

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

April has already been an active and stimulating month for CJRC. At the very beginning of the month, we enjoyed Ric Sheffield's (Kenyon College) discussion of the role of apologies in criminal court cases. Ric taught us that apologies are important. However, for them to reduce the severity of punishment, they must: be internally rather than externally motivated; contain the right ("magic") words; be accompanied by deeds that demonstrate remorse; and be accompanied by appropriate emotional display. The visual display that Ric provided added to our understanding of the multiple dimensions that are involved in assessing how apologies and related displays of remorse and other emotions enter into court decisions. Continuing with the emotion's theme, last week (April 11th) we were also pleased to join with Sociology in bringing Peggy Giordano (Bowling Green State University) to campus. Peggy's work shed light on the role of emotions in desistance from crime. Peggy described results from life history narratives derived from a sample of serious adolescent offenders. She explained how changes over the life course alter the ways that emotions are experienced and managed; individual responses to negative emotional stimuli helps encourage desistance, however negative emotional experiences can also obstruct progress. Her talk evoked very interesting discussion on emotions as critical for enabling desistance from crime, and how to incorporate narrative data within broader structural factors common in criminological research. Over 50 sociologists, psychologists, and CJRC affiliates attended Peggy's presentation. Regarding both Ric and Peggy's visits, graduate students expressed a great deal of enthusiasm about the opportunity to interact with these scholars. They talked about learning from these meetings not just about conducting research, but also about approaches to teaching and their careers more generally. Ric and Peggy, thanks so much for your informative visits.

This week (Thursday, April 24th) we will hold our signature event, the Walter C. Reckless Memorial Lecture. Lawrence C. Marshall, Professor of Law and Legal Director for the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University will be our guest. He will speak on "The Innocence Revolution: Assessing the Impact of Wrongful Convictions on the State of Capital Punishment and the Criminal Justice System." We will also honor Yvette McGee Brown, President of the Center for Child and Family Advocacy at Children's Hospital and former Judge of Franklin County Court of Common Pleas-Division of Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court, as the recipient of the CJRC Public Service Award. I hope that all of you will join us for what should be a stimulating and celebratory evening. See the notice below for time and place of this year's events.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Please mark your calendars for the following CJRC seminars:

Thursday, April 24th, 2003 Walter C. Reckless Memorial Lecture, Professor Lawrence Marshall, Northwestern University Professor of Law and Legal Director of the Center on Wrongful Convictions. The Reckless Lecture will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the OSU Faculty Club Grand Lounge. Professor Marshall's talk is entitled: "The Innocence Revolution: Assessing the Impact of Wrongful Convictions on the State of Capital Punishment and the Criminal Justice System."

Friday, May 16th, Seth Feinberg, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Sociology, Ohio State University will present his work: "Community Mortality, Crime and Social Organization." 9:00-10:30 a.m., room to be announced.

WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING

Prof. Jim Moody (Sociology), along with his co-author, Douglas White, recently published research in

the American Sociological Review. Their paper is entitled: "Social Cohesion and Embeddedness: A Hierarchical Conception of Social Groups."

Prof. Jeremy Wilson (RAND) was recently awarded a grant from the National Institute of Justice through the NIJ Data Resources Program. The project is entitled: "Determinants of Community Policing Implementation."

Rachael Woldoff (Sociology) recently accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at West Virginia University beginning this Fall.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Center for Disease Control (CDC) Grants for Dissertation Awards for Doctoral Candidates for Violence-Related Injury Prevention Research in Minority Communities. The purpose of this extramural research training grant program is to attract young scientists to the field of violence prevention by encouraging doctoral candidates from a variety of disciplines to conduct violence prevention research and hopefully carry this focus on throughout their careers. Assistance will be provided to any United States public or private institution. The institution must support an accredited doctoral level training program. The performance site must be domestic. Applicants must be students in good standing enrolled in an accredited doctoral degree program. The applicant must have the authority and responsibility to carry out the proposed project. Approximately \$100,000 is expected to be available in FY 2003 to fund approximately five awards for a 12-month budget and project period. The project period may be extended without additional funds for up to a total of 24 months. The maximum funding level will not exceed \$20,000.

Application kits are available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/grantmain.htm> or by contacting 770-488-2700.

Deadline: May 8, 2003

The Office of Policy Development and Research wishes to fund from seven to ten empirical research projects on trends in urban areas, that is, social, economic, demographic, and fiscal change in cities. Research grants of up to \$40,000 each would allow HUD to commission a variety of in-depth and high-quality research projects. For example, the release of the Census 2000 long-form data presents an excellent opportunity to inform us on the long-run dynamics of population, housing, income, and transportation in urban areas. These research projects would provide HUD with a basic understanding of how cities are changing, what factors are driving change, and the impact of public policy on change. HUD anticipates funding seven to ten studies on these topics; studies will be funded through cooperative agreements, up to a maximum of \$40,000. Academic and not-for-profit institutions located in the U.S., State and local governments, and federally recognized Indian tribes are eligible to apply.

For additional information see: FR-4780-N-01 (March 26, 2003) in the Federal Register (http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a030326c.html). You may contact: Dr. Alastair McFarlane, Economic Development and Public Finance Division, at (202) 708-0426, extension 5901, or Mr. Patrick Tewey, Grants Officer, 202-708-1796, extension 4098.

Deadline: May 27, 2003

CALL FOR PAPERS

IMMEDIATE!! The ASA Section on Crime, Law, and Deviance announces its annual Student Paper Award. The winner will receive \$500 to offset the cost of attending the 2003 ASA meetings. Papers should not exceed 30 double-spaced pages and should follow the manuscript preparation guidelines used by the American Sociological Review. Co-authored papers are acceptable if all authors are students. Submit five printed copies to Rodney L. Engen, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Box 8107, NC State University 27695-8107. Email correspondence to: rod_engen@ncsu.edu.

Deadline: April 30, 2003

The Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law seeks Commentaries on any criminal justice topic. Commentaries should be no longer than 5,000 words and should be lightly footnoted. Although there are no rules relating to the Commentaries (except those stated above), we are especially looking for provocative and thoughtful Commentaries written less formally than traditional scholarly articles. The Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law, publishes twice a year, beginning in Fall 2003. It contains solicited scholarly articles as well as Commentaries. We are currently considering Commentaries for the Volume 1, Number 2 (Spring 2004) issue. Commentaries should be submitted to: crimlaw@osu.edu

Deadline for submission: September 1, 2003

Space for the issue, however, may be filled before that date.

The Prentice Hall series Women's Issues in Criminal Justice is seeking submissions for a volume of work on women victims of violence. Papers should focus on the treatment of women victims in the media and/or in the criminal justice system. Of particular interest are papers dealing with female victims and the police, courts, and/or corrections systems, the presentation of female victims in the media, global female victimization, minority women as victims, and other similar topics. Contact Cynthia L. Line, Department of Law and Justice Studies, Rowan University, 201 Mullica Hill Rd., Glassboro, NJ 08028 (phone 856-256-4500) or line@rowarn.edu

Deadline: Summer

The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences is seeking presentations for the 41st annual Meeting, March 9-13, 2004 in Las Vegas, Nevada. This year's theme is "Crime Prevention: One Goal, Multiple Approaches." Persons interested in participating should contact Lawrence Travis, III, University of Cincinnati Division of Criminal Justice, P.O. Box 210389, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0389 or lawrence.travis@uc.edu

Deadline: October 1, 2003

FEATURED FACULTY PARTICIPANT

Matisa Wilbon
Sociology

Matisa grew up in Hazard, Kentucky, and attended Centre College in Danville for her undergraduate education. She said the proximity to her home, and the fact that she had family at Centre made the small liberal arts school the right choice for her at the time. Matisa began her college career with an eye towards English, Economics, and eventually law school. However, after taking a Sociology course on African-American society, her path quickly changed. "I just knew that it fit with what I wanted to do."

With the support of her mentor, Dr. William Weston, Matisa received an ASA internship opportunity at the Sociology Department at Pennsylvania State University for the summer following her freshman year. She describes the experience as extremely valuable in helping her define her goals, and to become acclimated to a larger research department. She also began a research project while at Penn State focused on parent-child relationships and adolescent delinquency. After completing her B.A. degree in Sociology/Anthropology from Centre in 1997, Matisa was accepted into the graduate program in Sociology at Ohio State where she began her work in the Autumn of 1997. She chose Ohio State based on connections she made with Sociology professors Dr. Townsend Price-Spratlen (who was completing a post-doc at Penn State while Matisa was there), and Dr. Ruth Peterson who gave a lecture during Matisa's summer internship. Matisa then received a three-year Minority Fellowship through the American Sociological Association. She said this was extremely helpful in allowing her to focus on her initial research, and to make connections with scholars outside of the university.

At Ohio State, Matisa continued her research on parent-child relationships for her M.A. thesis. Specifically, she focused on parent-child discussions about sex and religion as a predictor of adolescent risky sexual behavior. The results of her research suggest that parent-child discussions both increase and decrease adolescent sex, depending on the nature of the discussion. "There is variability in the type of discussions, and the accuracy of information provided by parents. It is the quality and the content of these discussions that is most important." Religiosity is also shown to decrease the likelihood of adolescent sexual behavior.

Matisa's research efforts also include a co-authored project with Sociology Professor Chris Browning. Together they examined the relationship between neighborhood structural characteristics, social organization, and the sexual partnering practices of adults. Their findings suggest that residential stability is negatively associated with short-term sexual partnering for men, and that neighborhood social ties are positively associated with short-term sexual partnering in low collective efficacy neighborhoods. Moreover, neighborhood social organization variables mediate the effect of residential stability on sexual partnering practices.

For her dissertation research, Matisa is focusing on the relationship between neighborhood characteristics, parental efficacy, dense peer networks and risky adolescent sexual behavior. Using the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, a school-based study of health-related behaviors of adolescents in grades 7-12 linked to census tracts, her work examines how the conditions of a particular neighborhood influences adolescent sexual behavior, and how parenting and peers mediate the neighborhood effect. In addition, she tests for an interaction between neighborhood conditions and parenting, and a primary hypothesis of her dissertation research is that the positive effect of parenting is diminished in disadvantaged neighborhoods. She said this results from a lack of additional neighborhood resources necessary to promote positive adolescent outcomes. Specifically, mental health and after-school programs are needed to provide children with other alternatives to potentially negative peer networks. Matisa said she is hopeful that policy-makers will begin to recognize the value of establishing functional resources in disadvantaged communities, particularly in terms of building healthy emotional relationships between parents and their children.

Away from her work, Matisa enjoys spending time with her husband, travel, and reading. "Right now I'm enjoying historical African-American writers, including DuBois and Washington." An accomplished musician, Matisa traveled to Europe on a seven-nation tour during high school, and she and her husband are eager to return. "We like visiting with family, and getting out of Ohio, but we're really looking forward to Europe."

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 at feinberg.13@osu.edu. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Seth your email address.