

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

WHAT A WONDERFUL SET OF EVENTS!!! I hope that all of you had an opportunity to share in one or more of the events surrounding the celebration of the 14th Annual Walter C. Reckless Memorial Lecture. The talks by Professor Lawrence C. Marshall (Northwestern University Law School and Center on Wrongful Convictions) provided timely and thought-provoking views on very important topics. His informal discussion in the law school focused on the links among legal cases, public policy, and legal scholarship. As a part of this discussion, he emphasized the pedagogical benefits to law students of working on actual cases as they pursue their degrees. During the more formal Reckless Lecture, Professor Marshall discussed the status of capital punishment in the contemporary United States, and the role of the "innocence revolution" in changing the nature of the death penalty debate and influencing public policy regarding the application of this most severe punishment. His talk made it clear that for a variety of reasons he favors abolition of the death penalty. However, in the meantime and in light of the very real and undesirable consequences of executing the innocent, Professor Marshall identified areas for reform that would help to save innocent lives, including: improving the quality of counsel, limiting the power of a single witness, and tape recording interviews between the police and the accused. Thanks Professor Marshall for a most stimulating talk.

As a part of the Reckless Lecture events, CJRC was also pleased to honor Yvette McGee Brown as this year's recipient of CJRC's Public Service Award. Ms. McGee Brown was recognized for her innovative work with youth as a juvenile court judge, and for her efforts to address issues of violence and its consequences for families and children as President of the Center for Child and Family Advocacy at Children's Hospital. Professor Katherine Federle (Moritz College of Law) presented the award to Ms. McGee Brown during a dinner celebration on the eve of the Reckless Lecture.

There are numerous other people to thank for making this year's Reckless Lecture a great success. We are especially grateful to Professors Douglas Berman and Joshua Dressler for helping to organize Professor Marshall's visit, and most importantly, for starting a new tradition of publishing the Reckless Lecture in the Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law which they co-edit. CJRC is very excited about this new partnership with the College of Law. Doug, thanks also for introducing Professor Marshall. We are grateful to Camille Hébert and the Center for Law, Policy and Social Sciences for sponsoring Professor Marshall's informal lecture. And as always, we appreciate very much the work of the graduate and undergraduate student staff of CJRC. They took care of all the details so that we could have a celebration free of problems. Thanks Michele Whitt, Danice Brown, John Callery, Amanda Crosby, Brandy Ethridge, and Valerie Wright. Susan Pennington, we also thank you for behind the scenes work.

Seth Feinberg (Sociology and also CJRC newsletter editor) is next up in our seminar series. See details below under upcoming events.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST**

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., 106 Journalism Building.

## **WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING**

Prof. Paul Bellair (Sociology) recently published research in Criminology entitled: "Explaining Racial

and Ethnic Differences in Serious Adolescent Violence.” Paul also received a grant from the Center on Urban and Regional Analysis to undertake a project titled: “Community Context, Employment, and Recidivism among Ohio Parolees.”

Prof. Sharon Davies (Law) participated in the roundtable opening discussion of the Eighth Annual LatCrit Conference held in Cleveland, Ohio on May 1, 2003. Prof. Davies spoke about a number of scholarly proposals published after 9/11 favoring the ethnic profiling of Arabs and Muslims.

Brandy Ethridge (Public Administration) is a recipient of the Center for Survey Research’s Graduate Student Summer Research Award through the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Her project focuses on perceived risk of crime and victimization, with specific emphasis on race.

Prof. Robert Greenbaum (Public Policy and Management) received a grant from the National Consortium on Violence Research. Along with co-investigator George Tita, their research will focus on crime and housing markets for the cities of Columbus and Los Angeles.

Prof. Katherine Federle (Law) is the new director of the Justice for Children Project through the Law School. The University has approved a new Certificate in Children Studies at the Moritz College of Law. Law students graduating in 2004 are the first to be eligible to obtain the Certificate, which will be noted on their transcripts. In order to fulfill the requirements of the Certificate Program, students must successfully complete the equivalent of 20 semester hours of course work. Fifteen of these hours must be completed within the College of Law and the equivalent of five semester hours (eight quarter hours) in graduate-level courses in other departments and colleges at The Ohio State University. For more information about the Certificate Program, please contact Prof. Federle.

Prof. Dana Haynie (Sociology) has been appointed to serve on the editorial board of Criminology.

Prof. Michael Maltz (Sociology and CJRC) was recently appointed to serve on the editorial board of Criminology. Michael is currently serving on the editorial board of the Journal of Quantitative Criminology.

Rachael Woldoff (Sociology), along with Sociology Professors Kent Schwirian and Tim Curry, has signed a book contract with The Ohio State University Press for their book, High Stakes: Big Time Sports and Downtown Redevelopment.

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

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](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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:line@rowarn.edu)

Deadline: Summer

The Midwestern Criminal Justice Association will hold its 2003 Annual Meeting at the Best Western Inn of Chicago on October 2-4, 2003. The conference will focus on the theme: "Communities, Crime and Criminal Justice." Contact James Frank, Program Chair, Division of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati: [James.Frank@uc.edu](mailto:James.Frank@uc.edu)

Deadline September 2, 2003

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**

Randy Roth  
History

Randy is an Associate Professor of American History, and has been at Ohio State since 1985. A native of northern California, he attended Stanford and obtained his B.A. in History in 1973. Randy's first academic interests were sociology, math, and science. He eventually became frustrated with the assumptions of linear modeling that were prominent in the social sciences at the time, and looked to history for a more temporal perspective. Randy has published research on non-linear mathematics in social science, and to this day continues his efforts to apply quantitative methodology to historical analyses of politics, religion, and victimization.

Following the recommendations of his advisors, Randy enrolled in the History program at Yale, and received his PhD in 1981. While at Yale, Randy studied under David Davis, the distinguished scholar of slavery and abolition. Randy said the opportunity to focus on writing and research was a tremendous addition to his prior training in historical theory. "It was a wonderful experience for me, there were a number of great historians in the department at the time." In 1978, Randy began working at Grinnell College in Iowa. While he enjoyed the small-town experience, the location made it difficult to negotiate his wife's career opportunities. So, after seven years in Iowa, Randy joined the faculty at Ohio State in 1985.

Randy's research interests focus on the history of the United States, with an emphasis on social and cultural history, quantitative methods, and social theory. He is a member of the Editorial Board of Historical Methods and of the nominating committee of the Social Science History Association. His current research examines the history of violent crime and violent death from the 1550s to present. Specifically, he asks how, when, and why the United States became more homicidal than central and western Europe. Randy said his interests are sparked by the fact that he "hates crime." His original focus was derived from a "peace oriented" approach. Following the example of criminological scholars looking at the culture of violence, Randy said his work began looking for a culture of peace. "I wanted to know why some groups were not as homicidal as others."

He began analyzing rural communities in nineteenth-century New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine to determine why these regions were more peaceful than others. After pouring through the data, Randy said he was surprised to find that these regions killed at rates "higher than I ever imagined, three times more than Canada and Great Britain." His research points to the influence of political change, evolving gender norms, and external conflict as important factors shaping homicides among adults, including spouses and strangers. Randy shows that key moments in political history, such as the Mexican War and Reconstruction, and key moments in cultural history, such as the rise of a compassionate view of marriage during the Victorian era, are responsible for temporal increases in adult homicide rates.

In terms of criminal justice policy implications of his research, Randy points to two key contributions. First, he argues that violence against children is a function of the costs of children and of parental

ambitions for themselves and their children. As material expectations increase, the financial effort to raise children increases, along with expectations for success imposed by the parents onto the youth. “If the goal is to minimize violence against children, we need to lower the material ambitions that people have for their children and themselves, and make child rearing more affordable.” A second point of policy emphasis is that historical analyses of adult homicide between unrelated people do not support current theories of deterrence, law enforcement, demography, or economics. Randy said the research points to political upheaval, alienation, and weak nationalism as the most successful predictors of adult stranger and acquaintance homicide. The rise and decline of nationalism and political legitimacy shapes individual attitudes that may be hostile, defensive, or predatory towards fellow citizens.

Randy is also co-founder of the Historical Violence Database, a collaborative project to create a comprehensive database on the history of violent crime and violent death in the United States. The database is sponsored by the CJRC (<http://cjrc.osu.edu/hvd>).

Away from the office, Randy stays just as busy while pursuing his interests. His knowledge of politics has inspired his own efforts at public service. Randy helped manage the campaigns for several city council members in Dublin, and currently serves as the Chair of the Community Services Advisory Commission. Along with his wife and son, Randy enjoys hiking, canoeing, and other outdoor recreational activities. “I love the Sierras in California, but my son and I had a wonderful time in West Virginia” (<http://www.patc.net/hiking/destinations/dolysods.html>). Their most recent outing was a backpacking trip to Wildcat Hollow near Athens, Ohio. An Eagle Scout himself, Randy serves as an adult leader in Troop 299 in Dublin, and true to his historical interests, is proud that his son also recently became an Eagle Scout. “My father and his brother were in Scouts in the 1930s, and all their sons and grandsons have been in Scouts too.”

## **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](mailto:feinberg.13@osu.edu). If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Seth your email address.