

## Message from the Managing Director

The Justice Center for Research continues with its active agenda of criminal justice research and outreach. We have just begun an important study of a sex offender reentry program (COSA), which represents the first effort to evaluate this model in the United States. The Justice Center will also be continuing its focus on child sexual abuse with a presentation on sexual abuse of child athletes for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

### PENN STATE JUSTICE CENTER FOR RESEARCH

Doris L. MacKenzie, Director  
Gary Zajac, Managing Director

On other fronts, the Justice Center has just been registered with a prestigious consortium of criminal justice research centers, run by the George Mason University Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy. Justice Center faculty also made numerous presentations at the recent meetings of the American Society of Criminology and the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, as well as at JASI's upcoming 2013 International Policing Conference. Finally, the Justice Center's Administrative Coordinator Barb Cox has won the College of the Liberal Arts' Esprit Award! Congratulations Barb! Thus, the Justice Center continues to be recognized for its work both within and outside of the university.

*Dr. Gary Zajac*

#### National Academies of Science: What Works in Corrections

Justice Center Director, Doris MacKenzie and Managing Director, Gary Zajac were recently commissioned by the *Committee on the Causes and Consequences of High Rates of Incarceration* of the prestigious National Academies of Science to prepare a summary of the literature on "what works" in corrections. The paper they are currently drafting covers the history and theory of offender rehabilitation, the psychological and sociological aspects of rehabilitation, and reviews the findings from decades of research on a wide variety of correctional interventions, such as drug treatment, sex offender programs and deterrence based strategies. Their paper will inform the deliberations of the NAS committee as it prepares policy recommendations that address high rates of incarceration in the U.S. More information for the project can be found at: <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/projectview.aspx?key=49441>

#### COSA – Sex Offender Reentry Program

Work is underway for the Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) evaluability assessment. The goal of the COSA program is to enhance community safety by promoting the successful integration of high-risk sex offenders back into the community through support, advocacy, and meaningful accountability, provided by a combination of local volunteers and criminal justice professionals. Research Scholar, Ian Elliott and Research Assistant, Courtney Meyer will be traveling to five sites across the country to assess this sex offender reentry program. Their first visit will be to Fresno, California at the end of January. Throughout the rest of the spring, they will travel to Vermont, North Carolina, Oregon, and Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

The evaluability assessments will help draw conclusions about the feasibility of conducting a large-scale evaluation in the future.

#### Justice Center Research Scientist to Speak at National Summit

Research Scientist, Dr. Kate Staley, who recently helped develop the Child Sexual Abuse Conference, has been nominated by Penn State President Rodney Erickson to speak at the upcoming "Safe to Compete: Protecting Child Athletes from Sexual Abuse" summit. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation are co-hosting this summit which will take place on March 19-20, 2013 in Arlington, VA. Attendees will include senior staff from various nationally-based youth and sports organizations.

Dr. Staley will be contributing to a panel entitled "Batting a Thousand: Training, Monitoring, and Enforcing Best Practices Nationally and Locally." She plans to share her experiences from organizing the recent conference at Penn State to inform the attendees about how Penn State's conference utilized a new model of reaching people across research communities, practitioners, and lay audiences and targeting local, state, and regional community advocates and leaders. Dr. Staley will be joined by two other panelists, Julie Novak, Associate VP of Child Safety for Big Brothers, Big Sisters and Malia Arrington, Director of Ethics and Safe Sport for the U.S. Olympic Committee.

## Center Researchers Present at National Conferences

Several Justice Center researchers attended the annual **American Society of Criminology** conference in Chicago this past November. Listed below are the titles of their presentations.

**Matthew DeMichele:** "Preliminary Analysis of the Impaired Driving Assessment for Community Corrections"

**Julia Laskorunsky & Matthew DeMichele:**

"Mapping the Relationship between Offender Characteristics, Sentences, and Outcomes"

**Doris MacKenzie:** "Evaluating the Impact of HOPE Programs: A Demonstration Field Experiment"

Workshop: "Practical Solutions for Administering Multi-Site Randomized Trials"

Round Table: "The Future of Criminology: A Tribute to David Farrington"

**Gary Zajac:**

"Assessing Fidelity and Lessons Learned in HOPE Programs"

"Crime, Policing and Corrections in the Rural Context"

"Assessment in Correctional Institutions & Community Reentry: Correspondence to Best Practices"

**Ian Elliott** recently attended the annual conference for the **Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA)** in Denver. He contributed to a symposium with his talk entitled, "Using E-Safety Software in Remote Computer Monitoring for Sex Offenders."

### JASI Conference

The Penn State Justice and Safety Institute (JASI) is sponsoring the 2013 International Conference, "Policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." The conference will take place in Arlington, Virginia on May 17-18, 2013. The scheduled presenters include leaders from law enforcement, government, research, social media, education, the military, and training. The Justice Center's managing director, Dr. Gary Zajac, will be contributing to a panel about improving outreach efforts.

### Justice Center Joins GMU's E-Consortium

The Justice Center has recently been accepted into the "eConsortium for University Centers and Researchers for Partnership with Justice Practitioners" based out of George Mason University's Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy. Joining more than 100 individual researchers and centers, the Justice Center now belongs to a strong network that provides opportunities for research collaboration and new partnerships with justice agencies.

### ESPRIT Award

Barbara Cox, the Justice Center's Administrative Coordinator, recently received the College of the Liberal Arts' Esprit award. Recipients of this award demonstrate an outstanding attitude and enthusiasm toward their job. Barbara's dedication to creating a positive work environment and making the best out of any situation makes her a valuable member of the Justice Center team. Make sure you congratulate Barbara the next time you see her!

### NSF Submission

Dr. Matthew DeMichele, Justice Center Postdoctoral Scholar, along with Associate Professor Greg Eghigian (History) recently submitted a proposal to NSF to investigate patterns in the history of institutional confinement (prisons, asylums, mental hospitals, etc) since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This interdisciplinary project combines Dr. DeMichele's expertise on incarceration with Dr. Eghigian's knowledge of the history of mental illness across many different countries. Historical case studies comparing different pairs of countries as well as longitudinal quantitative techniques will be used to analyze the data.

Justice Center for Research

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### Recent Publications

**MacKenzie, D.L. & Armstrong, G.S. (2012).** The human experiment in treatment: A means to the end of offender recidivism. In R. Loeber & B.C. Welsh (Eds.) *The Future of Criminology*. Oxford University Press.

Mitchell, O., Wilson, D.B., Eggers, A., & **MacKenzie, D. (2012).** Assessing the effectiveness of drug courts on recidivism: A meta-analytic review of traditional and non-traditional drug courts. *Journal of Criminal Justice, 40(1)*, 60-71.

**MacKenzie, D.L. (2012).** The effectiveness of corrections-based work and academic and education programs. In J. Petersilia & K. Reitz (Eds). *Oxford Handbook of Sentencing and Corrections*. Oxford University Press: Oxford, U.K.

**MacKenzie, D.L. (2012).** Preventing the future criminal activities of delinquents and offenders. In B.C Welsh & D.P. Farrington (Eds). *The Oxford Handbook of Crime Prevention*. Oxford University Press: Oxford, U.K.