



Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
E-Newsletter – March 24, 2003

Announcements

Cornwall Center Small Grants Program Recipients

Four Rutgers-Newark Faculty will receive awards from the Cornwall Center 2003 Small Grants Program. They are:

- Sherri-Ann Butterfield, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, "**Race, Ethnicity and Identity: An Inquiry into the Lives of Second Generation West Indians in New Jersey**"
- Yilin Hou, Department of Public Administration, "**Structural Features of Rainy Day Fund Law and Counter-cyclical Fiscal Capacity**"
- Rachel Jones, College of Nursing, "**Development of a Model of Sexual Pressure, Dyadic Trust, and HIV Sexual Risk Behaviors in Young, Urban Women with Male Partners**"
- Pheroze Wadia, Department of Philosophy, "**Our Homes, Our Environment; Environment Justice Where We Live and Work**"

Rutgers-Newark Faculty Publications

Dr. Evan Stark, Associate Professor in the Department of Public Administration, recently authored a book chapter, "**Race, Gender and Woman Battering**" in *Violence Crime: Assessing Race and Ethnic Differences*. Darnell F. Hawkins (ed). Cambridge U. Press. 2003.

The chapter defines the scope of woman battering in the black community, differentiates common couple violence from a pattern of coercive control that involves infringement of basic liberties as well as physical abuse, and provides a critical overview of research on race and domestic violence. Dr. Stark's research focuses on the unique configuration of battering in black couples, contrasting accounts that emphasize family pathology, attribute violence to a black couples, contrasting accounts that emphasize family pathology, attribute violence to a black "underclass" or perpetuate "the myth of black violence" to cultural, historical and political explanations. The chapter concludes with possible sources of resilience and prevention in the black community.

News

Local:

Future of Newark arena unclear

The proposed Newark arena sports complex remains the subject of debate as public officials alternately declare the project "dead" or "alive". According to published reports poor attendance

and stalled cable contracts have affected the financial health of the YankeeNets sports organization, putting the project in jeopardy. Also at issue is the stability of the city's \$165 million financial commitment to the project—and what might happen to those funds if the arena fails to materialize. However, local officials insist that negotiations with the sports organization continue and no alternate plans are under consideration.

Related articles: "Arena deal on verge of collapse: Both sports firm and state lack cash for Newark plan," Star-Ledger, Tuesday, March 11, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/printer/printer.ssf/base/news-0/1047367179194111.xml>

"Financial debate is blamed for arena delay: McGreevey insists Newark plan is alive," Star-Ledger, Wednesday, March 12, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?base/news-3/104745314953240.xml>

"Ideas sprout on using cash if plan stalls," Star-Ledger, Sunday, March 16, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?base/news-2/1047798936161380.xml>

"Newark ignored advice on P.A. claims," Star-Ledger, Sunday, March 16, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?base/news-2/104779892316161380.xml>

Appeals court clears way for gun suit

A state appeals court declined to dismiss lawsuits holding gun manufacturers and dealers accountable for their contributing role in urban gun violence. The lawsuits brought by Newark, Jersey City, and Camden charge the industry with negligence in over saturating the cities with weapons, failing to make safety features standard, and improper sales practices that support an illegal secondary market. A Philadelphia federal appeals court dismissed a similar case, brought by Camden County, last year.

Related article: "Newark gun-violence suit advances." Star-Ledger, Wednesday, March 12, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?base/news-3/104745316653240.xml>

Study, campaign focus on public health improvement

A recently released study and a new national campaign call attention to critical health issues facing Newark residents. Despite recent improvements in the reduction of health disparities between cities and suburbs nationally, a study released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that Newark and Jersey City residents continue to lag well behind their suburban counterparts. A significant gap in income, lower maternal age, and lack of prenatal care were among the indicators used in the study.

Reducing premature death from cancer, heart disease, and HIV/AIDS is the goal of a new public health effort sponsored by the National Minority Health Month. The project will target both prevention and early detection and control of disease in Newark and 11 other cities nationwide.

Related articles: "Newark failing to catch up to suburbs in public health," Star Ledger, Friday, February 28, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?base/news-3/1046416932234550.xml>

"Project's goal is Newark's health," Star-Ledger, Sunday, March 09, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?base/news-2/1047194031290440.xml>

County Executive issues 2003 spending plan

County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo released a proposed county spending plan for the year that includes a hefty increase in county taxes. Describing the increases as "unavoidable," DiVincenzo explained that they are necessary to bridge a budget deficit left by the previous administration. The plan also seeks reforms to the current tax formula that will significantly reduce the burden of some communities while increasing others.

Related article: "Budget requires \$14.2M increase in county taxes," Star-Ledger, Tuesday, March 11, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?base/news-2/1047366783194110.xml>

In related news: Essex County Executive proposes bonds to complete troubled, overdue jail. "Once more into bonds, to bail out jail project," Star-Ledger, Sunday, March 02, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?base/news-2/104658917964230.xml>

State News:

DOE issues emergency preparedness memorandum to local school districts

In the wake of the Iraqi war engagement and domestic terror alert the State Department of Education released a memorandum to schools on March 20, 2003. The one-page document offers information on school policy and web resources. View the document at:
<http://www.state.nj.us/njded/news/0320emg.htm>.

Related article: "Be Prepared" is the battle cry of state districts," Star-Ledger, Thursday, March 20, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?base/news-3/104814555315180.xml>

National News:

City indexes released

CNN/Money magazine, recently released data on the highest and lowest crime rates for cities with populations of 300,000 or greater. Newark—population 273,000—is not ranked in the study. *CNN/Money* also recently issued rating for best and worst places for jobs and best places to live. View these lists at:

Unsafe cities: http://money.cnn.com/pf/features/lists/unsafest_cities/

Safest cities: http://money.cnn.com/pf/features/lists/safest_cities/

Best places for jobs: http://money.cnn.com/pf/features/lists/places_for_jobs/

Best places to live: <http://money.cnn.com/best/bplive/>

Updates: Use these links for updates on stories recently followed by the *Cornwall MetroNews*.

Newark School Superintendent

“Election could sway Newark school fight: Board delays ruling on Bolden's future,”

Star-Ledger, Thursday, March 06, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-2/1046934807128040.xml>

"Librera postpones decision on schools chief for Newark," *Star-Ledger*, Tuesday, March 04, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1>

Newark Water Privatization Plan

“Newark gets warning on watershed cash-out plan: Analyst urges more study as council plans vote today,” *Star-Ledger*, Tuesday, March 5, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-2/1046848323199460.xml>

“City council backs mayor's water merger: New group would lease and run Newark's watershed and sewer utility,” *Star-Ledger*, Thursday, March 06, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-2/1046934784128040.xml>

Related article: “Essex Fells to operate county's water system: Utilities authority is seeking a buyer,” *Star-Ledger*, Wednesday, March 12, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-2/104745309153240.xml>

Child protective services reform

“Conference puts little ones first: Human services chief leads effort to give Faheem "meaning" to his death,” *Star-Ledger*, Wednesday, March 5, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1046848412199460.xml>

“Panel: Cut DYFS workers' caseload: Recommendation would halve the number of children being supervised by some staffers,” *Star-Ledger*, Wednesday, March 5, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1046848732199460.xml>

Upcoming Events

Concerts at the Center for Law and Justice

Mark your calendars for March 26th! *Return to the Source* will perform as part of the Center for Law and Justice's spring concert series. The New Jersey based vocal and instrumental group, which specializes in traditional and contemporary African-American music, features the multitalented ensemble of Junius Williams, Anthony Jackson, Janet Van Kline, Joe Scott, Mary Bently-LaMar, Gary Foote, Robert Shae Taylor, and Judith LeTemps. The group's repertoire includes: Spirituals, Blues, Jazz, Gospel and Popular Music.

The performance will begin at **12:30 pm on Wednesday, March 26th** in the atrium of the Center for Law and Justice (123 Washington Street) on the Rutgers-Newark Campus. Admission is free.

Cornwall Center's Faculty Luncheon Seminar

The second spring 2003 Faculty Luncheon Seminar will be held **Tuesday, April 1st from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.** Dr. Mara Sidney, Assistant Professor from the Department of Political Science, and Dr. Wayne Eastman, Associate Professor from the Department of International Business, will present, "**Fair Housing and Integration: National Policy and Local Action**". The seminar will be held in the Cornwall Center's conference room at 47 Bleeker Street. If you are interested in attending please contact Ms. Irene Welch at 973-353-1750 ext. 221 or Irenew@andromeda.rutgers.edu.

Public Forum on Influencing State Policy

The Rutgers-Newark Department of Social Work, the Social Work Student Organization, and the New Jersey Social Work Baccalaureate Education Association will host a public forum titled, "**Influencing State Policy**". The event will be held at the Robeson Campus Center in room 231 on **Friday, April 11, 2003** from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm. Workshops will be offered on criminal justice, child welfare, education issues, and race, gender and economic justice. For additional information contact Eric Hartman, 201-533-8785.

Two-Day Poetry Event in Newark

The Honors College, Office of Student Activities, Paul Robeson Campus Center, Departments of English, Classical and Modern Languages, and African-American Studies, Hispanic Civilization and Language Studies Program, Puerto Rican Organization and the Newark Public Library are sponsoring, "**Two-Day Residency of Nuyorican Poet, Tato Laviera, At Rutgers-Newark**". Five separate events are scheduled from Tuesday evening through Wednesday afternoon.

- **6-8 pm, Tuesday, March 25th**
"Moods of Time: A Reading at the Newark Public Library Dedicated to Imamu Amiri Baraka" - Newark Public Library
- **9-10 am, Wednesday, March 26th**
"Blackness, Veins across Continents: Poetry / Lecture" -- 324 Conklin Hall

- **10:15 am-12:00 noon, Wednesday, March 26th**
Creative Writing Workshop with Student Writers (space is limited) -- 227 Paul Robeson Campus Center
- **1-2:20 pm, Wednesday, March 26th**
“Culture after Imperialism: Bilingual poetics and the Nuyorican experience” -- 311 Bradley Hall
- **2:30-4 pm, Wednesday, March 26th**
“Lost Innocence: Poetry and 9/11-event” -- Dana Media Room, 4th floor, Dana Library

For additional information please contact Jennifer Austin, jbaustin@andromeda.rutgers.edu or Laura Lomas, 973-353-5279 ext.519 llomas@andromeda.rutgers.edu .

The Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies will continue to circulate our E-Newsletter to publicize urban-related topics and events on the Newark Campus.

If you would like to add an item to our newsletter or if you would like to add / remove a name from our list please contact Katherine Accousti at accousti@andromeda.rutgers.edu or 973-353-1750 ext. 224.

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