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Northeastern University

College of Criminal Justice Newsletter

College of Criminal Justice

April 01, 2003

College of Criminal Justice Newsletter : Summer/Fall 2003

Northeastern University-College of Criminal Justice

Recommended Citation

Northeastern University-College of Criminal Justice, "College of Criminal Justice Newsletter : Summer/Fall 2003" (2003). *College of Criminal Justice Newsletter.* Paper 1. http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d10007003

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Northeastern
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College of Criminal Justice Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2003

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If you have a suggestion for an article for the upcoming Newsletter, please contact Jennifer Balboni at: j.balboni@neu.edu

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CCJ to Launch Ph.D. Program in Fall 2004

Along with the College of Criminal Justice faculty and staff, Dean Greene is pleased to announce that a new Criminology and Justice Policy Ph.D. program will commence in the fall of 2004. Recently approved by the NU Board of Trustees, this announcement follows nearly three years of effort on the part of the faculty and administration to research the national landscape of criminal justice–oriented doctoral programs and design a ground-breaking, innovative program that meets the needs of students in a rapidly changing criminal justice environment. This new Ph.D. combines rigorous theoretical and methodological preparation with field-based policy analysis, extending the strategic vision of the College to "Redefine Criminal Justice." The program will capitalize on NU's Boston location as a center for urban culture and studies, as well as its rich history of progressive criminal justice programming.

A Ph.D. in Criminology and Justice Policy was first seriously considered in 1999 when Dean Greene took his current position. The new program started as part of his own mandate to bring the College to the "next level." Although NU is well known for its unique Master's Program, Dean Greene wanted the College to establish itself as a national doctoral institution. The benefits to the College, faculty, and students, Greene maintains, will exponentially increase after the program's implementation. "All academic boats rise with the new Ph.D. in place. The College can continue to strengthen its research faculty, attract high-quality graduate students, and broaden options at the undergraduate level for research and policy analysis." According to Greene, "the mark of a doctoral institution is in both the production of new knowledge and its infusion at all levels of academic instruction."

Faculty at the College welcome the challenges and the opportunities that the Ph.D. program will bring. By incorporating terminal-degree students into the College, the CCJ research community will gain a previously unrealized continuity, allowing doctoral students to be involved in long-term research and multi-year grants. This continuity will also allow the faculty to mentor more students intensely. Moreover, the new Ph.D. program informs funding agencies that the College has a commitment to sophisticated and policy-relevant research.

Student recruitment for the program is already well underway through announcements to other national and international scholars, with an initial target cohort of approximately five to seven talented students for the fall of 2004. Anyone interested in learning more about the new doctoral program can visit our website at: www.cj.neu.edu.

Deans McDevitt and Greene with Professors Bishop and Fox. See story on NU Today on page 11. Photography by Heratch, 2003

The Dean's Corner

Dear Alumni, Students, Friends and Colleagues,

The College of Criminal Justice is on the move!!! The excitement among the students and the faculty is palpable. It's a simple but important message.

In the past several years the College has gone through considerable transformation; we have overhauled all of our curricula in preparation for this year's semester system conversion; we will launch a new Ph.D. program in Criminology and Justice Policy in the fall of 2004; this fall, six new faculty members joined our ranks; and the College is engaged in well over $1.4M in external funding. Our enrollments are robust, and our entering freshman class is the best academically prepared class we have ever welcomed to the College. In addition, as you will read in the pages to follow, we are also strengthening our internal academic community and culture through a distinguished speaker series, student-focused programs, and agency/industry-based programs. **Criminal Justice is alive and well at Northeastern!!!**

The transformation of the College is not complete, however. Our mantra of "Redefining Criminal Justice" guides much of what we do. As we strengthen our national presence in justice studies, we will continue to push the boundaries of criminological thought and justice system analysis. Our next frontier is to establish several international partnerships, to extend the reach of the College and its programs, and to provide for faculty and student experiences in a crime and justice system that has taken on global dimensions.

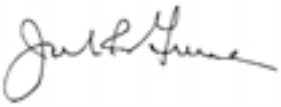
Currently we are seeking faculty members to strengthen our security offerings and research initiatives (for the fall of 2004), and with the implementation of the Ph.D. program we will increase the faculty in the areas of criminology and criminal justice policy. Through several partnerships, we have developed an elaborate proposal for an Institute for Security and Public Policy and are actively seeking funding for the Institute and its many proposed programs.

Our programmatic and research successes now require that the College acquire expanded and enhanced space. This is a primary objective in the coming year or so. As Northeastern University continues to move into the top 100 academic institutions in America, the College of Criminal Justice will lead many of the urban-focused and research agendas of NU. To do so, CJ at NU needs an appropriate "home."

We continue to need support from alumni. Gifts to Northeastern can be earmarked for the College of Criminal Justice to support student financial aid and scholarships, research assistantships, or any number of programs conducted within the College for the benefit of students, faculty, and the wider community. Alumni support of the College is an essential ingredient to our long-term success.

As a graduate of the Class of 1973, I can tell you that the College of Criminal Justice has changed dramatically, in great part in response to and anticipation of the commensurate changes in the field of criminal justice. Our commitment to lead the national discussion about matters of crime and justice, however, remains.

Sincerely,



Jack R.Greene,
Dean

Upcoming Events

Institute on Race and Justice Lunchtime Research Discussion Series

Join us at 301 Churchill Hall for the following IRJ monthly Research Discussion Series. This series is open to all NU community members. Feel free to bring your lunch! If you have any questions regarding this speaker series, contact Amy Farrell at 617.373.7439.

Nov 12, 2003 noon–1:30pm — Faculty member Dr. Geoff Ward discusses *Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Justice Workforce.*

Dec 18, 2003 noon–1:30pm — Paulani Ehos (School of Law) discusses *Learning from the Experiences of Battered Immigrant, Refugee, and Indigenous Women Involved with Child Protective Services.*

Jan 7, 2004 noon–1:30pm — Deborah Ramirez (School of Law) and Sasha O'Connell (IRJ) discuss *Partnering for Prevention: Developing Strategies to Enhance Understanding Between Law Enforcement and Muslim, Arab, and Sikh Communities.*

CCJ Distinguished Speaker Series

This speaker series will be held periodically throughout the fall and spring semesters and is open to the larger NU community (including alumni and friends!). For information on upcoming speakers, contact Mary Yee at: m.yee@neu.edu

College of Criminal Justice Career Fair

Scheduled for March 18, 2004, this Career Fair is sponsored by the Departments of Cooperative Education and Career Services and will be held in the Curry Ballroom on campus. For more information, please contact Molly Sacco at m.sacco@neu.edu.

CCJ Holiday Toy Drive

As we have for the last 20 years, the CCJ (with the University) is sponsoring a holiday toy drive, with toys to be distributed to several community agencies. New toys can be dropped off in the CCJ reception area, 204 Churchill. Checks can be made out to Northeastern University Toy Drive. For more information, contact m.kearney@neu.edu.

From the Student's Desk...

Becoming Part of a Police Family
By Michael W. Bronson, '07

My career aspirations have been influenced by my grandfather, who served in the Army—and as a constable—for 30 years, and by my uncle, who served in the same police department for 5 years. They introduced me to the policing "family," and by example, showed me what it meant to have a passion for police work and to provide service to the community. As a result, I knew by my senior year in high school what I wanted to do and looked for the college with the best criminal justice program. I had become interested in NU for many reasons, but mostly because it offered an outstanding academic criminal justice program, complemented by real-world experience.

In my freshman year I learned a great deal and I was eager put some of that knowledge into practice. During the winter semester, my Cooperative Education Advisor, Nancy Tavares, made me aware of an exciting summer opportunity at the Nantucket Police Department. After an extensive application and interview process, I was accepted as a Summer Special All-Terrain Vehicle Officer. The experience was one I could never have anticipated. I experienced the police family I had heard so much about, tested theories I learned from my classwork, and discovered firsthand some of the trials you go through as an officer.

Last June, when I arrived in Nantucket, I went through two weeks of comprehensive training that included First Responder Training and CPR, Massachusetts Criminal Law, Nantucket Town By-Laws, Self-Defense, physical training, and specialized training in "All-Terrain Vehicle" patrol. My duties consisted of patrolling the beaches of Nantucket to make sure that vehicles had the proper permits, assisting lifeguards with rescues, checking speed violations or any other illegal activities, and providing medical attention until the Nantucket Fire Department could arrive on the scene.

The thing that impressed me the most at Nantucket was that so many officers and sergeants—as well as the Chief—were willing to help me through these first experiences and teach me about the profession. I had read about the police family in classes, but it meant a great deal more experiencing it firsthand. This support could be seen in obvious ways but also in the little things. For example, when I was conducting a vehicle stop, fellow units would leave their areas and head over to assist me. Similarly, when a party I was patrolling became overcrowded and out of control, I was glad to see backup units arriving within minutes to help. About two months into my position, I saw personally how important that police family would be to me.

I began my afternoon patrol as usual when one of my partners radioed in about a cardiac arrest on a nearby beach. Being close by, I offered to go the scene and assist the other units. I turned on my strobe lights and headed toward this location, being careful to check that my route of travel was clear. What happened next is somewhat of a blur. Seemingly out of nowhere, an object came through the windshield of my vehicle and hit me in the face. Stunned, my instincts took over. I kept one hand on the throttle and put the other hand to my face. Scared and worried, I made my way to the next access road off the beach and radioed for Emergency Medical Service. Within seconds, I heard many other units racing to my position and though I was becoming very dizzy, I was also very relieved. The last thing I remember was the ambulance and surrounding emergency vehicles coming for me.

In the emergency room, all I could think about was going home, but then after seeing all the officers in the emergency waiting room, I changed my mind. Their care and respect during my week of recuperation made me feel like I had acquired a new family. Although this was a very unfortunate incident, which did not yield either a culprit or a reason, the experience helped me to understand both the risks of being an officer and the support derived from being part of a strong, supportive organization.

During the summer on Nantucket, I also had a chance to test some of the theories that I had learned in class. The Nantucket Police Department had a strict No Tolerance policy this year, and allowed only vehicles with permits to drive on the beach. Officers were to cite anyone and everyone without the proper permits. This allowed me to take a theoretical approach we learned in Professor Catalano's classroom and test its applicability in the real world. It was successful in that it decreased the number of vehicles on the beaches without permits and increased the space for people who walked to the beach and those who had the proper permits.

As well as putting ideas and theories into practice, I was also able to acquire skills that I could use in other positions. Specifically, the training in verbal de-escalation tactics I received was exceptionally valuable. I put it into practice and actually had people say "thank you" after they had just received a $250 fine.

With such outstanding learning opportunities and the great friendships I made, I feel more confident and ready to pursue jobs that I would otherwise have been hesitant to apply for. My current aspirations are to work in federal law enforcement, possibly for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, or the U.S. Marshall's Office. The variety and wide range of academic and work experiences I am exposed to at Northeastern is unparalleled. I look forward to my next co-op and the new opportunities and ideas, friendships and memories that it will bring. ■

Undergraduate/Alumni News

CCJ Senior Works on Howard Dean Campaign

When senior Chad Bolduc began his College of Criminal Justice program four years ago, he probably never imagined that his co-op experiences would take him to such exciting territory. As an Advance Staff Member responsible for scheduling and driving Governor Dean, Chad is part of the team supporting Howard Dean's bid for the White House in 2004.

After initially hearing from a friend that Governor Dean would be running for President, Chad did a bit of Internet research and explored the candidate's positions. When Chad discovered that he concurred with the Governor's policy stands, he applied for an intern position in New Hampshire. He notes the insurgent momentum that has taken over the campaign: "When we first started [in June], people didn't know who Howard Dean was." Having worked on this campaign nearly since its inception, Chad knows the Governor personally. "He's a straight talker. He's a regular guy who is really smart and really passionate. He is a terrific leader and it's great to interact with him."

Here at the College of Criminal Justice, his professors note Chad's passion and commitment to ideological issues. For now, his graduation plans are on hold. Although co-ops traditionally last six months, if the Governor wins the Democratic nomination, Chad may stay on and work with the campaign well past January. Although he is missed here on campus, we wish Chad the best of luck in his endeavors! ■

CCJ Alum Graduates Oxford University

Immediately after graduation in 2002, David Ciriello began his Master's Program at Oxford University in England to study Analytical Criminology and Criminal Justice. Despite being one of the only "non-Ivy Leaguers" in his cohort, David said that because of his background at the College of Criminal Justice—which included two co-op positions at the Boston Police Department's Office of Research and Evaluation—he was well prepared for his studies at Oxford. Now back in Boston, David recently began the MBA program here at NU and will gain significant experience in forensic accounting and information security.

In addition to his many academic accomplishments, David has several related interests. He is currently interning with Project TEAMWORK at the Center for the Study of Sport in Society, where he helps youth build non-violent conflict resolution skills. He is also a volunteer at the Samaritans suicide hotline in Brookline, as well as a legal advocate for the Massachusetts Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

David's drive and ablity make him an impressive alumni exemplar. We wish him the best of luck in his endeavor to influence the criminal justice and greater Boston communities. ■

Faculty/Staff Updates

The CCJ would like to extend a warm welcome to this year's new faculty members, who bring a wealth of knowledge and diverse experience to the College.

Dr. Cynthia Lum

Dr. Cynthia Lum

Dr. Lum wears many hats in the field of criminal justice, and happily adds joining the faculty at the CCJ to her impressive list of achievements. Dr. Lum comes to the CCJ from the University of Maryland at College Park, where she served as project director for a National Institute of Justice grant entitled *The Criminal Careers of Places: A Longitudinal Study* (PI: David Weisburd), which focuses on how crime develops at places. Under this grant, she also conducted a major research project exploring the spatial relationship between drugs and violence. Currently, Dr. Lum is preparing a paper on randomized experimentation to be presented at the Third Annual Jerry Lee Crime Prevention Symposium. She is also conducting research on police deployment preferences in developing democracies. Though interested in many areas of criminal justice, her attention is currently focused on American and international policing issues and the use of innovative methodological approaches. Recently, Dr. Lum was invited to Yale University to present her ideas about conducting research in police organizations.

A former police officer and detective with the Baltimore Police Department, Dr. Lum is also an instructor for the U.S. Department of State's International Law Enforcement Academy in Roswell, New Mexico. Thus far, she has taught law enforcement officials from approximately 30 developing nations. She has also served as a consultant and researcher for numerous police agencies in the U.S. and abroad. Her goals at Northeastern include focusing on student education and incorporating practice-oriented methodologies into her classes as she teaches Introduction to Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention this semester. Dr. Lum is also an avid baseball fan. ■

Dr. Phil He

Dr. Phil He

Born and raised in the People's Republic of China (PRC), Dr. He has come many miles to join the faculty at CCJ. After attaining his degree in International Economic Law in China, Dr. He spent a year studying in Australia and polishing his English. He arrived in the U.S. in 1992 to pursue higher education, and earned his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Dr. He relocated to Boston this past summer from the University of Texas—San Antonio, where he taught a variety of CJ classes at the graduate and undergraduate levels. This semester, he is teaching Elementary Statistics and Introduction to Criminal Justice. "I am honored to be part of the distinguished faculty here and find it exciting to be able to contribute to a program that is very much on the rise," says He.

Dr. He maintains a remarkable list of publications and has various works in progress. His manuscript entitled *Correlates of Carrying Weapons to School: An Assessment Based on NCVS-School Crime Supplement* will be presented this November at the American Society of Criminology Annual Conference in Denver, CO. *Of Finnish Ways: Culture and Policing,* a manuscript he is currently working on, uniquely examines the implications of culture and society on policing in Finland.

In the future, Dr. He would like to be able to contribute to the criminal justice system in the PRC. By sharing his experiences while in the U.S., he wishes to help bridge the gap between the U.S. and the PRC in the arena of comparative criminal justice. Dr. He lives in Shrewsbury with his wife and two sons and looks forward to this new chapter of his life in New England. ■

Dr. Marc Swatt

Dr. Marc Swatt

Dr. Swatt completed his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) this past year, specializing in Quantitative Methods and Theoretical Criminology. He recently presented his dissertation, *Short-term forecasting of criminal events,* which dealt with various methods used to forecast crime (with a special focus on Hierarchical Linear Models), mainly robbery and burglary, on city blocks one month in advance.

Dr. Swatt's dissertation work inspired his current involvement in crime mapping and the geographical analysis of crime; topics he hopes to discuss in future publications. Dr. Swatt brings with him a wealth of mathematical sophistication that can be applied to nearly any area of quantitative criminal justice research, and he maintains a broad admiration of the criminal justice system and hopes to investigate a variety of issues during his time at Northeastern. "I'm a bit of a generalist," he said. "Stats and methodological theory enable me to contribute to and become involved in many facets of the criminal justice system [because] they can be applied to all situations."

Dr. Swatt is enthusiastic about making his classes, Research Methods, Statistics, and Criminology, interesting for his students. Dr. Swatt considers these classes—often dreaded by the student populus—to be perpetually fascinating and looks forward to sharing this interest with his students. In addition to professional development, Dr. Swatt is eager to become involved in the research at the CCJ and is honored to join the ranks of such quality faculty.

The CCJ also extends congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Swatt, who celebrated their marriage this past summer. The Swatts, along with a host of small pets (including guinea pigs, chinchillas, and hedgehogs!), are new to the Boston area, and we wish them a smooth transition to life in New England. ■

Dr. Geoff Ward

Dr. Geoff Ward

Originally from Los Angeles, CA, Dr. Ward comes to the CCJ after spending two years in New York City at the Vera Institute of Justice, where he held the Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship on Race, Crime, and Justice. Also during his time in NYC, Dr. Ward was the coordinator of the *Africana Criminal Justice Project* at Columbia University, which focuses on the influence of criminal justice policies on black communities and drawing greater attention to these issues in the spheres of African-American and Africana Studies.

When asked how he became interested in the social sciences and studying criminal justice in particular, Dr. Ward traced his steps back in time to his undergraduate study experience in Japan. "Living in another society, I realized that we take so much for granted as given, or 'normal,' and learned so much about our culture from the perspective of an outsider looking back in. This experience boosted my interest in sociology and in pursuing a Ph.D."

While attaining his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Dr. Ward stepped into a unique area of study: examining hip-hop as a sociological phenomenon. He helped found a group called the *Hip-Hop and Cultural Studies Collective* that focused on increasing academic engagement with hip-hop culture and its global community. His involvement in this work led him to the study of criminal justice when a Michigan researcher asked him to conduct several interviews with young black men in prison.

"The experience of interviewing dozens of young men who were currently or had previously been incarcerated sensitized me both to the gravity of the situation, and my passion for understanding the complex relationships between race, crime, and justice in our society," he says. This experience led Dr. Ward to complete a dissertation on juvenile justice in the African-American experience, looking at historical patterns of inequality, community organizing, and institutional change.

continued on next page

Dr. Geoff Ward *continued*

Dr. Ward was drawn to Northeastern by its unique mission and educational model. He was especially excited to be joining a faculty with expertise in several areas of criminal justice, and "by the challenge of working with students who aspire to careers in the field, which suggests a deeper level of commitment and makes for a wonderful place to learn and grow as an educator and researcher." Dr. Ward is teaching Race, Crime, and Justice this semester. ■

Dr. Jeb Booth

Dr. Jeb Booth

This past spring, it was announced that Dr. Jeb Booth, a popular face at the CCJ for several years as Visiting Professor, has been hired as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. Having completed his Ph.D. in Sociology in 2002, Dr. Booth recognizes that coming onto the tenure track is accompanied by a new set of demands that require some restructuring of his professional activities. Toward this end, he has relinquished some of his committee-oriented work to pursue his own research more aggressively. Although he still remains involved with the Criminal Justice Honor Society—where he has notably restructured the program over the last year—he will be devoting much of his time to finishing his current research with the Department of Youth Services and publishing the findings.

His current research examines the impact of family and neighborhood in a cohort analysis of juvenile offenders in Massachusetts in a three-stage design, and is expected to come to a close late this fall. The third phase (to be completed at a later date and developed in the previous two phases), will compare the cohort after the implementation of the continuum of care strategy. After he completes the second phase next month, Dr. Booth plans to produce several articles: one studies the impact of family on crime severity for offenders, and another assesses the impact of neighborhood conditions on the severity of crime among juvenile offenders.

Over the next few years, Dr. Booth foresees doing a good deal of research during the summer break, thanks to the new semester system. Additionally, Dr. Booth would like to teach courses in criminology, juvenile justice, and eventually courses at the graduate level. He is well known for his courses in Statistics and Research Methods, and has a gift for making dry subject matter interesting and fun to learn. When not working, Professor Booth enjoys spending time with his wife and two children, who are now in kindergarten and second grade. He appreciates receiving correspondence from his former students and can be reached at: j.booth@neu.edu. ■

Co-Op Corner

CCJ Welcomes Co-op Coordinator Teresa Williams

Originally from New England, Ms. Teresa Williams joined the College of Criminal Justice as Co-op Coordinator this fall and is happy to become part of the co-op program. Previously, Ms. Williams worked as a recruiter for the U.S. Department of State Diplomatic Security Service, traveling regularly around the country to career fairs and universities. While recruiting graduates, she frequented Northeastern, and recalls how impressed she was by the caliber of student produced at the College of Criminal Justice. "Formerly receiving the final results of students' job preparation, it's been quite a change to assist students in creating their resumes and watching them progress over time," Ms. Williams says.

Helping students revise their resumes this semester added to her enthusiasm for teaching. She was "surprised with how many students came with volunteer positions and internships demonstrating the motivation that they developed prior to college and co-op," and is excited to "get acquainted with students early in the process and to see the difference that that will make in the end product."

Additionally, Ms. Williams is a member of the University Library Committee, and serves as the CCJ representative to ASIS (American Society of Industrial Security), which provides a network to further relationships with private security firms and opportunities for co-op positions. Farther down the road, Ms. Williams would like to develop a co-op position with the Department of State as well as seeking out other companies that would offer leadership opportunities for CJ students in the workforce. She sees many possibilities for development in the College of Criminal Justice and believes "Northeastern is a great place with a great co-op program, and I am happy to be involved." ■

GE Day at Northeastern

Guest speaker Gregory J. Regan, Chief Security Officer (CSO) of GE Consumer Finance, presented *"Partnership Between Law Enforcement and the Private Sector: Information Technology Security,"* to an attentive group of students and faculty on October 16. His presentation emphasized the "ever-changing face of fraud and the need to be proactive within the industry to keep abreast of the latest types of compromises, such as database intrusions; desktop publishing; skimming; identity thefts; and other types of compromises."

When asked what individual consumers can do to prevent becoming victims of fraud, Mr. Regan said that it was important "to check your bank account and credit at least twice a year; try not to send mail from in front of your home where it can be easily stolen; and if you are a victim of fraud, register on the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) website." The presentation was part of University-wide "GE Day," an appreciation of the sound relationship between the school and General Electric. ■

Institute on Race and Justice Update

The Rhode Island Traffic Stop Statistics Study

On June 30, 2003, the Institute on Race and Justice released the final report for the Rhode Island Traffic Stop Statistics Act. The report presents two years' worth of data on traffic stop and search activity for 38 municipal jurisdictions, the Rhode Island State Police, and the University of Rhode Island Police. The data presented in this report offers the first opportunity for community members and law enforcement to assess racial disparities in stop and post-stop activity for all jurisdictions across the state. The purpose of this study was to determine whether law enforcement agencies in Rhode Island engaged in racially disparate traffic enforcement practices.

As one of the country's most comprehensive reports on racial disparities in traffic stops, the Rhode Island study is designed to be used as a sourcebook for community members and law enforcement officials to target particular practices that may result in racial disparities. Racial disparities in traffic stops can be produced by a number of factors that we are just beginning to understand, only one of which is racial bias on the part of individual officers. Regardless of why they occur, racial disparities may impose costs on minority citizens and influence how community members perceive the police in their community.

Some of the major findings from this analysis are as follows:

- In most communities in Rhode Island, non-white drivers are stopped disproportionately to their presence in the driving population. The 10 Rhode Island communities with the highest levels of racial disparity in traffic stops (above the statewide averages for both differences in percent and ratio) are Providence, Lincoln, Woonsocket, Cranston, North Providence, Foster, North Smithfield, Cumberland, Johnston, and Smithfield.
- Although no bright line was drawn to indicate a specific level of disparity that constituted racial profiling, 20 jurisdictions were above statewide average levels of disparity and were subject to an additional level of analysis to identify, where possible, the causes of disparity.
- Once stopped, non-white drivers in over half of the communities in Rhode Island are significantly more likely than whites to be subjected to a discretionary search. Statewide non-white motorists are roughly two to two and a half times more likely to be searched than white motorists. Once stopped, 8.9% of the non-white drivers are searched compared to only 3.6% of white drivers. While many Rhode Island communities had significant racial disparities in searches, racial disparities were the greatest in Tiverton, North Smithfield, Bristol, Woonsocket, and Scituate.
- Non-white drivers are proportionately more likely to be subjected to searches where there is both no contraband found and no action (citation or arrest) taken by the police. Statewide, 6.6% of white searches result in no action compared to 11% of non-white searches. In these cases, motorists were stopped, detained, and searched, but no citation was issued, no arrest was made, and no contraband was found.

Hate Crime Forum

The Northeastern University Chapter of the NAACP, in collaboration with the Institute on Race and Justice and the Office of Affirmative Action, hosted a Hate Crime Forum, entitled, "I Hate You So Much Right Now." The Event was held on Wednesday, October 15, 2003, on Northeastern's Campus. The event featured a distinguished panel: Andrew Tarsey, from the Anti-Defamation League; Sergeant Carmen Curry, from the Community Disorders Unit; Alice Moore, from the Chief of Police Protection Bureau; and Barbara Dougan, from the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, and a moderated discussion facilitated by Jack McDevitt, Associate Dean of the College of Criminal Justice and Director of the Institute on Race and Justice. Approximately 100 students, faculty, and community members attended this event. ■

CJ Honor Society Speaker Series

As part of the CJ Honor Society's speaker series, State Trooper and Crime Scene Investigator Laura Fogarty spoke on October 8, at the Curry Student Center, to well over 100 criminal justice undergraduates. Her speech centered on the responsibilities and constraints of the Massachusetts State Police Crime Scene Services.

Working for the State Police since 1993, Ms. Fogarty has spent the last seven years in the crime scene services unit. In comparing her department to prime-time shows like *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation,* Ms. Fogarty said that in reality her job does not entail conducting autopsies, flying helicopters, or busting down doors; however, certain evidence-gathering techniques depicted in these programs are relatively accurate. Techniques used to collect evidence at a crime scene, Ms. Fogarty told the audience, include photographing, identifying and gathering footprints and tire marks, and dusting for fingerprints. "The nature of the beast is that there are less than 10 percent of crime scenes with identifiable fingerprints," said Ms. Fogarty, which proves especially frustrating to victims who expect each and every case to be cracked as seen on television.

The College of Criminal Justice and CJ Honor Society sponsored this event as part of a newly implemented speaker series "designed to educate students about the variety of career paths available to graduates and undergraduates," said CJ Honor Society President, Jen Chamberlain. The series is expected to be held at least twice per academic year, with the next speakers scheduled for spring semester 2004. Alumni and friends are welcome to attend these events. For more information, send inquiries to: nucjhonorsociety@hotmail.com. ■

ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS

By Assistant Professor Sean Varano

Dovetailing Dr. Donna Bishop's piece in the Winter/Spring 2002 Newsletter *on what happens to juveniles processed through the adult court and correctional system, Professor Varano talks about the alternatives for juvenile offenders before they are considered for transfer or waiver to juvenile court. He argues here that thoughtful programming put in place at critical junctures can make a difference in diverting these young offenders from careers in crime, thereby avoiding the decision of whether or not to transfer juveniles to adult court.*

In the *Winter/Spring 2002 College of Criminal Justice Newsletter,* Professor Donna Bishop highlighted several important policy considerations in her article titled "'Adult Crime, Adult time': A Troublesome Policy for Troubled Kids." In that article, Professor Bishop warned of disturbing trends in the juvenile justice system, most importantly, the trend toward transferring increasing numbers of youth to the adult court system. Citing extensive research on Florida's "get-tough" movement, Professor Bishop argued that juveniles punished as adults (most of whom received jail or prison sentences) "were subsequently arrested more often, more quickly, and for more serious crimes than kids who were kept in the juvenile system" (p. 9). Like many other scholars and practitioners, she has concluded that the get-tough movement has not only been ineffective in reducing recidivism but actually increased delinquency by exposing juveniles to a needlessly harsh system devoid of meaningful rehabilitative services.

"It became apparent that juveniles with arrests for serious non-violent crimes between the ages of 10 and 13 were at substantially greater risk for developing into chronic offenders than their counterparts exhibiting first arrests later in adolescence."

Of special consideration in this essay is how the juvenile justice system can intervene before offenders engage in the serious and chronic criminal activity that places them at the adult/juvenile system crossroad. Specifically, this involves reorienting the juvenile system to both identify the characteristics of youth likely to become serious or chronic offenders as well as deliver effective rehabilitative services that break the cycle of delinquency. To accomplish this, two specific policy recommendations are offered. First, it is imperative that all of the components of the juvenile justice system better prioritize caseloads of offenders so that those in need of more intensive treatment services are given access to those services. That is, in a time of both increasing caseloads and dwindling resources, it becomes ever more important to be able to differentiate between high-risk offenders and others. Second, policymakers in the juvenile justice system must move away from universal treatment modalities directed at a wide range of offender types but instead focus intensive efforts on high-risk offenders and less intensive efforts on others. If successful, meaningful treatment early in the delinquency process offers the potential for reducing the number of juveniles even considered for transfer to adult court.

Criteria for Prioritizing Police and Court Caseloads

Police and courts have been faced with increasing caseloads of juvenile offenders over the past 20 years. Given such caseloads, one goal should be to prioritize arrest populations based on legally relevant variables that indicate increased risk (such as age at first arrest and seriousness of early offending). Such meaningful distinctions could be used to determine the type and extent of treatment services necessary for certain subpopulations.

Guided by this research and work by other criminologists, I and colleagues from the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University worked extensively with four police departments in Michigan to implement intervention programming for serious juvenile offenders. The purpose of the initiative was twofold. The first goal was to work with these agencies to define meaningful criteria to identify delinquents coming into contact with the system that exhibited higher risk of escalation of offending. More specifically, we sought to identify a group of high-risk offenders that were currently under-served but that could be rehabilitated in community-based settings.

Analysis of arrest data from the cities revealed important consistencies across locations. It became apparent that juveniles with arrests for serious non-violent crimes (e.g., serious property offenses or drug offenses) between the ages of 10 and 13 were at substantially greater risk for developing into chronic offenders than their counterparts exhibiting first arrests later in adolescence. For example, in one city, 87% of all males with a first or second arrest for a serious non-violent crime between the ages of 10 and 13 recidivated compared to only 69% of juveniles with similar arrests between ages 14 and 16. Similarly, 58% of those younger serious offenders went on to have five or more arrests in the future compared to 31% of the older serious offenders. Furthermore, it became apparent that the courts tended to treat reasonably serious delinquency among younger offenders less formally (e.g., reprimand and release, diversion) and more likely to be punitive with older offenders (e.g., referral to court). Because the courts generally did not perceive this type of offending among younger delinquents as a risk factor for continued offending, they lacked intervention programming directed at the specific problems associated with this population. This is not to suggest that the level of recidivism and chronic offending among the comparison groups was insignificant, but only indicats young serious offenders were in particular need of intervention services. It is evident from prior research that such services can be developed and targeted at early offending.

Elements of Effective Community-Based Treatment for Younger Offenders

Formalizing how younger offenders are processed (e.g., referral to court in situations where individuals were previously only reprimanded; court-ordered probation in situations where individuals were previously sanctioned with diversion) is of little merit unless police and courts do so in a manner that is consistent with effective treatment. As such, the second-phase recommendation put forth here entails implementing comprehensive intervention services.

Delinquency is understood as a product of a wide range of individual-level, social-level, and community-level risk factors. The most successful intervention services are those that tailor programming to the specific needs of target populations. That is, treatment should be targeted at improving the conditions underlying the behavior. Two important conclusions particularly relevant to this discussion can be drawn from the extensive research on delinquency risk factors. First, certain risk factors pose greater risk for delinquency than others. Second, the relative effect of different risk factors may be contingent on when during the life-course the individual experiences the problem. For example, major family disruptions may have much more negative effect on younger than older juveniles. Issues that result in substantially higher risk for delinquency include early drug/alcohol use, negative peer networks/associations, antisocial behaviors/attitudes, and school performance. The primary motivating question underlying treatment strategies should be "Why are we doing what we are doing?" The answer to this question should be based on our understanding of the causes of the behavior. The following are elements of programs that research indicates are effective for delinquents, especially younger offenders.

"That is, treatment should be targeted at improving the conditions underlying the behavior."

Substance Abuse Treatment. Early-to-mid-adolescence is a time of rapid cognitive development, and early drug or alcohol abuse often impedes normal developmental processes. Early substance abuse is highly predictive of increased levels of early serious offending and should be considered as one of the most important risk factors to target for intervention.

Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy. There is a close connection between dysfunctional thought processes and dysfunctional behavior. Cognitive-behavioral therapy is a relatively short-term form of psychotherapy that teaches effective strategies for dealing with family or work problems.

Educational Services. School is a particularly important socializing influence for adolescents as it provides the life skills for future success. Younger serious offenders often exhibit serious behavioral and/or academic problems. Thus, intervention services should target both academic achievement along with necessary behavioral modification strategies.

Family Services. Delinquents, especially younger offenders, often experience significant family problems such as family management style, inadequate supervision, substance abuse, and physical abuse. Early adolescence is a time when a healthy family environment is exceedingly important. The family unit must be recognized as an important locus for intervention.

Intensive Supervision. Close supervision is a key component of any intervention program, especially for more serious delinquents with particularly problematic backgrounds. Intensive supervision suggests regular contact with probation staff throughout any given week. Contact could take many different forms, including school checkups, phone contacts with youth or parents, in-office visits, or other scheduled or non-scheduled visits in the community.

Duration. It is critical for treatment strategies to be of sufficient length, recommended in the 6–12-month range. In most cases supervision should be most intensive initially and then gradually decrease as clients meet supervision conditions.

Conclusions

Effective intervention early in young offenders' "criminal careers" holds the potential for reducing the prevalence of serious crime. To accomplish this, it is important for professionals in the juvenile justice system to recognize early serious offending as a risk factor for continued offending. In some localities there may be a tendency to handle such situations informally through reprimand and release or diversion programs. However, there may very well be an added value to keeping these younger offenders "in the system." Maintaining these youth in the system not only gives leverage to encourage the cooperation of them and their families, but also opens them both up to additional resources. Yet the potential for success is only present if such offenders are afforded intensive and comprehensive intervention services that are directed at the underlying sources of such behavior. ■

Semester Conversion Underway

Years of deliberation and planning culminated this fall in the implementation of the semester system. A long time in the making, the semester system puts Northeastern on track with the majority of universities and colleges nationwide.

The semester system is accompanied by an array of benefits. Two 15-week semesters with two seven-and-one-half-week summer sessions (as opposed to four 10-week sessions under the quarter system) allow for more material to be covered in depth. Further, since most other colleges and universities are on the semester system, transfer students are now able to enter Northeastern and transfer credits with less difficulty. Notably, the change significantly affects co-op periods for the CCJ, eliminating any remaining three-month positions. Co-op Coordinator Professor Richard Conley views the change as a "positive step in the development of the co-op program" since it includes six-month co-ops that allow a more substantial experience in the work field.

Despite the benefits of switching to semesters, implementation of the change has been met with a mix of excitement and fear. It requires professors to revise their courses substantially, and students to adjust to longer class periods and course lengths, as well as a host of administrative adaptations. Upperclassmen who are comfortable with academic life under the quarter system seem to be more resistant to accepting the benefits of semesters. "I'm so used to shorter classes, it's a little rough going from 65 minute classes to classes that last 100 minutes, but I guess it will just take a little getting used to," says one senior. Others gratefully accept the change. A junior enrolled in Middler Year Writing remarks, "I have been putting off this class until we changed to semesters so that it would be a little less overwhelming."

Due to the semester conversion, Northeastern will no longer be one of the last area schools to graduate in mid-June; the class of 2004 will graduate on May 1. The earlier graduation date will provide a four-month summer break, and allow students to be competitive in the summer employment job market as well as give faculty extended time to pursue their research. Thanks to everyone who helped make this conversion work! ■

CCJ Distinguished Speaker Series

The kick-off to the newly established CCJ speaker series took place on Tuesday, September 30, 2003, with Dr. Peter Manning's presentation "Crime Analysis and Situated Rationalities." Dr. Manning, whose specialties include use of information technology and police culture, holds the distinguished Elmer V.H. and Eileen M. Brooks Trustee Professorship at the CCJ.

Dr. Peter Manning
NU Photography/Craig Bailey, 2003

Dr. Manning presented his findings from field studies conducted in three cities, from 1998–2003. The aim of the study was to answer the question "How does modern technology shape what police are doing?" through interviews, assessment of documents and papers, and observations of weekly crime analysis meetings that utilized laptops and extensive databases. Research methodology was geared toward examining the role of information technology in law enforcement organizations and to identify the constraints limiting its effectiveness within those organizations.

The findings, Dr. Manning concluded, were less than optimistic. The study revealed that the crime analysis meetings lacked any divergent input and rarely followed-up on problems addressed in previous meetings. Dr. Manning holds that in order for positive change to take place within the law enforcement organization, accountability and reward for follow-through must be present, in addition to assessing and addressing feedback generated from meetings.

Boston Police Commissioner Paul Evans was the second speaker in the installment of the Distinguished Speaker Series October 28 at the Raytheon Amphitheater as he discussed "neighborhood policing efforts in Boston and of the challenges that face policing in the future." Commissioner Evans, one of the "premier police leaders in the country," as introduced by President Freeland, is resigning from the Boston Police Department this November. Evans leaves behind a 9-year legacy as commissioner and a career that spanned 33 years with the Boston Police.

During his period in office, Commissioner Evans promoted community-oriented policing, along with a host of other progressive programming geared at lowering the rate of violence. His approach to community policing involved accountability efforts, problem-solving approaches, and collaboration with the community. Efforts to increase accountability within the police department included the decentralization of drug units (making drug units more accessible to the community) to eliminate needs or excuses for getting the job done. Commissioner Evans notes, "The best problem solving is done through the people closest to the problem; they often know the best solution."

Future challenges for the Boston Police Department, according to Commissioner Evans, will likely include combatting terrorism, particularly considering that there is no single established mode of prevention. Along with demographic issues such as the growing troubled-youth population, the crunch in the local budget will continue to pose a challenge to the police, requiring them to do more with less funding.

At the conclusion of Evans' presentation, Dean Jack Greene presented Commissioner Evans with an award on behalf of the University acknowledging his partnership with Northeastern over the years, and his outstanding leadership in the community. Following his tenure at the BPD, Commissioner Evans plans to remain active in policing, taking up pursuits abroad in London, England.

From L to R: President Freeland, Commissioner Evans, and Dean Greene

The series has been implemented "to fortify the intellectual community on matters of crime and justice," says Dean Jack Greene. For more information about upcoming events in this speaker series, please contact Mary Yee, 617.373.2403. ■

NIJ Awards Anti-Terrorism Grant to Dr. Passas at CCJ

The National Institute of Justice is sponsoring the research project, *Terrorist Finance and the Nexus with Transnational Organized Crime: Commodities Trade and the Social Organization of al Qaeda Groups.* Professor Nikos Passas will be the principal investigator on this two-year grant designed to investigate both the means that fuel terrorist networks, and the networking and social organization of such groups. The former will be investigated through an extensive examination of the commodities trade, the latter through the materials produced by the many criminal and civil actions against terrorist groups both in the U.S. and overseas. Such research should yield policy recommendations on how to anticipate and prevent terrorist attacks, as well as provide a foundation for predictive models for terrorist activity. ■

Alumni Update

Russ Oasis

The College of Criminal Justice takes great pride when our alumni are successful in their endeavors—whether or not they relate directly to the world of criminal justice. Russ Oasis, '73, came to the CCJ in 1968 with expectations of pursuing a career in criminal law. After becoming interested in the University radio station, he pursued various co-op jobs in radio and realized that his interest in radio was much more than a hobby; it would ultimately become the focus of his career. Over the last three decades, Mr. Oasis has achieved great success in the radio broadcasting industry.

From L to R: President Freeland and Russ Oasis
Photography by Heratch, 2003.

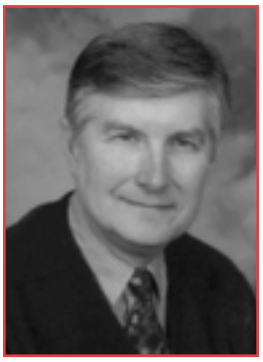
Recently, Mr. Oasis has been working with NU to restructure WRBB 104.9, the University's radio station. While Russ was at Northeastern, the station was operated much as a "real-world entity." Today, he would like to see the station return to its former structure. Russ was heavily involved with the station during his first two years at NU, until entering professional radio as a disc jockey in 1970.

Immediately after graduation from NU, Russ relocated to Miami, FL, and continued his on-air career through 1980, when he and a media associate started an advertising agency. The company prospered, thus enabling Russ to expand his business horizons by purchasing various radio stations. He sold his interests in the advertising agency in 1993, and in 1997 sold three of his radio stations but kept HOT 107.9 WJFX in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

In addition to his success in the radio industry, Russ has a passion for racing cars. He has been racing Vipers for nearly a decade and is a member of the Viper Racing League, a racing series showcased across the nation at a different track each month. Although his career path has veered away from his criminal justice beginnings, Russ Oasis has fond memories of his time at the CCJ. "I still enjoy participating in a lively debate on capital punishment or the legalization of drugs," he attests.

At present, Mr. Oasis lives in Miami and spends his summers on Cape Cod. He maintains close ties with former classmate Dean Jack Greene, and has also met with President Freeland on various occasions concerning alumni affairs and the University's radio station. ■

Alumni Awards Dinner



Dr. Gary Cordner

On October 17, 2003, Dr. Gary Cordner, '74, received the NU Outstanding Alumni Award for the College of Criminal Justice. Dr. Cordner is the former Dean of Eastern Kentucky University's College of Justice and Safety, and a nationally recognized scholar in the field of policing. He has published more than 70 articles and reviews, as well as several books, and served as editor of two top peer-reviewed policing journals, *Police Quarterly* and the *American Journal of Police.* A former classmate of Dean Jack Greene's, Dr. Cordner is one of many notable alumni from the pioneer classes at the College of Criminal Justice. "Gary Cordner's career is the embodiment of the Northeastern model," says Jack Greene, Dean of the College. "He has been a police officer and a police chief, while pursuing an analytic career. His academic achievements are considerable, and they continue to blend concerns for theory and practice."

Dr. Cordner currently is a Professor of Policing Studies at Eastern Kentucky University.

Northeastern Today

As you may be aware from articles in this publication and elsewhere in the media, both the College of Criminal Justice and the larger University have undergone significant changes over the past several years. To reacquaint alumni and friends with the new mission of the University, President Freeland hosted *Northeastern Today,* on Oct. 24 and 25. Faculty members from the College of Criminal Justice (Professors Nikos Passas, James Alan Fox, Donna Bishop and Associate Dean Jack McDevitt) presented their work as part of a seminar in *"Redefining Criminal Justice."* In addition, guests of the event had the opportunity to tour the campus, visit classes, and interact with students, professors, and fellow visitors. Another similar event is being planned for the University in November. ■

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Alumni Trivia Contest

This picture, some 100 years old now, is from The Huntington Field in Boston.
What present-day CCJ building currently sits on this land, and what pitcher has been memorialized on the pitcher's mound?

The first people to correctly answer **BOTH** parts of the question will receive an NU t-shirt. Please send responses to ma.sullivan@neu.edu

Congratulations to the winners of the last alumni contest:

Paul Witt, '94; Krista Larsen, '95; Ann Marie (Santosuosso) Lyons, '93; Brian Hermann, '02; and Elizabeth (Haufler Noonan) McKay, '81. The closest MBTA stops to the main NU campus are the Green Line **Huntington Avenue, Northeastern stop** and the Orange Line **Ruggles stop**. *(We would have also accepted the Ruggles Silver Line commuter rail stop!)*

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