal institutions. More information about this program is available at: [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5422&org=SES&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5422&org=SES&from=home)  
**Proposals are due 8-15-08.**

The **National Institute of Justice** offers a Graduate Research Fellowship Program which provides assistance to universities for dissertation research support. This program supports doctoral students pursuing research related to crime and Justice, specifically, students who have completed, or are near completion of, all doctoral degree requirements except the research, writing, and defense of a dissertation. **The next deadline is 11-21-08.** For more information please visit the following link: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/sl000836.pdf>.

The Criminal Justice grant program of the **JEHT Foundation** works to strengthen the voice for systemic criminal justice reform in the United States by:

- promoting equity and fairness in the criminal justice system for all people, with an emphasis on reducing discrimination and other practices that lead to racial and ethnic disproportionality in the system;
- reducing incarceration and recidivism in the U.S. prison system without risk to public safety; and
- redirecting savings from reduced incarceration and recidivism into programs serving at risk persons and former prisoners in communities impacted most by crime.

JEHT reviews grant request on an ongoing basis and makes funding decisions twice a year.

For more information got to: <http://www.jehtfoundation.org/criminaljustice/>

**This Issue's Feature:**  
**The Institute for Excellence in Justice**

*Building the bridge between academic research, policy development, and effective practice*

What is the role of families during the incarceration and reentry of a loved one? How can correctional practitioners assist families as they cope with the incarceration of a loved one? How can practitioners use research to improve correctional practice and policy development? How do we provide effective rehabilitative and reentry services to sex offenders while limiting their resources as dictated by registration, notification and housing laws? Does religion have a role in crime prevention? Questions like these and others have been answered by researchers across the country, but yet, how can practitioners and policy developers translate the research into something they can use? The Institute for Excellence in Justice is the conduit to assist practitioners and policy developers in this endeavor.

Housed within the CJRC, the Institute for Excellence in Justice (IEJ) was established in the spring of 2006 as a collaborative partnership between the CJRC and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC). The primary focus is on the impact and interrelations among justice systems' processes, corrections, and communities. By combining the research power of the CJRC with the expertise of the DRC, the IEJ works with criminal justice practitioners to identify and disseminate knowledge pertinent to the development and implementation of sound policies and practices. The IEJ also works with the academic community to identify gaps in research that can be translated into a best practices blueprint for practitioners. These activities help to ensure that programming, decision making and policy implementation are aligned with what research concludes are best practices, thereby, increasing the effectiveness in serving the academic research community, policy developers, and the implementation community.

The IEJ: sponsors seminars and symposia; offers consultation to researchers, policymakers, and practitioners; develops best practices tool-kits to highlight best practices and lessons learned surrounding specific criminology topics; and, maintains an interactive web page. Future goals include developing and pursuing an active research agenda (including the submission of grants) to address gaps in knowledge.

Current activities of the IEJ are the quarterly seminars, conferences and the best practices tool-kits. There are two seminars each academic year, and they are designed to facilitate dialogue among researchers, practitioners and policy makers by featuring a keynote address followed by comments from a combination of other researchers and practitioners. During the 2007-2008 academic year, Dr. Alan Murray, Professor of Geography at OSU, presented his research exploring spatial analysis issues associated with residential laws in select Ohio municipalities governing where sex offenders may reside. Comments were provided by David Berenson (Director of Sex Offender Services, DRC), Kate Federle (Professor of Law, OSU) and Richard Tewksbury (Professor of Justice Administration, University of Louisville). On June 6, Dr. Creasie Finney-Hairston, Professor and Dean of the Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois-Chicago presented research examining the role of family in the lives of the incarcerated and in reentry. Comments were provided by Kim Hettel (Family Reentry Project Manager, Ohio Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives); Steve Gavazzi (Professor, College of Education and Human Development, OSU); and, Rachael Woldoff (Assistant Professor, Division of Sociology and Anthropology, West Virginia University).

The conferences are held once a year and consist of various keynote addresses, panel discussions and other presentations. This year, over 170 persons attended the *Community Corrections: Ensuring Results through Evidence-Based Practices* symposium and over 20 organizations set up resource tables and information booths at the symposium. Held on February 22, 2008, the symposium facilitated exchange of information among/regarding researchers, community corrections officials, correctional programming and practices, and lessons learned from those who have successfully instituted evidence-based practices.

Please visit the IEJ website or browse OSU's Knowledge Bank to: download a brochure; learn more about the IEJ and upcoming events; and view proceedings from the seminars and symposia, including videos, PowerPoint presentations, discussant comments, handouts and the best practices tool-kits. The address for IEJ and Knowledge Bank addresses respectively are: <http://www.drc.state.oh.us/web/iej.htm>; and <https://kb.osu.edu/dspace/handle/1811/6565>.

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**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 Derrick Bryan at [bryan.127@osu.edu](mailto:bryan.127@osu.edu). If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Derrick your e-mail address.**