

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

As promised, Victor Streib's February 16, 2001 talk on juveniles and the death penalty was enlightening, and thought-provoking. Apart from updating us with the facts about juvenile offenders sentenced to death and executed, much was learned about the actual viewpoints of youth on death row. A particularly interesting part of the discussion focused on the ambivalent feelings that are generated for these youth when their attorneys are successful in moving them from death row to life imprisonment. Also, for the "would-be-activist" among us, Vic shared some of his views on the problems and prospects of balancing research, and actively defending clients who are faced with a death sentence. For example, he noted that as a researcher, one must fully disclose the data even when they do not appear consistent with policies for which one is advocating--in this case abolition of the death penalty for youth.

If you missed Vic's talk, we can reproduce a handout that he made available for the seminar; you may also attend the upcoming OSU College of Law conference on capital punishment," where Vic will be a presenter (see below). In addition, Vic has an article, "Emerging issues in Juvenile Death Penalty Law," that was recently published in the Ohio Northern University Law Review (ONULR, Volume 26). This symposium issue of the ONULR includes a number of articles that collectively take "A Multifarious Look at Capital Punishment."

Along different lines, there is a bit of news on the administrative front. First, in case you have been wondering about the status of our web page, it is being updated as we speak. I am optimistic that soon we will have a new, improved, and friendlier version. Thanks Beckett Broh for your work on our behalf. Second, along with the Directors of the other three university policy initiatives, I recently reported to and met with the Policy Initiatives Oversight Committee. While our report was well-received, a strong emphasis was placed on the need for all the initiatives to be sure that their programming is interdisciplinary across departments and colleges. Therefore, I would appreciate any suggestions that you have for ensuring that our projects are interdepartmental and inter-college.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST**

March Symposium:

Friday and Saturday, March 30th-31st  
at the Ohio State University College of Law.

The symposium "Addressing Capital Punishment Through Statutory Reform" will bring together a number of prominent law and social science professors, legislators, and attorneys to discuss the problems said to be plaguing the current system of capital punishment, and to assess the value of and possibilities for legislative reform of the modern administration of the death penalty. It will feature panels on such topics as:

1) devising legislative solutions to problems of racial inequities and other disparities in the administration of the death penalty; and

2) legislative reforms to the process of capital punishment: inadequate defense counsel, death row appeals, and innocents on death row.

Ohio State participants may attend all panels free of charge; however, registration is recommended in order to reserve a seat. Materials, refreshments, and lunches are available for a small fee. Ohio State participants must pay a fee ONLY if they wish to receive written symposium materials, refreshments during breaks, and informal lunches. Registration information is available at the following website: <http://www.law.ohio-state.edu/LawJournal/dpsymposium.html>

April Event:

Tuesday, April 24th.

Mark your calendars for the Walter Reckless Memorial Lecture to be held on Tuesday evening, April 24th, at the Faculty Club. This year's Reckless lecture features Wesley Skogan, Professor of Political Science and Faculty Fellow at the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University. Professor Skogan is author of several books including *Disorder and Decline: Crime and the Spiral of Decay in American Cities* (Free Press, 1990); *Community Policing, Chicago Style* with Susan Hartnett (Oxford University Press, 1997); and *On the Beat: Police and Community Problem Solving* with Susan M. Hartnett, Jill DuBois, Jennifer T. Comey, Marianne Kaiser and Justine H. Lovig (Westview Publishing Co., 1999). Dr. Skogan's Reckless lecture will focus on the dilemmas of community policing. We are also pleased that Domingo Herraiz, Director of the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, will provide comments on Professor Skogan's talk.

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

A paper by David Jacobs and Jason Carmichael, "The Politics of Punishment Across Time and Space: A Pooled Time-Series Analysis of Imprisonment Rates", was accepted for publication in *Social Forces*.

On Monday, April 30th, CJRC participants will be taking part in two panels at the fifth Ohio Criminal Justice Research Conference. The first panel will examine contemporary issues in policing and features papers by Seth Feinberg, Dr. Bill Ackerman, Kent Shafer, Jeremy Wilson, and Dr. Joseph Donnermeyer. The second panel will investigate issues of community context and race in violence research; it highlights research by Dr. Richard Lundman, Dr. Christopher Browning, María B. Vélez, Dr. Lauren J. Krivo, and Dr. Ruth D. Peterson. The time and location of these panels will be announced in a future newsletter.

Lisa Cravens-Brown is currently co-facilitating (with Dr. Leslie Rudy, Psychology) a series of brown bags on the phenomenon of juvenile sex offenders for the St. Vincent Family Center. These brown-bags are held for the Center's clinicians and administrators as a forum for staff to be informed about the current state of research on juvenile sex offenders and programs.

### **FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Directives and applications are now available for the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program. The deadline for grant submissions is April 9, 2001. The current solicitation may be obtained either by

1) downloading the application materials from the website of the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS):

<http://www.ocjs.state.oh.us/Grants/>

2) or by requesting hard copies of the application. To do so, please call the Byrne Coordinator, Venita Butler-O'Bannon at (614) 466-0352.

Please note that this Program is a matching grants program which means that grant seekers must provide at least 25% of the total project cost.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

Critical Criminology requests quality manuscripts pertaining to critical criminology in all its manifestations, including critical legal studies and social justice issues. For more information please go to their website:

<http://www.paulsjusticepage.com/critical-crim-journal.htm>

In addition, the journals of Criminal Justice Review and the International Criminal Justice Review are calling for papers. The Criminal Justice Review is a biannual scholarly journal dedicated to presenting a broad perspective on criminal justice issues in the U.S. For more information, please check out their website: <http://www.gsu.edu/~wwwcjr/>. The International Criminal Justice Review is an annual scholarly journal dedicated to presenting system wide trends and problems on crime and justice throughout the world. For further information, please go to their website: <http://www.gsu.edu/~wwwicj/>.

## **FEATURED FACULTY PARTICIPANT**

Professor Rudolph Alexander, Jr.  
Professor of Social Work  
College of Social Work  
The Ohio State University

Dr. Rudolph 'Rudy' Alexander is a professor and Director of the Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) Program in the College of Social Work at OSU. He arrived at OSU in 1989. His interest in criminal justice began as an undergraduate. He received his B.S. in Criminology and Corrections from Sam Houston State University. With a criminal justice background, he pursued a Master's in Social Work from the University of Houston and a Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Minnesota.

Two general issues guide Rudy's research agenda. First, Rudy is interested in the impact that the judiciary has on the criminal justice system. He says that this interest largely stems from his witnessing a court decision that radically changed the Texas prison system, while a graduate student in Texas. This case, *Ruiz v. Estelle* (1980), is a landmark prison reform case that affected the entire Texas prison system in all areas of operations such as overcrowding, security and supervision, and health care. Of particular interest to Rudy was the impact *Ruiz* had on the delivery of mental health services to Texas inmates. For instance, it required the systematic screening and evaluation of all inmates in order to identify those needing mental health care and that mentally ill prisoners have a constitutional right to mental health treatment.

With this issue in mind, Rudy has published extensively on the relationships among the judiciary, corrections and social work in a variety of scholarly outlets. In the last two years, however, he has been writing books that further investigate these relationships. In *Counseling, Treatment, and Intervention Methods with Juvenile and Adult Offenders* (2000) Rudy details counseling and intervention methods used with juvenile and adult offenders. Separate attention is given to males and females. The treatment programs he presents are couched within theories proven successful by research. This book includes discussions on the treatment rights of offenders and the constitutional

and legal foundations of these rights. It also gives considerable attention to cognitive behavioral theory, including a feminist version of this theory, since it is frequently used successfully with offenders.

A second book is underway, titled *Understanding Legal Concepts Influencing Social Welfare Policies and Practice*. This work introduces a framework by which to examine how the judiciary affects such social welfare policies as adoptions, child protection, mental health policy, malpractice, and public assistance. This book should be on the shelves by this fall or early next year.

Rudy is also interested in understanding the role that race plays in shaping criminal justice decisions. He is particularly troubled by the disproportionate numbers of African American juveniles in the juvenile justice system for drug-related charges. Thus, some of his works address the differential punishment faced by blacks compared to whites. The first, *Race and Justice* (July 2000), is a book that outlines the role of race in the administration of justice in such arenas as school suspensions, maltreatment by law enforcement agencies, and the juvenile justice system. The second, is an article in the *Journal of Black Studies* (with Jacquelyn Gyamerah; 1997), titled "Differential Punishing of African Americans and Whites Who Possess Drugs: A Just Policy or a Continuation of the Past?"

Because Rudy is interested in bridging his research interests with teaching, he is currently writing a book tentatively titled, *The Application of Theory to Social Problems*, to show undergraduates how to use theory and research. He does so by applying theoretical concepts and current research to real-life social problems. His goal is to facilitate students' connecting social theory with social problems like crime and mental health.

In addition to staying busy with his scholarly activities and teaching, Rudy is a member of the John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy (since its inception). In the future, he hopes to work more closely with the Institute on policy related issues concerning the field of social work.

Last, Rudy plans to pursue research grants opportunities and to this end, plans to begin conducting more quantitative analysis. He is currently refining a paper for journal publication entitled "Nonsurviving in the Hood: An Event History Analysis of Juvenile Offenders' Recidivism" and plans to submit it to the *Journal for Juvenile Justice and Detention Services*.

## **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](mailto:velez.17@osu.edu) or by phone at 247-6736. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send María your email address.