levels of disparity between black and other youth, citing that the disparities within these rates of contact between black and white youth cannot solely be blamed on more participation in crime among black youth. Consequently she argues that other factors must be considered and posits that the most common causes of DMC include: selective enforcement, differential opportunities for treatment, institutional racism, indirect effects of socioeconomic factors, differential offending, biased risk assessment instruments, and differential administrative practices. The author further contends that some of these policies, while designed with “good intentions” do not take into account their disparate impact on particular racial and ethnic groups. The chapter highlights specific policies that impact and disadvantage youth of color. For example, school push-out policies which are mostly found in urban and low income schools are those that involve youth of color in and with the system at earlier and more aggressive rates than other youth. (Continued on p. 3).
Message from the Chair

Robert L. Bing, Ph.D.
University of Texas at Arlington

Dear Section Members,

This has to have been one of the busiest semesters in sometime, but I am taking some time out to say hello and to express my appreciation for your support of the Section on Minorities and Women. Next, I would be remiss, if I did not acknowledge the support of the other executive members, along with Dr. Faith Lutze, who is handling the nominations for our annual awards.

At this time, I am pleased to let you know that we will also set some time aside for a key note speaker, Dr. Jill Myers at our annual reception. Her presentation will be titled, “Decreasing Discrepancies in Disciplinary Decision Making.” The reception is scheduled for March 16, 2012 at 5PM in the Marquis B Room.

Looking forward to time in the big city and socializing with all of you. Again thanks to each one of you and the officers of this section for that you do to help make a difference! Please enjoy the second issue of MWS Speaks. See you in the big city!

Sincerely,
Bob Bing

Message from the Editor

Kimberly D. Dodson, Ph.D.
Western Illinois University-Quad Cities

I hope that you will consider attending the Minorities and Women Section Awards Ceremony and Reception to hear Dr. Myers’ keynote address and show your support for the section. The awards ceremony is schedule for Friday, March 16, 2012 at 5:00 PM in Marquis B, on the 9th Floor. Dr. Faith Lutze and the awards committee have been working hard to make the awards ceremony and reception a success.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the newsletters thus far. It’s your support that makes the newsletter possible. Remember, the newsletter will be published quarterly (March, June, September, and December.) Some of the things that you might considering sharing include recent publications or presentations, teaching tips, book reviews, awards or honors, employment announcements. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter or offer suggestions for future editions, please contact me via email at KD-Dodson@wiu.edu or phone at (309) 762-9481 extension 62305.
Chapter 2 provides a historical overview of the policies and mandates that authorized states to conduct research on the disproportionate number of minorities confined and in contact with the criminal justice system. This chapter is very significant in that it chronicles the past and current DMC legislation and identifies the enhancements made to improve DMC reporting. Of particular importance is the 1988 mandate by Congress that made States participating in Part B of the Title II Formula Grant Program address disproportionality in secure detention, correctional facilities, adult jails and lockups. Strengthened in 1992 this mandate became the fourth core requirement of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974. The impacts of these mandates were critical because they encouraged States to address disproportionality and minority overrepresentation throughout the juvenile justice continuum not just in facilities (i.e. detention, adult jails and lockups). Students and scholars alike will be up to date on the recent legislation as this chapter discusses the relationship between the four requirements and the potential impact of pending SB 678 and HR 6029 Bills. The final part of the chapter provides reasons why most States and local jurisdictions have not been able to reduce DMC, citing that 1) most States and localities after determining the RRI, go to the Intervention Phase and bypass the Assessment/Diagnosis Phase of the Model, 2) many jurisdictions use funding for direct services instead of conducting a formal study and finally 3) most interventions are not successful because they are not directly related to the contributing mechanisms that impact DMC.

The origins and the current use of the Relative Rate Index (RRI) are the focus of chapter 3. The chapter also discusses how the RRI is used to measure disproportionality and how the measurement has been impacted by legislative policy. The RRI, was created as a result of the 1988 annual report to Congress by the Coalition of Juvenile Justice where Congress was asked to address the growing racial disparities found in the juvenile justice system. Hence, Congress amended the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) to include what is now known as the DMC initiative. The RRI is a method for computing rates of activity (by race and ethnicity) at each of the contact points/stages as well as a system map describing the major contact points or stages a juvenile may have contact into the justice system. The formula for RRI is as follows: RRI = minority rate/white rate. The author uses nontechnical language to help readers understand the metric and its explanatory power. Lastly, the author gives some suggestions on improving the rate to meet current issues.

Chapter 4 provides an analysis of the research conducted in four Iowa jurisdictions that used racial disparity reduction strategies. Iowa along with 4 other states were selected to serve as models to other states and localities as to how to implement the DMC mandate base principles. The authors posit that despite reductions, African American youth in comparison to white youth are still overrepresented in every phase of the juvenile justice system except probation. The research does not specifically examine the extent to which programs and strategies have been implemented. Moreover the research focuses on factors such as race, legal and extralegal factors that may influence intake decision-making. Specifically, the theoretical foundation that drives this research is the symbolic threat thesis which attempts to identify the contingencies of juvenile justice decision-making by focusing on the characteristics of youth, especially minorities, and the social psychological emotions of juvenile court officers. Central to this research is that it focuses on two different time periods, before and after the DMC mandate to see the indication as to whether greater parity in delinquency proceedings is evident as a result of the mandate.

Chapter 5 provides an overview of two initiatives that have been funded by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) to address disproportionate minority contact (DMC) in Shelby County, Tennessee. The School House Adjustment Program Enterprise (SHAPE) initiative has been recently added (2011) to the DMC Reduction Best Practices Database, seeks to reduce the number of minority youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system by diverting those with pending juvenile summonses for minor offenses (e.g. criminal trespassing, disorderly conduct, simple assaults with no serious injuries, and gambling offenses). It is collaborative program between Memphis City Schools (MCS), the Memphis Police Department (MPD), the Shelby County Mayor’s Office, the Public Defender’s Office, and the Shelby County Juvenile Court, which officially launched in the 2008-09 school.
The second initiative, Shelby County District Attorney General’s Truancy Reduction Program focuses on identifying at-risk truant students and to offer an early intervention strategy through parental commitment, building stronger relations with law enforcement by providing effective mentors for these youth. Both programs specifically target middle and high school students in the Memphis City School system. The chapter finishes with a summary of the DMC initiatives and presents promising empirical data and analyses that show these programs are indeed having a positive effect on reducing DMC.

Chapter 6 examines the strategies implemented in Iowa and Virginia to reduce disproportionate minority contact (DMC) in the states’ juvenile justice systems. Specifically, the authors used available data in both these states to document the history and status of DMC efforts that have been implemented over the past several years. The study examined both state-level as well as ongoing efforts to address DMC to identify the extent and nature of the DMC problem and to assess the effectiveness of their efforts to reduce DMC. The research revealed that both Iowa and Virginia have been studying and assessing DMC issues for some time and both have implemented reduction strategies and maintain and provide current data mining to include the RRIs. However, the study also revealed that despite these advances, both states still have some issues to be addressed and a ways to go with regard to effectively targeting and reducing DMC. It should be noted there are similarities with regard to both states in their levels of issues but there are also some differences. The State of Iowa clearly resonates as being more effective it is DMC efforts, which may due to the fact that they have been addressing the issue for a longer period of time. Lastly, this chapter presents what was learned about the implementation on the state and local levels for both states and offers recommendations to help OJJDP and the localities enhance their ability to collect data, address DMC issues, and evaluate the results of their efforts.

The previous chapters 1-3 provide the historical overview and backdrop for DMC. Whereas chapters 4-6 analyze research efforts that evaluate state wide strategies and initiatives in their efforts to reduce DMC. Chapter 7 provides an in-depth look at the overrepresentation of children of color in the child welfare system, specifically examining the policies and practices that impact disparate treatment for children of color. The author recognizes that there is not a simple explanation for this disproportionate representation but notes that it is crucial to examine key child welfare decision points as well as biases that might exist in the decision making process. The author cites Chand’s (2000) work on “exposure bias” as an explanation for bias in the reporting process rather than racial prejudice as the reason for the disproportionate rates of reporting. Exposure bias (also referred to as visibility bias) refers to the consequence that poor families are more likely to be exposed to mandated reporters because of their reliance on social service systems for support. It is the collateral impact of all the overlapping systems (welfare, health care, mental health, educational, juvenile and criminal) where racial disproportionality and disparity exist that exacerbates and compounds the issue.

The war on drugs (WoD) is the focus of chapter 8 specifically examining policies enacted under former President Regan’s tenure. The authors argue that the contemporary WoD was set in motion by Former President Reagan following a media pandemonium of a “crack epidemic” focusing on the death of Len Bias and Don Rodgers. Likewise the authors note the increase of racial differentiation in sentencing as a result of the 1986 Controlled Substances Act which provided penalties for crack cocaine that were 100 times as severe as the penalties for powdered cocaine. The contemporary WoD targeted low-level drug dealers and users by encouraging law enforcement officers to target these offenders through the use of increased drug sanctions for convicted drug offenders.

Chapter 9 highlights the number of African Americans disproportionately arrested and overrepresented in serious and violent crimes. The author contends “that the criminal justice system’s response to crime is a function of offending, however it is not strictly dependent upon actual crime or criminality” (p. 159). Factors influencing the causes and correlates of crime interact in a variety of levels in often difficultly complex ways makes crime in the United States is a complicated affair to examine and explain. The disastrous effects of this complication, has unfortunately led to disproportionality within the criminal justice system for some racial groups. Race and crime are ever present topics in crime studies; however a lot of the discussion regarding the “race-space divide” is centered on misconceptions, misperceptions and a historically parallel troubled relationship between law enforcement and these communities. The chapter examines race, crime, and policing with an eye toward the structural factors that produce race differentiated crime rates.

The authors of chapter 11 discuss the critical topic of the race/class basis of stratification ideology among the Cuban middle class. They suggest that past studies focused only on African Americans and failed to incorporate ideological points of view toward relevant social issues in American society. For example, opinions toward the crime control ideology. Thus the importance of this research is that it enhances current studies because it includes Latinos, specifically Cuban Americans and adds the ideology of crime control to the discussion.
The authors suggest that the inclusion of Cuban Americans produces an important feature distinctive from blacks because of their immigrant status. This immigrant status gives Cuban Americans a “dual consciousness” whereby most of them are susceptible to adopting an “individualistic” belief that the causes of socioeconomic inequality are not the result of blocked opportunities. Data from the National Election Study was used to assess predictions from three perspectives concerning the effects of minority status and position in the class structure to explain support of the Cuban middle class toward the punitive versus preventive stance on crime control.

The “collateral consequences” due disproportionate incarceration and criminal convictions rates are the focus of Chapters 12 and 13. Chapter 12 provides a necessary and revealing historical analysis of the prison industrial complex (PIC) and how its construction has almost single handedly crippled African American communities. Further this chapter points out other contributing mechanisms and policies centered on and around the PIC that have bourgeoned the collateral damage within these vulnerable communities. The author critically analyzes how some of these consequences although “unintentional” and “invisible”, but now not so seemingly “unintended” anymore have existed for twenty plus years, have produced a cumulative and devastating effect on these economically stressed and socially disorganized communities. Specifically social and generational effects as a result of mass incarceration within communities of color are examined positing the “normalcy of incarceration” for the inhabitants of these communities.

Chapter 13 poignantly describes the exacerbated impact the PIC has on these communities by delineating the politics and policies that disproportionately disenfranchise these communities by reducing and removing political power. The culprit, the loss of the right to vote, a key element to democratic governance but a collateral consequence that has a long and far reaching impact as communities who are affected have been stripped of their ability to politically thrive and survive. As convicted felons remain the only directly disenfranchised populations across the nation. The chapter draws on the theoretical framework of both Rose and Clear (1998) and DuBois (1935) to outline the relationship between DMC, political disenfranchisement, and community instability. The author examines post-Civil war America and the creation of southern states laws including minor violations that served to facilitate disenfranchising African-Americans. She powerfully and influentially provides current interpretation and applicability of modern day disenfranchisement laws which are rooted in passage of the Reconstruction amendments (13th, 14th and 15th).

The final chapter, chapter 14, provides current information for individuals, agencies and/or organizations who are interested in addressing a jurisdictional DMC issue. Further the chapter provides information on how to go about utilizing the resources within their areas to specifically identify and address DMC. The author identifies some possible partners and organizations that local jurisdictions may want to consider when deciding to tackle their DMC issue. Of particular note, the author identifies how Virginia State University has partnered and is working collaboratively with local and state agencies to address regional and national concerns about DMC. In conclusion, Disproportionate Minority Contact, is a necessary and relatively easy read. The book can be used as a stand-alone text for both undergraduate and graduate level courses on or about minorities in the criminal justice system. The book could also be used a supplemental text for a criminological theory course as many of its chapters present theoretical frameworks in their analysis. One of the most appealing things about the text is that it is a great demonstration of how a concept (DMC) is transferred into research which has produced legislation and impacted social policy. This volume is the only compilation to date that delivers a comprehensive analysis regarding the mandates, policies, affects, mechanisms and consequences of Disproportionate Minority Contact. Refreshingly honest and powerfully insightful, this group of authors have provided the scholarly community and well as those who “dare to seek” justice with a brave and intricate look at the injustices of disproportionately on youth and people of color in our society.

**References**


Member News

♦ Congratulations to Dr. Kimberly D. Dodson, Western Illinois University-Quad Cities who was recently elected Executive Counselor for the American Society of Criminology’s Division on People of Color and Crime. Dr. Dodson also was named Faculty Scholar of the College of Education and Human Services at Western Illinois University. She is the first assistant professor to receive this honor.

♦ Congratulations to Dr. Maria L. Garase, Chairperson of the Department of Criminal Justice and Social work who recently was awarded the Gerhard O. W. Mueller Innovator Award in Criminal Justice from the Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences. She was nominated for this award based on her work with criminal justice practitioners in graffiti abatement as well as her research with a community treatment facility for women involved in the criminal justice system.

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www.facebook.com/pages/ACJS-Minorities-and-Women-Section/236865689686786

The School-to-Prison Pipeline: Structuring Legal Reform

Kim, C., Losen, D., and Hewitt, D.

This book is a must read for those who are interested in learning more about the discriminatory school practices and policies that send children on a trajectory toward prison.
Educational Opportunities

Prairie View A&M University
College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology
Juvenile Justice Doctorate

The College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology at Prairie View A&M University (outside of Houston, Texas), and a member of the Texas A&M University System offers a Ph.D. in Juvenile Justice. The program has been in existence for a decade and has produced a number of graduates who are program leaders.

The College also offers a Master of Science in Juvenile Justice (online).

Both programs offer financial assistance for competitive applicants. Website: pvamu.edu.

For application information: 936-261-5234 or e-mail slsiegmund@pvamu.edu or svmorris@pvamu.edu.

Loyola University Chicago
Criminal Justice and Criminology Department
Research Assistantship

The Criminal Justice and Criminology Department at Loyola University Chicago has a research assistantship stipend of $12,000 with a full-time tuition and healthcare waiver to be awarded to the most meritorious applicant to our M.A. degree program. There also is available a full-time tuition waiver for the most meritorious applicant from an under-represented racial minority group in graduate education. Additional information about the program can be found on our website at: http://www.luc.edu/criminaljustice/graduate.shtml. Please contact: Dr. Loretta Stalans, Graduate Program Director, at lstalan@luc.edu for additional information.

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Faculty Development Opportunity

The Ohio State University
Department of Sociology
Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute
Broadening Perspectives and Participation

Faculty pursuing tenure and career success in research intensive institutions, academics transitioning from teaching to research institutions, and faculty members carrying out research in teaching contexts will be interested in this Summer Research Institute. Organized by Lauren J. Krivo and Ruth D. Peterson and funded by the National Science Foundation and Ohio State University, the institute is designed to promote successful research projects and careers among faculty from underrepresented groups working in areas of crime and criminal justice. During the institute, each participant will complete an ongoing project (either a research paper or grant proposal) in preparation for journal submission or agency funding review. In addition, participants will gain information that will serve as a tool-kit tailored to successful navigation of the academic setting.

The Summer Research Institute will provide participants with:

• Resources for completing their research projects;
• Senior faculty mentors in their areas of study;
• Opportunities to network with junior and senior scholars;
• Workshops addressing topics related to publishing, professionalization, and career planning; and
• Travel expenses to Ohio, housing in Columbus, and living expenses.

The institute will culminate in a research symposium where participants present their completed research before a scholarly audience.

Completed applications must be postmarked by February 10, 2012. To download the application form, please see our web site (http://cjrc.osu.edu/rdcj-n/summerinstitute).

Eligibility: All applicants must hold regular tenure-track positions in U.S. institutions and demonstrate how their participation broadens participation of underrepresented groups in crime and justice research. Graduate students without tenure track appointments are not eligible for this program.

Please direct all inquiries to: kennedy.312@sociology.osu.edu.
Position Announcements

Washington State University
Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

The Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Washington State University, Pullman, WA, invites applications for one tenure track position at the level of Assistant Professor with appointment beginning August 16, 2012. The position currently has a 2/2 course teaching load based on a semester system.

The Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology seeks a person with broad knowledge of the criminal justice system and substantive research interests that focus on either: 1) corrections, courts, or juvenile justice; or 2) the policy intersections of public health and criminal justice. Candidates must have evidence of an established record of research and scholarship; demonstrated ability to teach at the undergraduate level; and a PhD in Criminal Justice or related social science field by the time of appointment. The successful candidate will be expected to pursue an active research and publishing agenda, teach undergraduate and graduate courses, serve on master’s and doctoral student committees, and participate in teaching technology-based distance learning courses and service to the Department, College, and University. The Department offers a BA, MA, and PhD degrees in Criminal Justice.

Review of applications will begin on December 19, 2011 and continue until the position is filled. Please apply online through WSU Human Resources (http://www.wsujobs.com) and be prepared to submit your cover letter, CV, and three letters of recommendation.

Washington State University employs only United States citizens and lawfully authorized non-US citizens. All new employees must show employment eligibility verification as required by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Texas A&M International University
Department of Behavioral Sciences

The Department of Behavioral Sciences at Texas A&M International University has two Assistant Professor in Criminal Justice positions available beginning Fall 2012. Salary is commensurate with qualifications. Visit www.tamiu.edu for more information about our University.

Assistant Professor in Criminal Justice (tenure-track): Duties include teaching courses, performing research in criminal justice, and serving on departmental, University, and professional committees. Additional responsibilities include academic advising, scholarly activities, and service. Potential courses include Police Systems and Practices, Criminological Theory, Statistics, Correctional Institutions and Criminal Justice Personnel Management.

Required Qualifications: Earned doctorate in Criminal Justice or closely related field. Strong commitment to undergraduate and graduate teaching, research, and service appropriate for appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor.

Preferred Qualifications: 1) Demonstrated commitment to teaching excellence at the undergraduate and graduate levels; and 2) Record of publication in peer-reviewed journals in the field.

Application Procedure: Open until filled. Submit 1) a letter of application describing teaching and research interests and qualifications for the position (each required and preferred criterion); 2) current vitae; 3) one writing sample; and 4) names, addresses, and contact information of three professional references to: gvillagran@tamiu.edu or Chair, Criminal Justice Search Committee, Dept. of Behavioral Sciences, Texas A&M International University, 5201 University Blvd., Laredo, TX 78041.

TAMIU is an equal opportunity employer. All TAMIU positions are security-sensitive. Applicants are subject to a criminal investigation, and employment is contingent on the results of the criminal history investigation.
Western Illinois University
School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration

The School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration is seeking to fill two (2) nine-month, tenure-track positions. Candidates must have a terminal degree from an accredited institution. Teaching, scholarly, and/or progressive professional experience in criminology, criminal justice, or a closely related discipline is required. ABD’s will be considered.

Successful candidates will have a substantial background in one or more of the following areas: Policing, Law Enforcement, Criminal Investigations, Corrections, Law Enforcement & Corrections Administration, and/or Ethics. Applicants should demonstrate an understanding of the application of technology to enhance learning. Applicants with experience and/or the potential for securing external funding, consistent with the department's mission, will be given added consideration.

For more info see: http://www.wiu.edu/employment/emp.sphp?id=1024. AA/EO employer. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, and veteran status.

Interested persons should send a letter of application, complete resume, copy of transcripts, and three names of reference. Please include an email address and a telephone number for each reference to: Terry M. Mors, Director; School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration; Western Illinois University; 1 University Circle; Macomb, IL 61455-1390.

Iona College
Criminal Justice Department

Iona College’s Criminal Justice Department has growing and thriving undergraduate and graduate programs with special areas including: security threat assessment and forensic criminology, law enforcement & security, corrections & community-based corrections and community/restorative justice courses.

Position/Rank: Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Criminal Justice

Qualifications: A doctorate in criminal justice or criminology. Candidate should have substantial college level teaching experience and enjoy collaborative initiatives. Preferred qualifications include: graduate teaching experience, practical expertise in the field, research and scholarly writings/research. Competitive ABD applicants will be considered if receipt of degree is on or before August 20th, 2012. Preferred candidates will provide evidence of potential for effective teaching, research initiatives/agenda and scholarly engagements. Faculty members are expected to teach four (4) classes each semester and are expected to pursue an active research agenda [grants & publications] as well as meeting college service obligations [department, campus-wide, and community].

Start Date: August, 2012

Application Deadline: Screening of candidates will begin immediately and continue until position is filled

Application Process: Please submit a letter of application, current vita, complete contact information, transcripts, and three letters of recommendation to:

Dr. Cathryn Lavery, Chair
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