

Message from the Managing Director

2016 finds the Justice Center researchers busy publishing their work and preparing future research projects. Our researchers attended the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting at the end of 2015 and presented their research to the community of criminology scholars. At the meeting, Professor MacKenzie was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

PENN STATE
JUSTICE CENTER FOR RESEARCH

Gary Zajac, Managing Director

This month we bid farewell to Founding Director Professor MacKenzie and Research Assistant Edward Hayes and we wish them well with their future endeavors.

Dr. Gary Zajac

Justice Center says Farewell to Founding Director, Professor Doris MacKenzie

Justice Center for Research Founding Director Professor Doris Layton MacKenzie completed her last day with Penn State and the Center on December 31, 2015, entering full retirement. Doris was recruited to Penn State in 2009 to serve as the Center's inaugural Director, and also as a professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology. Doris in some sense was returning home, having previously earned her Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. degrees in psychology from Penn State. Doris came to Penn State from a distinguished career at the University of Maryland, where among many other accomplishments she had conducted the seminal research into correctional boot camps and co-authored an influential report to Congress on "what works" in corrections. Clearly, the Center was getting a "heavy hitter" with Doris's arrival. During her time as Director of the Center, she has continued her contributions to the literature through numerous publications, a special report on what works in corrections to The National Academies and many studies on criminal desistance and the efficacy of focused deterrence interventions. It seems almost supererogatory to point out the tremendous influence of the contributions Doris has made to this field over the past 30 years, having garnered many awards such as the most recent recognition from the American Society of Criminology discussed later in this issue. The great success of the Center is testimony to the selfless effort she has devoted to its development and growth over the years. We all wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to Doris for the collegial leadership she has provided and wish her the best in her well-earned and deserved retirement.

Founding Director, Doris MacKenzie Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Doris MacKenzie, Justice Center for Research Founding Director, is the recipient of the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award for the Division in Corrections and Sentencing. This prestigious award was presented to Professor MacKenzie at The American Society of Criminology Annual Business/Awards Breakfast Meeting. Congratulations Professor MacKenzie!

Justice Center Departure

Edward Hayes joined the Justice Center in September 2014 upon finishing his Master's degree at the University of Cambridge. He primarily assisted in the Administration of the Death Penalty in Pennsylvania study by traveling to courthouses for data collection and attorney interviews, and by entering and cleaning data. Mr. Hayes also worked on the Prison Inmates Networks Study in which he interviewed two waves of inmates at a state penitentiary. Outside of these studies, Mr. Hayes provided assistance to the Justice Center by writing for grant proposals and managing the Justice Center's Twitter account. Ed will be working in the Peace Corps as a Community Economic Development Promoter in Costa Rica. We wish Ed great luck and success!

Julia Laskorunsky Receives 2016 National Institute of Justice Dissertation Fellowship

Julia Laskorunsky, Graduate Student Assistant at the Justice Center for Research and a Doctoral candidate in the Criminology program at Penn State, has received the 2016 National Institute of Justice Dissertation Fellowship. Her work will be overseen by Justice Center for Research Affiliate Jeff Ulmer, Professor of Sociology and Criminology at Penn State University. They will be working with the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing and the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' Bureau of Planning, Research & Statistics to examine how actuarial and clinical risk prediction relates to racial disproportionality in sentencing.

Justice Center Graduate Student and Faculty Affiliate Publish Book Chapter

Julia Laskorunsky, Graduate Student Assistant at the Justice Center for Research, recently published a book chapter with Jeffery Ulmer, Justice center Faculty Affiliate. The chapter describes sentencing policies and practices in Pennsylvania in *Oxford Handbooks Online in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. The chapter titled "Sentencing Policy and Practices in Pennsylvania," can be found here: <http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199935383.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199935383-e-150>

Director of Planning, Research, and Statistics for the PADOCC presented at Crim Forum

Bret Bucklen, Ph.D., Director of Planning, Research, and Statistics for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections presented at the first Criminology Forum of the Fall semester. His talk titled "The Impact of Returning Technical Parole Violations to Prison: A Deterrent, Null, or Criminogenic Effect" Dr. Bucklen discussed that, "Many states return a large number of technical parole violators (TPVs) to prison each year, and TPVs contribute significantly to the prison population in many states. However, there is virtually no existing research examining what impact returning TPVs to imprisonment has on their subsequent rates of re-offending." His presentation reported on a study examining the impact on recidivism of sanctioning TPVs to imprisonment versus an alternate sanction, and also examined the "dose-response" impact on recidivism of spending varying lengths of stay in prison for a TPV, using a large sample of TPVs in Pennsylvania. Also highlighted in this presentation were the policy conclusions that can be drawn from this study, and remaining questions for future research.

Recent Publication

Justice Center Post-doc Alumni, Ian Elliott, and Gary Zajac's paper "The Implementation of Circles of Support and Accountability in the United States," was recently published in *Aggression and Violent Behavior*.

- Elliot, I.A., & Zajac, G. (2015). The implementation of Circles of Support and Accountability in the United States. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 25, 113-123.

Justice Center Researchers Present at the American Society of Criminology 2015 Annual Meeting

- "The Role of Juvenile Adjudications in Adult Sentencing Decisions" Julia Laskorunsky and Jeffery Ulmer
- "Shared History, shared Decisions: Using Social Networks to examine Court Communities in 27 Counties" Robert Hutchison, Wade Jacobsen, Brendan Lantz
- "The Death Penalty in Pennsylvania: The Question of Racial Disparity." Jeffery Ulmer, John H. Kramer and Gary Zajac
- "The Antecedents of Respect in an Inmate Network." Jacob Young, Derek Kreager, David Schaefer, Gary Zajac, Martin Bouchard and Dana Haynie
- "Prison Inmate Networks: An Examination of Supportive Relationships Inside and Outside of the Institution" Sara Wakefield, Derek Kreager, Wade C. Jacobsen and David Schaefer

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