



Criminal Justice Research Center News



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Volume 14, Issue 1
February 2013

Featured Article: A Conversation with Deanna Wilkinson

From the Director's Desk



Hi, everyone. Happy February!
We are looking forward to the rest of the academic year, as we have plenty of exciting activities and opportunities planned at CJRC.

Our first speaker this semester was OSU sociologist Dave Jacobs, who gave an engaging presentation on the [effects that race and economic inequality have on levels of police force strength](#). The talk was very well-attended and we appreciated the enthusiasm of Dr. Jacobs and our audience members. The remainder of our speaking line-up this academic year is fabulous as well.

Please note that our previously scheduled Institute for Excellence in Justice event with Professor [David Kennedy](#) for February 7th has been cancelled due to a family emergency. We hope to reschedule with David and host him at CJRC in the near future. We'll keep you up to date on this matter.

Dr. [Yasser Payne](#) (Associate Professor of Black American Studies - The University of Delaware) will be here on March 7th, sharing his ethnographic research on connections between structural opportunity and the presence of physical violence in Wilmington, Delaware (see page 2). Last but certainly not least, [Catherine Gallagher](#) (Professor of Criminology, Law and Society - George Mason University) will be our featured speaker at the 24th Annual Reckless-Dinitz Memorial Lecture on April 18th. Dr. Gallagher will be discussing her research on policy and health outcomes for delinquent youths.

We are also pleased to announce that we will soon hold a call for proposals for CJRC Faculty Seed Grants. These grants will fund OSU faculty research which holds the promise of becoming a larger, externally funded project, or will support proposal preparation to be targeted at an external funding source. We will give priority to work which is collaborative and interdisciplinary.

Proposals will be due on April 27th, and we will be releasing further details on the application process at the beginning of March - stay tuned!

In other news, our CJRC Undergraduate Internship Program continues to grow. We recently partnered with the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), a division of the Ohio Office of Public Safety, to place a research intern with their Policy and Research Division. Currently we're searching for a talented student to fill this role. Dr. Lisa Shoaf and Gina Recinella of OCJS have been wonderful in helping facilitate this process.

Please read on. This issue features two interesting pieces on our speakers' series by our newsletter undergrad intern, Alexis Preskar, as well as a feature piece by Amanda Kennedy on Deanna Wilkinson.

Here's to a happy and productive remainder of the spring semester!

--- Dana

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Upcoming Event

Dr. Yasser Payne

The People's Report: Understanding how Structural Violence is Linked to Crime in Wilmington, Delaware

March 7, 2013 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Journalism Building, Room 217



Dr. Yasser Payne

Abstract of the Lecture:

This presentation is a street ethnographic study that examines the relationship between structural opportunity (employment & educational status) and physical violence in Wilmington, Delaware. This study ultimately calls attentions to implementing participatory action research (PAR) designs as way to reach, organize and provide quality educational and employment opportunities to street-life identified Black populations, inside local communities. Full research opportunities equip PAR members with a core set of reading, writing, analytic and organizing skill sets—which make it much more easier to employ and enroll them into college or transition those from the streets into upwardly mobile opportunities. Fifteen community residents (21-46) formerly involved with the criminal justice system were trained as participatory action researchers for this project. PAR members were exposed to a rigorous two-month research methods training which focused on survey design, interviewing skills, field observation techniques, data collection strategies, data analysis, writing up data, making formal presentations as well as socio-political organizing. Data was collected from street identified Black men and women through the following methods: (a) 520 community survey packets; (b) 26 individual interviews; (c) 3 dual interviews; (d) 4 group interviews; and (e) extensive field observations. In addition, exploratory qualitative and quantitative data that will be focused on during the presentation include:

(1) acquisition of a street identity/'why go to the streets?'; (2) attitudes/experiences with employment; (3) attitudes/experiences with educational opportunity; (4) psychological & social well-being; and (5) experiences with physical violence. Findings strongly suggest structural opportunity is predictive of physical violence. Participants, by-in large report being directly and indirectly exposed to experiences of physical violence in the form of: (1) physical assaults; (2) knifings; (3) shootings; and (4) homicide—to more structural forms of violence like: (1) unemployment; (2) poor schooling opportunities; (3) unhealthy living conditions; or (4) "failing" or "corrupt" civic and political leadership. Also, in spite of participant's experiences with structural and physical violence, participants were generally found to demonstrate positively high levels of: (1) psychological well-being; (2) social well-being; (3) attitudes toward education; and (4) attitudes toward employment. That is, while community residents are overwhelmed with physical violence as well as blocked opportunity, these data strongly suggest these participants love themselves, love their communities and families, want to work, and want quality educational opportunities.

Biography of the Speaker:

Yasser A. Payne is an Associate Professor in the Department of Black American Studies at the University of Delaware. Dr. Payne completed his doctoral work at the Graduate Center-City University of New York where he was trained as a social-personality psychologist. Aside from *The Wilmington Street PAR Project* upon which this lecture is based, Dr. Payne is also completing a video street ethnographic project in Harlem, NYC entitled: *The Streets of Harlem: How Black Men in The Streets Adapt to Structural Violence*. This independent film project explores the lived experiences of street life oriented black men, across generations, in Harlem NYC. Furthermore, Dr. Payne has published in a number of peer-reviewed journals which include: *Teachers College Record*, *Culture Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, *Journal of Black Psychology*, *Journal of Social Issues* and the *International Journal of Critical Psychology*. Dr. Payne has also worked on several book chapters looking at notions of resiliency, racial identity, urban education, Hip-Hop and participatory action research as well as co-authored a book publication entitled: *Echoes of Brown: Youth Documenting and Performing the Legacy of Brown V Board of Education* (Teachers College Press, 2004).

A Discussion with Darrell Steffensmeier

by Alexis Preskar, CJRC Undergraduate Intern

The CJRC was pleased to have Dr. Darrell Steffensmeier (Professor of Sociology and Crime, Law and Justice at Penn State) speak last October, with a talk entitled "[Gender and 21st Century Corporate Crime: Female Involvement and Gender Gap in Enron-Era Corporate Financial Frauds.](#)" After his presentation, I had a great conversation with Dr. Steffensmeier.

He never took a sociology class before applying to the graduate program in sociology at the University of Iowa. In fact, he had several majors and minors as an undergraduate. His interests ranged from history to philosophy, chemistry to education, with political science and other classes thrown in for good measure. "Some said I probably took about most of the courses they had - that's not true but I took a lot," Dr. Steffensmeier said.

His variety of interests is also reflected in his contemporary work. Dr. Steffensmeier has published several books and has been cited numerous times, ranging in topics from the roles of age, gender, and ethnicity in crime to organized crime. Often he said he finds overlaps in areas of his research, such as institutional sexism and racism in both the corporate world and in organized crime. Steffensmeier's interest in gender roles in crime started with his dissertation research, in which he staged shoplifting incidents and tried to determine if the gender or appearance changed whether or not the shoplifter was reported. He was so passionate about observing gender issues in crime he insisted it become part of the research of the Pennsylvania Crime Commission before he took the position of project director for 1990. While others thought women had no role in crime, he found the data to prove them wrong.

In looking at old police reports, he noticed many thieves would say that they would not work with women because they became too emotional, or weren't trustworthy. He also observed how within the criminal justice system, managers were reluctant to hire women and they had a low likelihood of attaining higher ranks. He found this sentiment echoed in the world of crime. "In the underworld, there's a reluctance to recruit women," Dr. Steffensmeier said. This sexism was one of the similarities he noticed between the underworld and corporate world.

Dr. Steffensmeier also noted that men and women often commit crimes for the same reasons, such as economic gain or revenge. However, men's involvement in crime is greater, and this tends to increase as the crime becomes more serious or organized. Men are also more likely to engage in more lucrative and more physically dangerous crimes. Women are more likely to work in a small group. Dr. Steffensmeier said one commonality between the sexes is trying to glean the most profit with the least effort.



Dr. Darrell Steffensmeier

Over the years he said he has used a variety of research approaches, but his preference is to use multiple methods to gain the most insight into any particular issue. His dissertation work used both qualitative and quantitative techniques, but he definitely has a favorite. "There's nothing that I enjoy more than doing good qualitative research," he said. Despite his passion for the field, Dr. Steffensmeier didn't become inspired to pursue sociology until he read *The Lonely Crowd* by David Riesman, Nathan Glazer and Reuel Denney, a book now considered an important look at the American character. He had considered many options after graduation: the Peace Corps, law school, or graduate school in history or philosophy, but decided against all of them. He truly enjoyed the perspective of sociology.

When he got to Iowa he had to take a few courses in sociology to learn what basic terms like "reference group" meant. Dr. Steffensmeier said when he first arrived in Iowa he was totally lost in his classes, but as he grew more comfortable he began to love the subject even more. His love of sociology remains as he continues to research different areas of the field, and the subject still resonates with him. He said, "I think it's the most useful, interesting perspective with which to view the world."

CJRC Graduate Student Research Symposium: A Talk with Aubrey Jackson and Chris Keenan

by Alexis Preskar, CJRC Undergraduate Intern



Aubrey Jackson

on research.” said Aubrey Jackson.

The symposium featured six OSU graduate student speakers, with topics ranging from the cultural effects on gun ownership to how residential proximity affects friendships. (For more information on the event and its presenters, please click [here](#).) While all of the presentations were interesting, I sat down to speak with two of the presenters regarding their work – Aubrey Jackson and Chris Keenan, both Ph.D. students in sociology.

Jackson presented her research on the influence of successful women on their neighborhoods. She has found that when women do well in a neighborhood, intimate partner violence decreases for all women in that neighborhood.

Jackson has a passion for criminal justice, but decided not to become a lawyer after she worked as a paralegal clerk. “I was still interested in the law, the reasons why the law is the way it is, and the influences it has on different populations, so I decided sociology was a good way to think about that,” she said. Jackson decided to combine her interest in violence against women and the effect of neighborhoods for her dissertation. One issue that intrigued her is how in many ways women are like a minority group. However, unlike many racial or ethnic minorities, women are not segregated.

One point of contention in her work is the definition of a neighborhood. Jackson used data from Chicago, which distinguished neighborhood clusters by census tracts. “One downside is this may not line up with what people actually think of as their neighborhood,” she said. The benefit is these clusters are socio-economically and racially homogenous.

While their projects may have been time-consuming and sometimes frustrating, the graduate students who presented their research at the CJRC Graduate Student Symposium on November 8th were happy to share their work. “It’s always a little nerve-racking to present for people you know. But I think it’s really important to get feedback

Another point she observed in her research is how women are doing financially relative to men doesn’t seem to have an effect at the neighborhood level. She found this surprising since these relative resources have been seen as noteworthy at the city and state level. Also, there are concerns



Chris Keenan

when factors such as neighborhood interaction are taken into account. She said some research shows that even controlling for these additional aspects women’s participation in the workforce is still seen as beneficial. She is hoping to research other locations and the neighborhood’s effect on whether women report victimization in the future.

Chris Keenan’s research focuses on the importance of peer’s adolescent sexual behavior. He and research partner Nathan Doogan, a doctoral student in Social Work at OSU, wanted to determine whether teens choose their friends because they want to emulate their sexual behavior, or if it’s based off of perceived similarity.

Keenan didn’t start off wanting to become a sociologist. “Originally I was going to go into business but I realized I was doing that more so because people were telling me to do it,” he said. He decided to pursue sociology after discovering it as an undergraduate. “I realized if I really enjoy it I should continue and it will blossom into what it’s going to be,” he said. While he appreciates topics ranging from communities to incarceration, he has always been curious about adolescent behaviors and he believes friendships play an important role in teens’ choices. Keenan and Doogan used data which took measurements of adolescents’ friendships at two time points and compared them. “Using that information, we can determine how friends contribute to decisions of how to behave,” Keenan said.

Part of their findings show students are more likely to act similarly to their peers when they’re younger, but start to lose influence as age increases. This is due to social bonds such as jobs and significant others which start to play a bigger role as teens mature. They were also surprised to find that females were equally susceptible to friend’s influence, which contradicts previous ideas that females were more likely to mirror their friend’s actions.

Now that the project is wrapped up, Keenan’s excited to share it. “It’s more fun to actually talk to people about it, and hopefully they’re interested, than just sitting at your computer and writing about it,” he said. He recently completed a project on adolescent delinquency, which has connections to this research. Keenan is also currently working on his dissertation focusing on prisoner re-entry, which he hopes to have completed in the next two years.

What Center Participants are Doing



Walter DeKeseredy (Professor, Criminology – University of Ontario Institute of Technology) has two forthcoming publications to report:

DeKeseredy, W.S., & Rennison, C.M. (in press). "Variations in Characteristics of Female Victims of Male Perpetrated Separation/Divorce Assault Across Geographical Regions: Results from the National Crime Victimization Survey." *International Journal for Crime and Justice*.

Foreword to Aysan Sev'er's *Honourless Killings: Honour-Based Cultures, Patriarchal Murders of Women in Turkey and in the West*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Reiner Publishing, 2013.

In addition, Dr. DeKeseredy gave the following presentations at the American Society of Criminology Meetings in November, 2012 in Chicago: "Variations in Predictors of Male-to-Female Separation/Divorce Assault Across Geographical Regions: Results from the National Crime Victimization Survey" (with Callie M. Rennison); and "Mad Men in Bib Overalls: Media's Horrification and Pornification of Rural Culture" (with Stephen L. Muzzatti and Joseph F. Donnermeyer).

Joshua Dressler (Professor, Moritz College of Law – OSU) had new editions of his two law school criminal justice casebooks, and his criminal law treatise, published in the last three months of 2012. He is currently a Visiting Professor at the University of Texas School of Law during the Spring semester. He remains a faculty editor of the *Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law*, the only peer-edited criminal law law-school journal in the United States. The journal is finishing its first decade of publication and is now ranked first or second among all criminal justice law journals in the USA or UK.



Laurie Krivo (Professor, Sociology – Rutgers) received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Division on People of Color and Crime at the American Society of Criminology Meetings in November 2012.

David Maimon (Assistant Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice – University of Maryland; OSU Sociology Ph.D. alumnus) was featured in the [Fall 2012 issue of TERP Magazine](#) for his research with Michael Cukier, a computer engineer who studies cybersecurity. Their work examines the online criminal behavior of hackers, with the ultimate goal being to deter online thievery by creating more sound computing security measures.



James Moore II (Associate Professor, Education-Physical Activity and Educational Services – OSU) was awarded the Black Man Can Award for Higher Education. The award celebrates positive black male image.

Townsend Price-Spratlen (Associate Professor, Sociology – OSU) was interviewed on January 4th for his newly published book (co-authored with William Goldsby), [Reconstructing Rage: Transformative Reentry in the Era of Mass Incarceration](#) (Peter Lang Publisher Inc., 2012), on New York City's WBAI (99.5-FM, Pacifica Radio) on the "Jordan Journal" news program, hosted by Howard Jordan.



Andres Rengifo (Assistant Professor, School of Criminal Justice – Rutgers), a 2008 alumnus of CJRC's Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute, received the New Scholar Award from the Division on People of Color and Crime at the American Society of Criminology Meetings in November 2012.

Deanna Wilkinson (Associate Professor, Human Sciences – OSU) is now Associate Chair for Outreach and Engagement in the Department of Human Sciences at OSU. In addition, Dr. Wilkinson won the Julius Debro Award for Service from the Division on People of Color and Crime at the American Society of Criminology Meetings in November 2012. Dr. Wilkinson was awarded this honor for outstanding contributions in her community work to reduce neighborhood violence.





Marjorie Zatz (Professor, Justice and Social Inquiry - Arizona State; Program Director, Law and Sciences Program at the National Science Foundation), a CJRC Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network (RDCJN) affiliate, was awarded the Coramae Richey Mann Award for Scholarship

from the Division on People of Color and Crime at the American Society of Criminology Meetings in November 2012.

Opportunities, Calls for Papers, and Conferences

Call for applications: The Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program in Race, Ethnicity, and the Demography of Crime and Punishment -

The Population Research Center at The University of Texas at Austin, in collaboration with the Department of Sociology, is hosting the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program in Race, Ethnicity, and the Demography of Crime and Punishment for the summer of 2013. This eight-week National Science Foundation-funded summer program offers eight very selective upper-division undergraduate students the opportunity to study social demography through course work and a mentored research experience with senior PRC graduate students. The program pays for tuition, room and board, and computer expenses. REU students also receive a \$4,000 stipend for participation in the program. Students work on research projects with their graduate student mentor and under the overall guidance of the faculty co-directors, David Kirk and Keith Robinson. Student papers are then presented at the fall meeting of the American Society of Criminology. This program is specifically geared toward students with junior standing who are seriously thinking about attending graduate school in the social sciences and, particularly, in sociology or demography. **The 2013 summer REU Program application deadline is February 28, 2013.** Click [here](#) for details about the REU program and the program application, as well as information about other research and training programs of the UT Population Research Center.

Call for applications: Graduate Fellowships for Ethnic Minorities - These fellowships are designed to encourage students of color to enter the field of criminology and criminal justice. The recipients of fellowships must be accepted into a program of doctoral studies in criminal justice, criminology, or a related program. A complete application must include proof of doctoral admission, a current CV, indication

of race or ethnicity, copies of undergraduate and graduate transcripts, a statement of need and prospects for financial assistance for graduate study, a letter describing career plans, salient experiences, and nature of interest in criminology and criminal justice, and three letters of reference. Generally three \$6,000 fellowships are awarded each year. **All items should be submitted in electronic format by March 1, 2013** to Dr. Geoff Ward at gward@uci.edu.

Call for papers for a *Feminist Criminology Special Issue: 30th Anniversary of the Division on Women & Crime* - In November 2014 the American Society of Criminology's Division on Women & Crime will be celebrating its 30th anniversary. In honor of this milestone event, the Division's official journal, *Feminist Criminology*, is soliciting papers for a special issue commemorating the DWC's 30th anniversary. Papers for this issue will be divided into three categories but will have one unifying theme: an assessment of the "state of the discipline" for feminist criminology. All papers submitted, regardless of category, should be anchored in an analysis of current best practices for feminist criminology. The three categories include: *Feminist criminological theorizing, Feminist criminological methodology, and Feminist criminological praxis*. The guest editors for this special issue are Susan Sharp and Amanda Burgess-Proctor. Empirical analyses are preferred, but theoretical essays also may be submitted for consideration. **The deadline for submission is Friday, April 19th, 2013.** The special issue will be published in November 2014 to coincide with the ASC Annual Meeting. Any manuscripts not selected for publication in the special issue will automatically be submitted for review to *Feminist Criminology*. Manuscripts should be submitted electronically [here](#). Complete manuscript submission guidelines are available [here](#). Please direct questions to Susan Sharp at ssharp@ou.edu or Amanda Burgess-Proctor at burgessp@oakland.edu.

Call for submissions: Special Issue of *Fast Capitalism and Edited Book: Guns, Violence, and the Public Sphere* - In this special issue (FC10.1) devoted to a discussion of gun violence and the public sphere, authors could consider rates of gun violence, initiatives for gun control, risks associated with gun ownership, international and intercultural variations in firearms ownership, issues of masculinity and femininity tied to violence, media coverage of violent crimes, the characteristics of mass shootings in schools, malls, restaurants or other public places, and a host of related issues. They are open to all methodological approaches, and welcome work in both the social sciences and cultural studies. Articles will be of typical journal/book chapter length. They can also publish multimedia presentations inasmuch as 'Fast Capitalism' is an

electronic journal (found at www.fastcapitalism.com). **The deadline for submission is May 1, 2013.** Please send papers to agger@uta.edu. Please format papers according to our style guide found at the web site. They also hope to publish the special issue as a bound book, much as they did with their treatment of Virginia Tech ("There is a Gunman on Campus"). Discussions about this are underway with a publisher.

Call for applications for Associate Editor of The Criminologist – The Associate Editor will work under the guidance of the ASC Vice President, who is Editor of *The Criminologist*. The Associate Editor's responsibilities will include arranging for the publication of interviews with prominent criminologists; descriptions of criminology programs, research organizations, policy centers, or government agencies; and articles on new data sources in criminology, such as surveys and web sites. The Associate Editor will edit the Obituary page, compile international news for the Criminology around the World section, and explore possibilities for book reviews and other enhancements. The Associate Editor will work with the ASC Vice-President, Executive Committee, Publications Committee and others to generate ideas for these articles; and the Associate Editor will ensure that the articles are submitted in a timely manner and suitable form. The Associate Editor must be a member in good standing of the ASC, will serve a three year term, beginning in November of 2013, and will receive a stipend of \$3500 each year to support their work (e.g., travel to meetings, computer equipment, student assistants). **Applicants should send a letter of interest and a CV by May 31, 2013 to Carolyn Rebecca Block at crblock@rcn.com.**

The American Bar Association Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence is now accepting submissions for the Tenth Annual Law Student Writing Competition – Submissions must address the legal needs of victims of domestic violence or domestic violence victims and their children, or advance efforts to address the incidence, causes and effects of intimate partner violence. Submissions may be no longer than 7500 words (typically 20-25 pages), including footnotes and other text but excluding author identifying information, and must be double-spaced with one-inch margins. Any paper exceeding the 7500 word limit WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. Students are free to submit papers of shorter length as they are most concerned with quality and originality. **The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2013.** Please click [here](#) for more details.

Behavioral Sciences and Law invites submissions for a forthcoming special issue on Measuring and Interpreting the Predictive Validity of Violence Risk Assessment – This special issue aims to provide a comprehensive and accessible resource for researchers, clinicians, and policymakers interested in the measurement of predictive validity or the use of such findings in clinical or legal practice. They invite empirical and conceptual papers on the measurement of predictive validity as it relates to violence risk assessment. In addition, papers focusing on the implications of the measurement of predictive validity for public protection and individual liberty are also welcome, as are legal perspectives on these issues. Papers should be no longer than 35 pages, inclusive of all tables, figures and references. References should be in American Psychological Association style. **The deadline for submissions is July 1, 2012.** Please send two electronic copies of the submission, one blinded for peer review, to John Petrila, J.D., LL.M., University of South Florida (petrila@usf.edu) or Jay P. Singh, Ph.D., University of South Florida (jaysingh@usf.edu), the guest editor for this issue.

~Featured Article~

A Conversation with Deanna Wilkinson

by Amanda Kennedy

Last month I had the opportunity to speak with Deanna Wilkinson, a CJRC affiliate and an Associate Professor of Human Sciences at OSU. We discussed what led Deanna to her profession, her research interests, and the connections between her research and her community work.

As an undergraduate majoring in sociology at Cornell College in Iowa, one of Deanna's main goals was to understand the underlying reasons for her difficult family background as a girl growing up in rural Illinois. "I was raised in poverty. We were on public assistance. There was a lot of violence, alcoholism, and mental illness in my childhood home," she candidly shared. Deanna initially intended to become a public defender, and aid in finding safe placements for children away from dangerous home environments. She did an internship in the juvenile court of Cook County, and worked for two public defense attorneys who served the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago. While she greatly admired the attorneys' dedication to their line of work, she observed that their ardent efforts often made little substantial difference for the families they served. Deanna also participated in an urban studies immersion program for one semester in Chicago, where she took courses taught by influential figures from the Civil

Rights Movement. She was inspired by their roles as passionate agents of larger-scale social change.

With her rural origins and her newfound exposure to urban environments, Deanna became fascinated with the concept of community and what it meant. "As a sociology student, the rural community was often idealized as a peaceful, utopic place to grow up, which wasn't wholly accurate. And in my urban studies experience, I learned about the different neighborhoods, understanding diversity, and confronting race and class issues," she explained. Deanna became increasingly involved in research and learned as a master's student in Criminal Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago that "research could help people, it was interesting, and I had a talent for it." Because of her prowess, Deanna went on to earn her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice at Rutgers under the supervision of Jeffrey Fagan. And after seven years as a faculty member at Temple University, Deanna came to Ohio State in 2006.

Deanna's love of both research and catalyzing social change has helped define her career as a professor. "While getting tenure is very important, it's also important to carve your own path as an academic. My involvement in the community is crucial to my happiness in the field. Keeping the balance between university and community commitments is an ongoing effort," she stated. Deanna is striking the balance well. In terms of her service to the academy, 2012 was a busy year. Deanna was appointed Associate Chair for Outreach and Engagement in the her home department, and she was awarded the College of Education and Human Ecology Dean's Distinguished University Enhancement Award.

When it comes to her scholarly work, a major intent of Deanna's research is to inform programs and practices which address violence prevention and reduction. The bulk of her publications are on issues regarding violence in the urban setting, particularly for high-risk youth, including aspects of policing, incarceration, and the intergenerational cycle of violence. "Much of my academic work helps to contextualize and understand what the dynamics are for young men deeply caught up in violence," she explained. This body of research has gained national attention; her work on [The New York City Youth Violence Study](#) (2009) shed empirical light on the decision-making processes of gun offenders and was used in the development of gun violence prevention programs across the country. Deanna also feels it is very important to disseminate research findings to the public as much as possible. As a result, she founded the [Community Safety Institute Knowledge Center](#), an online resource serving primarily Columbus individuals and agencies, which offers up-to-date information on anti-violence resources and reviews of current research findings.

In terms of her community work, Deanna collaborates with various partners in the city of Columbus to confront neighborhood violence. "A lot of the work that I've done locally is to engage different practitioners in a conversation about what the needs are of high-risk individuals. People need to be reminded of the larger structural issues that cause violence to cycle across generations and within certain communities," Deanna explained. She

established the Youth Violence Prevention Advisory Board in 2007, a consortium of individuals from the academy, law enforcement, the faith community, and non-profit service organizations. The group sponsors yearly summits on youth violence, and in 2010 helped establish CeaseFire Columbus, of which Deanna is the director. CeaseFire Columbus is fashioned largely after CeaseFire Chicago, an organization based on a public health behavioral change model. The long term goals of that model are to transform social norms surrounding violence within a community, and to reduce the transmission of violence from one person to the next. The program mobilizes neighborhood residents, recruits participation from the faith and law enforcement communities, utilizes empirical research to create educational programming, and employs "interrupters," or street-level outreach workers that intervene when violence is percolating between individuals in the target neighborhood. Columbus CeaseFire's focus community is the "Southside," located in the 43206 zip code. "Our work is trying to change the norms in the community. We try to show them how you can stop that spread of violence by giving strategies, by calming emotions, by showing alternatives," Deanna explained.

While the local chapter is not completely operational in terms of staff and funding yet, a number of efforts have already been implemented. There is a strong amount of "buy-in" from the faith community in the neighborhood; the consortium group Ministries for the Movement and the Family Missionary Baptist Church distribute violence prevention information, and Family Missionary is the meeting point for CeaseFire-sponsored monthly "Healing Marches." To address some of the needs in the area, the OSU research team, in collaboration with their community partners, released a comprehensive



Dr. Wilkinson with Ameena Matthews of Chicago CeaseFire at the Division on People of Color and Crime Awards Luncheon in November 2012

community resource guide in 2012 for residents of the neighborhood. "So many of the young men that we work with are so isolated away from resources. They're marginalized. Retaliatory cycles of violence go back and forth, and they unfold across generations," Deanna stated. It seems that the community efforts are having a positive effect. Significantly, there were no homicides in the target community's 63-block radius in 2012. "We are sending out strong messages to the community regarding violence," Deanna stated. "Residents are speaking out and saying, 'Not here. Not on this block.'"

In November 2012, Deanna's community work was honored with the Julius Debro Award for Service from the American Society of Criminology Division on People of Color and Crime.

Deanna extends her deepest gratitude for the invaluable contributions of her community partners to Columbus CeaseFire's efforts, and to the students who have contributed their time and energy to the OSU Research Team working on these important efforts.

Thanks to Drs. Darrell Steffensmeier and Deanna Wilkinson, and Aubrey Jackson and Chris Keenan for sharing their valuable time and insights, and to all of you who sent 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 [Amanda Kennedy](#). If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Amanda your e-mail address.