



Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
E-Newsletter – November 18, 2003

Announcements

Cornwall Center Welcomes New Arrivals. Two new work study students joined the Center in October. **Candice Henry** is a freshman majoring in Political Science. She will assist with administrative duties, help to maintain the newspaper files, and update the Community Resource Directory. **Tanisha McHarris** is a freshman majoring in Social Work. She will provide administrative support to the Abbott Leadership Institute.

Finally, please join us in welcoming **Isabella Hope Accousti**, daughter of **Katherine** and **Kenneth**. Isabella arrived—right on schedule—October 24th at 2:41 am. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 4oz and 19 inches in length. Mom, dad, and daughter are doing well.

Faculty News

Miller addresses two forums in October. **Gerald Miller**, Professor of Public Administration delivered two presentations during the month of October. On October 14, he presented a paper, “Practice as Interpretation in Public Financial Management: Rational Actors All” before the Southeastern Conference on Public Administration (SECOPA). On October 31, he delivered an address entitled, “Trends in Local Government Budget and Finance” to the New Jersey Association of Government Accountants.

DaCosta Holton delivers paper at Oral History Association conference. **Kimberly DaCosta Holton**, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, Portuguese and Lusophone World Studies, Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures, delivered a paper entitled, "Post-Colonial Community and Conflict in a US Urban Enclave: Portuguese and Brazilian Immigrants in Newark, New Jersey" at the Annual Oral History Association Meeting in Washington, D.C. on October 11, 2003.

Other Announcements

Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture issues “Call for Papers.” Rutgers University’s Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture (CCACC) has issued a call for papers for the 14th Annual Graduate Conference, “Talking and Doing Citizenship.” The conference will be held on April 2, 2004, on the New Brunswick Campus. The CCACC will accept proposals from graduate students dealing with the discourses, narratives, symbols, concepts and values of talking citizenship; the substance, locations, and debates of defining citizenship; and the actions, practices, movements, status and standing of actual citizens in history. The Center encourages and promotes interdisciplinary work and will give special consideration to papers that connect the theories and discourses of citizenship with the empirical and historical practices of citizenship. Topics of particular interest include: competing narratives on citizenship; possible

changes in citizenship from national to transnational locations; links between citizen identity and citizen practice; citizenship as inclusion and exclusion; and differences between talking citizenship and doing citizenship. Interested individuals may send a proposal of no more than 300 words to: The Graduate Student Conference; The Center for Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture; 8 Bishop Place, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 or send email to sandrinesanos@yahoo.com. Please include an institutional affiliation. The deadline is January 10, 2004. A faculty reading committee will review the proposals and authors of accepted papers will be notified by February 10, 2004.

Urban Scholars Program accepting applications. The **HUD Urban Scholars Program** is accepting applications from Ph.D. recipients who have an academic appointment at an institution of higher education and have received their Ph.D. no earlier than January 1, 1998. The purpose of the program is to provide encouragement to new scholars to undertake research now, and throughout their career on topics of interest to HUD. Approximately \$550,000 is available for grants. The deadline to apply is Dec. 17, 2003. More information may be found in the *Federal Register* announcement available at:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2003/03-25678.htm>

Photographers work on display. The New Jersey Historical Society (NJHS) presents a photo exhibit, "City on Display, A Newark Photographer and His Clients, 1890's to 1940's." The exhibit features the images of commercial photographer **William F. Cone**, whose prolific works chronicle life in the city during that era. Cone's subjects include store windows, buildings, monuments, and citizens engaged in various activities. The Historical Society, located at 52 Park Place, will run the exhibit through next fall. For more information contact NJHS President Sally Yerkovitch at 973.596.8500.

Upcoming Events

Cornwall Center Faculty Lecture Series continues in December. **Dr. Claudia Strauss**, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Pitzer College, Claremont Colleges, California, and Russell Sage Visiting Scholar will present, "*School Shooters and Welfare Mothers: How Americans Explain Human Behavior*" on Thursday, December 4, 2003, from 12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m. at the Cornwall Center. Says Dr. Strauss, "Americans are supposedly individualists, but in fact our political culture embraces a variety of views of human behavior." This presentation will examine attitudes toward welfare use, school violence, and racial difference to uncover the contradictions behind the individualist facade. To ensure seating, please RSVP to Irene Welch 973.353.1750 Ext. 221 or irenew@andromeda.rutgers.edu by Tuesday, November 25, 2003.

Center to host Orientation for Urban Studies Internships. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors are encouraged to attend an Urban Studies Internship orientation meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2003, at 2:30 p.m. Eligible students with an interest in urban issues and a minimum 3.0 average can earn three course credits and gain valuable work experience through placements in Newark area community organizations. The orientation will be held at the Cornwall Center, 47 Bleeker Street. Refreshments will be served. For more information or to RSVP contact Professor Elizabeth Strom, Department of Political Science, 727 Hill Hall, 973-353-5988, or by email at estrom@andromeda.rutgers.edu.

Center for Global Change and Governance hosts final lectures in series. The **Center for Global Change and Governance** presents the final lectures in the Fall 2003 Colloquium Series. "*Conflict, Culture and Media*" will be held on Wednesday November 19, from 1:00-3pm. The speaker will be **Jutta Bertram-Nothnagel**, distinguished lawyer and representative of non-governmental organizations working within the framework of the United Nations and other international organizations. Bertram-Nothnagel will discuss the complexities and challenges of creating rules of law within the framework of the United Nations, how different cultures frame and react to the International Criminal Court, and how resolving conflicts works within the legal framework. The lecture will be held at the School of Criminal Justice, 123 Washington Street, Room 572.

The final lecture will be held on December 10, from 1:00-3:00pm. The topic and speaker will be announced at a later date. Faculty and staff are welcome. Meals will be provided but guests must contact Désirée Gordon at 973.353.5585 or desireeg@andromeda.rutgers.edu to reserve your seat.

Coalition hosts Free Tax Preparation Information Session. The **Newark Asset Building Coalition**, a partnership of community organizations, will host a Free Tax Preparation Information session on Thursday, November 20, 2003, 8:30-10:00 am at Independence Community Bank, located at 133 Jackson Street, Newark. The free session will focus on the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which offers free tax preparation services to low-income working people, and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Topics will include the how to's of setting up and managing a VITA site, recruiting volunteers, and training. The Coalition's goal is to establish a tax-preparation drop in center in each of the city's five wards. For more information or to RSVP contact Tanya Whitney Williams at twilliams@acnj.org or by telephone at 973.643.3876.

November events at the Newark Public Library. **Sandra L. West**, Co-Author of the "Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance" will be featured at a book signing held on Thursday, November 20, 2003 from 6:00-8:00pm in Centennial Hall, Newark Public Library. Rutgers University Professor **Clement A. Price**, who wrote the books foreword, will also participate in the program.

On Saturday, November 29, 2003 the Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society will sponsor a lecture in celebration of "National Native-American History Month." The speaker, **Carl W. Longbow**, is Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation of New Jersey. The event will take place from 2:00-4:00 PM in Centennial Hall, Newark Public Library. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information on programming, call the Development Department, 973.733.7793.

Urban Systems Speakers Series to Focus on Research and Urban Schools. The next lecture in the Urban Systems Speakers Series entitled, "The Role of Research in Transforming Urban Schools," will feature urban sociologist, **Pedro Noguera**, professor in the Steinhardt School of Education at New York University. Dr. Noguera's scholarship and research focuses on the ways in which schools are influenced by social and economic conditions in the urban environment. Dr. Noguera has served as an advisor and engaged in collaborative research with several large urban school districts throughout the United States. The lecture will be held at 5:30pm on Tuesday, December 9, 2003 in the Provost's Conference Room, 5th Floor, Center for Law and Justice. Dinner will be provided. For additional information contact Lisa Condobery at lisaj@andromeda.rutgers.edu.

Brown v. Board at 50. The New Jersey Department of Education announces a series of events to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the landmark Brown vs. Board decision. The events include a conference, “*Brown vs. Board in the Curriculum,*” on December 11, 2003. The conference, cosponsored by the Rutgers Graduate School of Education, is designed for social studies teachers and administrators on ways to incorporate Brown in classroom and school-wide activities. Other activities include:

- March 15, 200. Conference with **Archbishop Desmond Tutu** of South Africa. Students and teachers are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- May 13, 2004. Conference with **Julian Bond**, Chairman of the NAACP. Students and teachers are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- May 20, 2004. Conference with **Cheryl Brown Henderson**. Mrs. Henderson is the daughter of Oliver Brown - the man listed in the landmark Brown decision. Mrs. Henderson will discuss her father's legacy. Students and teachers are welcome and encouraged to attend.

For locations and additional information contact Dr. Rachel Pereira at rachel.pereira@doe.state.nj.us or visit the website at:

<http://www.njpep.org/tutorials/BrownvBoard/events.htm>

News

Local News

Residents protest property taxes and no signs of promised relief. Third quarter property tax bills—the first to reflect the results of the city’s only reevaluation in more than 40 years—caused some residents to take to the streets in protest. The news hit harder for some residents than others. Tax burdens of East and North ward residents increased by as much as 7.5% while the bills of most property owners in the South, West, and Central wards will decrease. The third quarter bills include the new assessment rates not paid in the first and second quarter estimates.

Protesters recalled a number of failed promises. The city could have instituted the 1999 Revaluation Relief Act that would have allowed it to phase in increases over five years. Money from a Port Authority lease agreement that was promised to reduce the tax burden was diverted to operating expenses. City spending has increased and projections for the coming years’ budget call for a 35% increase in revenues from property taxes, \$28.5 million. Others say the real culprit is the 40 years that administrators allowed—even fought for—between the last and current assessment. City administrators also fault the late budget approval. As the year draws to a close the council is expected to approve the 2003 budget later this month or early in December.

The city council acted to extend the tax deadline until the end of the year and is entertaining a plan to give discounts to property owners who comply by then. An 18% penalty is assessed for unpaid property taxes.

Related articles: “Newark council extends tax deadline: Property owners now have until Dec. 31,” *Star Ledger*, Thursday, November 13, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-4/106870589049440.xml>

“Newark residents protest property tax revaluation: Hundreds take mayor to task at rally outside city hall,” Star Ledger, Friday, October 31, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1067583118209460.xml>

“Newark property owners get revalued tax bills: Some protest increase while others see drop,” Star Ledger, Friday, October 24, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1066974755253240.xml>

City backs development projects. City and county officials are moving forward with plans to build a parking deck adjacent to Bears and Eagles Riverfront Stadium. It is believed that the deck will boost attendance at games. The deck will also provide contracted parking for employees of downtown businesses and serve as a park and ride station for a new light rail connection. Officials estimate income of \$300 to 400K.

Construction has begun on a \$12 million Urban Environmental and Educational Center located in Newark’s Central Ward. The project, a long awaited goal of the Greater Newark Conservancy, is expected to change the landscape of its Prince Street location and surrounding neighborhood. The project brought praise for bringing green space into a part of the city that lacks parks and other outdoor facilities and is still deeply associated with the riots that occurred more than 35 years ago. The space will also be used by city school children to develop their understanding of natural habitats and wildlife.

Mayor Sharpe James and City officials are again seeking support for a controversial \$550 million Mulberry Street Redevelopment Project that would bring market rate housing and commercial uses to the downtown area. The project faces opposition from neighborhood property owners who object to the taking of their property by eminent domain and argue that the property does not meet local redevelopment policy requirements. Earlier this year the city council reversed a decision to allow the planning board to begin the condemnation process by initiating a study of the area. City officials insist that owners would be adequately compensated for their property and that the proposed project would be a “poster child for smart growth,” as it would make use efficient use of existing space.

Related articles: “Newark looks to score with parking deck: \$9 million facility for 377 vehicles would boost attendance at ballpark,” Star Ledger, Wednesday, October 29, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-4/106741084060800.xml>

“An ecological center grows in Newark; Construction is under way in Central Ward, where facility is expected to open next fall,” Star Ledger, Thursday, October 30, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1067497780138920.xml>

“Newark renews push for condo project: Housing plan seeks to attract commuters,” Star Ledger, Saturday, November 15, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-4/106887788917480.xml>

Airport deal brings new revenue; service receives praise. Renegotiations that extend leases on New York’s Kennedy and LaGuardia Airports will also financially benefit Newark’s Liberty International Airport and the City of Newark. Although the city had previously renegotiated and

extended its own lease agreement with the Port Authority, a parity clause allows it to share in benefits negotiated for its New York neighbors. Estimates of the anticipated windfall range between \$50 and \$150 million.

Liberty International also recently marked the second anniversary of its AirTrain service with generally favorable response. The trains feature an updated design and move passengers from airport to commuter trains and parking areas. The trains service fewer riders than projected—mostly as a consequence of the smaller numbers of flyers after September 11, 2001—and prices are somewhat out of pace when compared to rail ticket prices. A similar service is expected to open at Kennedy International Airport later this year.

Related articles: “P.A. deal tops \$50M for Newark: NYC extends its airport leases, and city's parity clause kicks in,” Star Ledger, Thursday, October 16, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/106628234559920.xml>

“‘Plane to train’ service in Newark earns praise: Alternative to costly cabs and traffic jams marks 2nd year,” Star Ledger, Thursday, October 16, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/106628235259920.xml>

Newark hosts national leaders. Mayor Sharpe James recently led an envoy of U.S. foreign affairs and national security leaders on a tour of Newark success stories. The group, which conducts routine tours and seminars throughout the country, looked to Newark to investigate lessons in leadership they could use in dealing with diverse needs and interests. While in Newark the delegation visited with corporate leaders, public and cultural institutions, housing developments, and other sites of interest.

Related article: “It's mission in possible as envoys tour Newark: U.S. foreign affairs, national officers get ideas on leadership from city,” Star Ledger, Tuesday, November 04, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-4/106792846028160.xml>

Crime still down but murder on the rise. Recent statistics suggest a safer Newark in terms of most major crimes. Robberies, aggravated assault, and other incidents of violent crime were down as much as 18 percent. However, by the end of September the number of homicides had reached 65—only three fewer than all of 2002. Total crime incidents as of September 30 stood at about 12,450—about 950 fewer than last year at this time.

Related article: “Newark crime down, but killings rise: Police director maintains city safer this year than last,” Star Ledger, Friday, October 17, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-4/106637020665910.xml>

Four million in additional school aid falls drastically short of recommendations. State Education Commissioner William Librera has rejected administrative law judge recommendations to augment state spending in Newark schools by \$44 million. School District officials spent weeks providing testimony and evidence to the judges to help set figures for the amount of state aid required under the terms of *Abbott v. Burke*. The judges set a figure of about \$80 million shared between Newark and 21 out of 30 Abbott districts. Librera rejected almost every element of the recommended

spending plan. School officials must appeal to the Appellate Division of state Superior Court, before the matter can be taken up again by the state Supreme Court.

Related articles: Newark schools to get only \$4 million more: Librera rejects judge's \$44 million suggestion," Star Ledger, Thursday, October 30, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1067497798138920.xml>

"Schools chief turns down calls for extra aid for Abbott districts," Star Ledger, Wednesday, October 22, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/106680356735600.xml>

County plan to transfer vo-tech draws heat. County officials plans to transfer responsibility for vocational technical schools to the authority of the Newark Public Schools has drawn criticism from teachers, students, and parents. Last month County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo proposed the transfer to close a spending gap and to increase the amount of state funding provided for the students. Because of its Abbott designation Newark receives \$6,552 per student while the county receives \$2,538 per student. Opponents to the plan believe it would result in teacher layoffs, and may have an effect on teacher's tenure and benefits. Others worry the move would reduce the number of slots available for students outside of Newark and dislike that it would force students to change school districts.

Related article: "Plan on vocational schools raises ire," Star Ledger, Sunday, November 16, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-4/106899677888100.xml>

State News

State agrees to borrowing plan; economy still faces jeopardy. State officials made way to borrow as much as \$301 million over four years to attract business and increase jobs. Governor McGreevey pledged the funds to help the state concentrate on attracting business in biotechnology, pharmaceutical, and financial services.

The state may face a \$4 billion or greater budget shortfall in the upcoming year according to a survey by a Washington-based policy group. Factors that could contribute to this figure include: soaring expenses, flat growth in tax revenues, and loss of short term revenue to offset the budget difficulties.

Related articles: "Jersey looks to borrow millions to gain jobs: Critics fear new debt could strap state's economy years from now," Star Ledger, Wednesday, October 15, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1066196216240930.xml>

"Jersey's budget forecast: \$4B shortfall: Treasury Department is quiet on think tank's prediction for fiscal 2005," Star Ledger, Tuesday, October 28, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/106732558924210.xml>

Education News

Commission to reduce bureaucracy. Governor McGreevey has appointed an Education Mandate Review Study Commission to reduce state mandates on public schools. Such reductions are expected to result in more dollars available to support classroom activities.

Related article: “McGreevey vows to reduce public school mandates,” Star Ledger, Thursday, October 23, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1066888202177470.xml>

Voucher advocates take cause to Trenton. Supporters of school voucher programs descended on Trenton to bring their message home to state legislators. Proponents of school vouchers argue that school choice creates healthy competition among schools and gives parents a choice in where to educate their children. Vouchers programs give parents the option of leaving funding in public schools or providing them with those funds to support private or parochial options for their children. Opponents include the NJ Education Association, Newark Teachers Association, American Federation of Teachers, and the Governor. They argue that vouchers weaken public school education.

Related article: “Voucher advocates focus on educating Trenton: Group turns its attention from community to political support,” Star Ledger, Sunday, October 19, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1066544105325720.xml>

Glitches cause test result delays, federal law focuses efforts. Elementary schools awaiting results of tests administered earlier this year will have to wait until at least mid-November to gage their progress. ETS, the company selected to score the new tests has notified the state that errors in data collection and analysis caused the delay. The state has notified 75% of high schools and about half of all middle schools that their test scores indicate deficiencies that put them in jeopardy of failing to meet standards established under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act. NCLB requires schools to set and meet annual improvement goals. Underachieving schools must insure that all students meet expectations. Under the new law schools that fail to meet goals may suffer strict penalties.

Related articles: “Schools confront higher special education standards: Federal law puts spotlight on often-neglected students,” Star Ledger, Sunday, November 02, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/printer/printer.ssf?/base/news-4/106775539313690.xml>

“Errors force delay in naming of underachieving schools,” Star Ledger, Friday, October 17, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/106637023065910.xml>

“Community schools targeted for six communities.” Governor McGreevey and state officials have announced plans to use school construction program monies to support six “community schools” intended to boost neighborhood development efforts in their communities. Community schools combine traditional education with other uses so that schools are able to respond to a wide variety of local needs. The schools will be located in Union City, East Orange, Trenton, New Brunswick, Camden, and Vineland. In addition to classrooms and related educational facilities, the new developments will incorporate other uses e.g., a health clinic, culinary school/restaurant, beauty salons that double as cosmetology schools, childcare facilities, and meeting spaces. The six programs were chosen from a pool of nine proposals.

Related article: "\$650M in schools and community projects unveiled," Star Ledger, Thursday, October 30, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1067496683138920.xml>

Abbott preschools continue to face obstacles. "N.J. makes progress on preschools: But obstacles remain in meeting mandate," Star Ledger, Thursday, October 30, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1067496664138920.xml>

Follow these links for issues in Higher education.

Plans for campus mergers becoming clearer. "Blueprint is emerging on merger of universities: Circulating draft reports indicate plan is possible, but not easy," Star Ledger, Monday, November 17, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-5/106905193182680.xml>

See also:

Status Report #3 on Proposal to Restructure Higher Education in New Jersey, October 31, 2003

http://www.president.rutgers.edu/letter_103103.shtml

Proposal to Restructure New Jersey's Public Research Universities

<http://ruweb.rutgers.edu/restructure/>

Colleges and Universities jointly study homeland security. "N.J. schools team up on security: University scientists will focus on homeland projects and funding," Star Ledger, Thursday, October 30, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1067497154138920.xml>

Community college enrollments surge. "Community colleges feel growth pains: Fall enrollment numbers set a record for state's 19 schools," Star Ledger, Thursday, October 30, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1067496644138920.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 or 973-353-1750 ext. 224.

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

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