



**Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies  
E-Newsletter – January 22, 2003**

## **Announcements**

***Cornwall Center Appoints New Director.*** Following an intensive nationwide search campaign, a multidisciplinary panel of Rutgers-Newark faculty has selected East Orange native Stephanie Bush-Baskette to head the Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies. She will assume her new position on February 1, 2004.



Dr. Bush-Baskette holds an undergraduate degree in psychology from Cornell University, a law degree from American University's Washington College of Law, and a Ph.D. from the School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers-Newark. After practicing law in her hometown for several years Bush-Baskette was elected to three consecutive terms in the N.J. General Assembly, serving as Majority Whip from 1990-1992.

She resigned her seat to accept a position as commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in Gov. James Florio's cabinet. Following her tenure at DCA, Bush-Baskette was a professor of criminology and criminal justice and director of the Juvenile Justice Role Model Development Program at Florida State University. Most recently, Bush-Baskette served as director of government relations and senior researcher at the National Council on Crime and Delinquency in Oakland, California.

"What drew me to this position is that it mirrors exactly what I want to do professionally, and have been doing my entire career: providing the tools for people to empower themselves," Bush-Baskette said. She notes that both academics and public-policy makers need to learn from each other, and envisions the Cornwall Center as a nexus for this to occur.

"Stephanie Bush-Baskette is the ideal person to link the urban research interests of our faculty with the needs of the Newark metropolitan area and the state," said Rutgers-Newark Provost Steven Diner. "She believes deeply in the importance of research for the well-being of cities and communities. "We are extremely fortunate to have someone with her background, energy and passion to provide leadership in this crucial endeavor."

For more information visit the University News Service online at:

<http://www.newark.rutgers.edu/news/index.php?slid=viewArticle&ArticleID=3687&prevTitle=Top+Stories&prevURL=index.php> or the Cornwall Center website: <http://www.cornwall.rutgers.edu/>.

***Library-Historical Society Announce Visiting Research Fellowships for 2004-2005.*** The Library Company of Philadelphia and The Historical Society of Pennsylvania will jointly award approximately thirty one-month fellowships for research in residence in either or both collections

during the academic year 2004-2005. These two independent research libraries, adjacent to each other in Center City Philadelphia, have complementary collections capable of supporting research in a variety of fields and disciplines relating to the history of America and the Atlantic world from the 17th through the 19th centuries, as well as Mid-Atlantic regional history to the present.

The Library Company's collections (500,000 volumes) represent the full range of American print culture from colonial times to the end of the 19th century. The Historical Society's archives (18 million items, now enriched by the holdings of the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies) document the social, cultural, and economic history of a region central to the nation's development, with new strength in ethnic and immigrant history. Both collections are strong in African-American and women's history, popular print culture, newspapers and printed ephemera, and images of the Philadelphia region. For information on the collections, visit [www.hsp.org](http://www.hsp.org) and [www.librarycompany.org](http://www.librarycompany.org).

Fellowship stipends of \$1,750 support advanced, post-doctoral, or dissertation research, and are tenable for any one-month period between June 2004-May 2005. (Two Barra Foundation International Fellowships, each for \$2000 plus travel expenses are reserved for foreign national scholars resident outside the U. S.). The grantors invite inquiries about the appropriateness of proposed topics. The Library Company's newly renovated Cassatt House fellows' residence offers rooms at reasonable rates.

The Library Company also offers both short-term and long-term dissertation and advanced research fellowships under the auspices of its Program in Early American Economy and Society (PEAES), as well as the Greenfield Foundation Fellowships for long-term dissertation research in its collections on any subject. For more information, stipends, and application procedures, visit [www.librarycompany.org](http://www.librarycompany.org).

Application deadline: March 1, 2004, with decisions by April 15. Please send 5 copies each of a brief resume, a 2 to 4 page description of the proposed research, and a letter of reference to James Green, Library Company, 1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Phone: 215-546-3181, FAX: 215-546-5167 or email: [jgreen@librarycompany.org](mailto:jgreen@librarycompany.org)

---

## Faculty News

***Kelling Receives Man of the Year Honor.*** George Kelling, professor of criminal justice and faculty chair of the Police Institute at Rutgers-Newark, has been named the Law Enforcement News 2003 Man of the Year. Law Enforcement News is a publication of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, which, like Rutgers-Newark, is widely considered one of the premier criminal-justice programs in the nation.

Kelling's honor derives from his innovative work advancing community policing strategies that correlate signs of decay—for example, broken windows, graffiti, and abandoned cars—with increased criminal activity. His “broken windows” theory, devised in the early eighties with co-author James Wilson, has been adopted by law enforcement officials throughout the country and is associated with dramatic drops in crime rates in these areas.

---

## Upcoming Events

**Cornwall Spring Faculty Luncheon Seminars.** **Elliot Sclar**, Columbia University Professor of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, is the featured speaker at the next Cornwall Center Faculty Luncheon Seminar. His talk, tentatively titled "Ending Slum Poverty," is cosponsored by the Center for Global Change and Governance. Dr. Sclar is a nationally recognized expert on local economic development planning and co-chair of the United Nations task force on improving the lives of slum dwellers.

The lecture will be held on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004, in the Provost's Conference Room, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Center for Law and Justice. To ensure seating, please RSVP to Desiree Gordon, 973-353-5585 or email [cgcg@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:cgcg@andromeda.rutgers.edu) by Wednesday, February 18, 2004.

**Abbott Leadership Institute Announces First Course in Spring Education Series.** The Abbott Leadership Institute will begin its first course for the spring on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, from 10 A.M.-1 P.M. "Partnership Through Information" is a follow up to the unit on "Data Based Advocacy." The course will help interested individuals learn how to use data from the **Abbott Programs** and **No Child Left Behind** to improve educational outcomes for children. For more information or to register contact Junius Williams, Director at 973/353-1750, ext. 229.

**Robeson Gallery Spotlights Immigrant Experience.** Beginning this month the Robeson Art Gallery will present "Immigration and Expectations," an exhibit that explores the immigrant experience through the eyes of visual artists. An opening reception will be held on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004, from 4-6 P.M. and the exhibit will run through March 5<sup>th</sup>. All events are free and open to the public. The Robeson Art Gallery is located in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, 350 Martin Luther King Blvd, 1<sup>st</sup> floor. For more information contact Wynsor Gervais, Curator, at [galleryr@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:galleryr@andromeda.rutgers.edu), or by phone at 973/353-1610.

**24<sup>th</sup> Annual Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Set for February.** In observance of Black History Month the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience will host the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Marion Thompson Wright Lecture: "Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas: A Retrospective," on Saturday, February 21, 2004 from 8:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M. at the Paul Robeson Campus Center, at Rutgers-Newark.

The conference will reflect upon the impact of the Brown v. Board of Education decision and its resonance in American society a half-century later. Professor Roger Wilkins, the Clarence J. Robinson Professor of History and American Culture at George Mason University, will deliver the keynote address. Other speakers include: Glenda Gilmore, Peter V & C Vann Woodward Professor of History, African, Afro-American and American Studies, Yale University; Joseph DeLaine, Jr., member of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Brown v. Board Presidential commission and the Briggs-DeLaine-Pearson Foundation; Lonnie G. Bunch, President of the Chicago Historical Society; and Cheryl Harris, Professor, UCLA School of Law. The conference will also feature a video interview with Richard Kluger by Linda Coles, of New Jersey Network news (NJN) For additional information visit the Institute's website <http://ethnicity.rutgers.edu> or contact Lori Barcliff-Baptista, 973/353-1871 ext. 37 or by email: [barcliff@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:barcliff@andromeda.rutgers.edu).



## News

### Local News

***Council Okays Mulberry Street study.*** Facing continued resistance from residents, the Newark City Council has granted permission for the planning board to study the need to redevelop a 13-acre area adjacent to the downtown and federal courthouse. The proposed “urban village” would feature both residential and retail units as well underground parking, and communal areas such as green space, plaza, and roof gardens. The council voted to table the proposal in May because of opposition from current residents—owners of industrial businesses, parking lots, shops, and homes—who complain that they have been left out of the planning process.

Opponents also object to the use of condemnation, a process that allows the city to claim the property for a public purpose without consent of current owners. Under the condemnation process the city would be required to pay landowners “fair market value” for their parcels. Some residents dispute the proposed assessments for their property. Supporters argue that the project would revitalize the downtown area, returning homes and life to an area that has become blighted with parking and vacant lots. City officials and potential developers push the project as an innovative way to combat sprawl and change the image of the city. The council will take up the issue again when it receives the planning board’s report.

**Related articles:** “Newark downtown project in motion: City to explore condemnation,” Star Ledger, Tuesday, January 06, 2004.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-4/107337210630140.xml>

***Homicide rate highest in 8 years.*** Homicides in Essex County rose dramatically in 2003, culminating in the highest rate since 1995. This troubling statistic caps off a year of high profile cases as well as gang violence and street crimes. At year-end law enforcement officials logged 144 homicides compared to 102 in 2002. Of these, 85 were committed in Newark. Law enforcement officials were unable to identify specific causes for the increase. By comparison other cities have registered similar increases in homicides but neighboring New York City has maintained its downward trend.

**Related article:** “Rise in deadly violence puzzles Essex officials: 2003 homicide rate is highest since 1995,” Star Ledger, Friday, January 02, 2004.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-12/107302660823390.xml>

### State News

***Governor McGreevey Presents State of the State, Outlines 2004 Agenda.*** Governor James McGreevey outlined 52 initiatives in his “State of the State” address delivered on Tuesday, January 13, 2004. The Governor’s agenda include reforms to pollution control policy, new after school programs, more job training and employment opportunities, ethics reforms, policies aimed at reducing property taxes, and a program that would help community organizations obtain funding to keep them afloat. McGreevey is looking to higher education to help attract new companies by offering tax breaks and zero-interest loans to companies that locate in the state’s major college

cities—Newark, New Brunswick, and Camden. He also refocused attention on streamlining and eliminating duplication among the state’s three major universities, Rutgers, UMDNJ, and NJIT.

Reviewers called the Governor’s agenda “modest” as it reflects the state’s tight budget situation. The speech, delivered before the first majority Democratic legislative body in 13 years, came amid news that the budget crunch might be less grim than previously forecast. According to published reports signs of recovery for the national economy could net more federal funding to offset state expenditures. Full-text of the Governor’s speech is available at <http://www.state.nj.us/sos2004/speech.html>.

**Related articles.** “Budget outlook brightens for N.J.: Increases in revenue take some heat off the governor,” *Star Ledger*, Monday, January 05, 2004.  
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-12/107328557844240.xml>

“State-of-State speech to reflect tight budget: After-school programs, diesel exhaust rules included among governor’s key proposals,” *Star Ledger*, Monday, January 12, 2004.  
<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1073889209176580.xml>

“McGreevey ethics push spurs little enthusiasm: His all-or-nothing approach gets cool reception even from Democrats,” *Star Ledger*, Monday, January 19, 2004.  
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-5/1074495001166360.xml>

“A modest agenda for N.J.: Governor offers job training and pollution cuts, but avoids new spending,” *Star Ledger*, Wednesday, January 14, 2004.  
<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/107406217431850.xml>

“Governor targets no-school districts: Seeks regionalization to lower property taxes, but small-district officials are not convinced,” *Star Ledger*, Wednesday, January 14, 2004.  
<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1074063047112330.xml>

***School districts take fight for additional aid to state appeals court.*** Twenty-one school districts have appealed to a state appellate court to restore requests for additional aid in the 2003-04 school year. Under *Abbott v. Burke* and in subsequent court decisions the state was ordered to provide districts with additional aid to bring educational equity to the lower performing schools. State education officials rejected the aid requests for this year. The McGreevey administration has sought to delay additional spending for Abbott schools—due in part to the state’s current budget difficulties. State Department of Education officials have also asked district leaders to justify administrative spending, a theme taken up by McGreevey in his “State of the State” address. The appeals court must scrutinize policies and weigh the adequacy of existing reforms. A favorable decision could net the districts as much as \$150 million in additional state funds.

**Related articles:** “Abbott districts make case for additional aid: At stake are lower class sizes and specialized programs,” *Star Ledger*, Thursday, January 15, 2004.  
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1074149740322860.xml>

“State probing schools on leaders' pay, perks: Random requests anger administrators,” Star Ledger, Friday, January 16, 2004.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-13/1074235895160340.xml>

***National reports point to racial disparities.*** Two recent reports place New Jersey at the top of lists on racial disparities in education and prison populations. The reports show that the state outpaces others with respect to black-white classification of students as mentally retarded and racial representation in prisons and jails.

According to “Quality Counts,” an annual report published by Education Week, a national education newspaper, black students in New Jersey are 3.6 times more likely to be classified as mentally retarded than white students. The national average puts blacks 2.3 times more likely than whites to be classified mentally retarded. State educators suggest that these numbers are consequences of extreme poverty and concomitant living and social conditions faced by many minorities in the state.

The report notes that the state had the nations lowest overall percentage of students classified mentally retarded—3.2 percent of students in New Jersey compared 9.9 percent nationally. It also identifies some measures the state is using to address the needs of these students. New Jersey, along with seven other states, requires individualized education plans for students with disabilities. According to published reports more than 95 percent of special education students take the standardized tests given to students in fourth, eighth and 11th grades. Fifty percent of students with disabilities graduated from high school in 2002 compared to the national average, 32 percent.

A report by the Sentencing Project found that blacks are 13 times more likely to be incarcerated than whites—about twice the national average. Blacks make up approximately 14% of the state’s population but an extremely disproportionate 63% of the prison population. In 1994 New Jersey ranked behind seven other states and the District of Columbia. Only the District continues to exceed the New Jersey rate with blacks there 29 times more likely to be incarcerated than whites.

The problem is shared by neighboring Pennsylvania and New York. Blacks were 10.5 and 9.5 times more likely to be incarcerated in these states respectively, placing them sixth and seventh in the national ranking.

Factors associated with New Jersey’s figures include intense policing of drug activity in urban areas, disparities in wealth, education and employment, and racial profiling.

**Related articles:** “Racial disparity found in Jersey schools: Blacks are 3.6 times more likely than whites to be classified as being mentally retarded,” Star Ledger, Thursday, January 08, 2004.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-0/107354495790620.xml>

“N.J. leads states in disparity of blacks in prison: Report finds African-Americans are 13 times more likely than whites to be behind bars,” Star Ledger, Wednesday, January 07, 2004.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/107345841044560.xml>

“Jersey tops U.S. in prison disparity: Black incarceration rates outpace white,” Star Ledger, Sunday, January 18, 2004.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-5/107440914264140.xml>

**Other State Policy News: *Housing reforms continue to face opposition.*** “Dissent is building over housing reforms: 3 on state panel voice concerns over changes,” Star Ledger, Thursday, January 08, 2004.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-5/107354463290620.xml>

***Anti-sprawl effort tabled.*** “Lawmakers shelve anti-sprawl effort: Trenton fails to get builders and environmentalists to compromise,” Star Ledger, Friday, January 09, 2004.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1073633468155490.xml>

***State sets new environmental policy standards.*** “Jersey is primed to protect waterways: New rules limit runoff, increase buffer zones,” Star Ledger, Tuesday, January 06, 2004.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-12/107337189930140.xml>



The Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies circulates the **Cornwall MetroNews** e-newsletter to publicize urban-related topics, news, and events on the Rutgers-Newark Campus and in the City of Newark.

If you would like to add an item or add/remove a name from our distribution list, please contact Katherine Accousti at [accousti@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:accousti@andromeda.rutgers.edu) or 973-353-1750 ext. 224.

*The following individuals contributed to this edition of the **Cornwall MetroNews**:* Donita Devance-Manzini and Irene Welch.

## **Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies: Executive Committee**

**Marc Holzer**, Interim Director, The Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies and Chair, Department of Public Administration

**Elizabeth Strom**, Interim Associate Director, The Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies and Associate Professor, Department of Political Science

**Leslie Kennedy**, Dean, School of Criminal Justice

**Alan Sadovnik**, Professor, Department of Education and Academic Foundation

**Paul Tractenberg**, Professor, School of Law

## **Staff**

**Katherine Accousti**, Senior Program Coordinator

973-353-1750 ext. 224

[accousti@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:accousti@andromeda.rutgers.edu)

**Donita Devance-Manzini**, Senior Project Manager

973-353-1750 ext. 228

[devance@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:devance@andromeda.rutgers.edu)

**Kelly Robinson**, Senior Research Analyst

[krobins@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:krobins@andromeda.rutgers.edu)

973-353-1750 ext. 226

**Irene Welch**, Administrative Assistant

[irenew@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:irenew@andromeda.rutgers.edu)

973-353-1750 ext. 221

## **Cornwall Center Contact Information**

47 Bleeker Street

Newark, NJ 07102

973-353-1750 - 973-353-1753 (fax)

[www.cornwall.rutgers.edu](http://www.cornwall.rutgers.edu)