

## Message from the Director

As the academic year begins, we are excited to have a new post-doc join our team. Dr. Michaela Soyer comes from the University of Chicago with expertise in juvenile delinquency and experience with ethnographic fieldwork that will certainly benefit our center.

### PENN STATE JUSTICE CENTER FOR RESEARCH

Doris L. MacKenzie, Director  
Gary Zajac, Managing Director

In other news, we are co-sponsoring an event with the Network on Child Protection & Well-Being which will feature a talk by Sheldon Kennedy, a former NHL player who is a survivor of child sexual abuse. Read below for more details.

Finally, one of our Research Assistants, Courtney Meyer, has organized a Campus Sexual Assault Education Conference for students that will take place on October 15<sup>th</sup>. As you can see, we have quite the variety of projects and events happening at the Justice Center, so we hope you'll read on to check out what's on *The Docket* this month.

*Professor Doris MacKenzie*

### Justice Center Welcomes New Post-Doc, Michaela Soyer, Ph.D.

The Justice Center is pleased to welcome Dr. Michaela Soyer as its newest postdoctoral scholar. Michaela joins us after recently earning her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Chicago. Prior to her graduate work in the United States, Michaela received her Master's degree from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a B.A. from the University of Applied Arts and Sciences in Hannover, Germany.

Based on three years of ethnographic fieldwork with juvenile offenders in Boston and Chicago, Michaela's dissertation argues that successful desistance is tied to the teenagers' ability to experience themselves as creative and autonomous actors. Michaela's future work will continue to focus on the transition from adolescence to adulthood with a particular emphasis on how teenagers successfully age out of deviant behavior. In her research, Michaela aspires to enrich contemporary criminological theories with classic sociological approaches to social action and punishment. Aside from her research on juvenile delinquency, Michaela is interested in collective action in repressive regimes.

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Dr. Soyer presented her research to faculty and graduate students as part of the Criminology Forum Series, co-sponsored by the Justice Center for Research and the Criminology Program of the Department of Sociology and Criminology.

### Sheldon Kennedy, former NHL player, to speak on October 10<sup>th</sup>

Sheldon Kennedy, a former professional ice hockey player, will speak on "Tragedy to Triumph: Overcoming Child Sexual Abuse and Leading Social Change." This event, sponsored by the Justice Center for Research and the Network on Child Protection & Well-Being, will take place on **October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in The Living Center, 110 Henderson Building**. Following his talk, a panel of child maltreatment experts will lead a discussion. These experts include:

**Jennie Noll, Ph.D.** (Professor, HDFS & Director of Research & Education, Network on Child Protection & Well-Being)

**Teresa Smith, Ph.D., LSW** (NRCAC Outreach & Training Coordinator)

**Pamela McCloskey, M.Ed.** (Licensed Psychologist, and Child Forensic Interviewer)

**John Soubik** (HDFS Alumnus & Former Child Welfare Investigator)

We hope you will join us for this interesting presentation.

## Campus Sexual Assault Education Conference

The Campus Sexual Assault Education Conference is almost here! Research Assistant Courtney Meyer has dedicated several months to organizing this one-day conference to educate college students about sexual assault with a unique focus on masculinity and rape. The conference will take place at Penn State's HUB-Robeson Center on October 15, 2013. It is free and available for students to register. The keynote speaker is Laura Dunn, a third year law student at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law. As a college student and assault survivor, she became an outspoken activist on the issue of campus sexual violence. Following Dunn's keynote address, there will be a variety of one hour workshops for students to attend which will cover a wide-range of topics related to campus sexual assault.

\$18,100 in funding was secured from a variety of sponsors including the Penn State Rock Ethics Institute, the Penn State Commission for Women, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) and National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), the Penn State Social Science Research Institute (SSRI), the Centre County Women's Resource Center, and the Penn State LGBTE Commission. Courtney and one of the Justice Center's student interns have been working hard to advertise the event to students by distributing thousands of flyers, speaking on a local morning radio show, and getting the story on the front page of the Daily Collegian.

For more information on the schedule of events and speakers, see the conference webpage [here](#).

## Recent Publications

Welsh, W.N. & **Zajac, G.** (2013). A Multi-Site Evaluation of Prison-Based Drug Treatment: Five Year Follow-up Results. *The Prison Journal*, 93(3), 251-271.

Eggers, A., Wilson, D.B., Mitchell, O., & **MacKenzie, D.L.** (2013). Drug Courts' Effect on Criminal Offending for Juveniles and Adults. No. 11 of Crime Prevention Research Review. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. [Available Here](#)

Stahler, G., Mennis, J., Belenko, S., Welsh, W., Hiller, M., & **Zajac, G.** (2013). Predicting Recidivism for Released State Prison Offenders: Examining the Influence of Individual and Neighborhood Factors on the Likelihood of Reincarceration. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 40(6), 690-711.

## Mifflin County Drug Court

Managing Director Gary Zajac and Research Assistant Laura Winger recently completed an evaluation and report for the Mifflin County drug court in Lewistown, PA. The Correctional Program Checklist (CPC) was used to evaluate the treatment court program on various categories such as staff, treatment, leadership, and offender assessment. The report, along with a literature review on drug courts, focuses on best practices to reduce recidivism and provides recommendations for improving the program. Gary and Laura will present their findings to Mifflin County's advisory board committee in December.

Justice Center for Research

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