



Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
E-Newsletter – April 4, 2003

Announcements

Abbott Leadership Institute Receives Grant

The Abbott Leadership Institute (ALI) has been awarded a 2003 Education Grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. The grant will be used, “to support efforts to strengthen parent engagement in school improvement.” The ALI, under the direction of Junius Williams, provides parents, community members, and various school personnel the tools to effectively participate as partners in the education of Newark school children. The Abbott Leadership Institute is affiliated with the Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies and the Department of Education and Academic Foundations at Rutgers-Newark.

Rutgers-Newark Faculty Publications

Dr. Evan Stark, Associate Professor in the Department of Public Administration, recently published, "**The Battered Mother in the Child Protective Caseload: Developing an Appropriate Response,**" *Women's Rights Law Reporter*, Spring 2002, 23(2), 107-131. The article is based on Dr. Stark's expert testimony as lead witness for the plaintiffs in a successful class action suit in federal court, *Nicholson v. Williams*. The case was taken against the New York City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS) on behalf of mothers who were charged with neglect and had their children placed in foster care solely because they had been victims of domestic violence. The case resulted in an injunction against ACS and the formation of the Nicholson Panel to oversee compliance with the injunction. Dr. Stark was appointed by Federal Judge Jack Weinstein to represent the plaintiff mothers and children on the panel.

News

Local News:

Newark school board: battle lines drawn for upcoming election. Believing the fate of the Newark school superintendent rests on the outcome of the April 15th school board race factions on both sides are generating unprecedented interest in a normally low turnout election. Fourteen candidates vie for three open seats. Eight are running independently. Supporters of incumbent Marion Bolden seek to fill the vacancies with candidates organized under the banner “For Our Kids”; supporters for David Snead, the current board's choice, offer three candidates on the “Home Team” slate. Saying a 5-4 vote for Snead “lacks consensus,” Education Commissioner Librera nevertheless has announced that he will recommend Snead unless the new school board shows a clear majority for either candidate. (Related story follows).

Related article: “Heated Newark school board race takes shape; 2 powerful political factions are squaring off in contest that focuses on superintendent,” [Star Ledger](#), Thursday, March 27, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1048750343198020.xml>

Librera announces decision to back board vote. New Jersey Education Commissioner William Librera released a statement on April 3, 2003, indicating his decision to recommend Dr. David Snead to lead the Newark Public Schools, consistent with the Newark School Board's controversial 5-4 decision on February 25th. In the statement Librera dismisses allegations of improprieties regarding the vote and concludes that there was nothing "improper or invalid" with the process. He will revise his recommendation only if the newly elected school board votes a clear majority for either candidate. The school board election takes place on April 15th. Librera will make his recommendation to the State Board of Education on April 16th or May 3rd.

View the statement in full text at: <http://www.nj.gov/njded/news/0403new.htm>

Other Education News:

State asks to reopen Abbott. "State asks court for 'flexibility' in implementing Abbott rules," Star Ledger, Wednesday, March 26, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1048664775229330.xml>.

"State seeks to reopen school funding case," Bergen Record, Wednesday, March 26, 2003.

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk3JmZnYmVsN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk2MzU4NTkwJnlyaXJ5N2Y3MTdmN3ZxZWVFRXI5Mg==>

Some state schools fail to meet "No Child Left Behind" policy. "200 schools lag federal mandate: Despite drop, state districts continue to grapple with regulations," Star Ledger, Wednesday, April 02, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1049268922282600.xml>

Housing Authority confronts youth gang violence. The Newark Housing Authority organized its first Anti-Gang Youth Conference in an effort to combat the ongoing problem of gangs. National gangs, like the Bloods and Crips, are recruiting children as young as 10 years old. More than one hundred youths gathered at the conference. The program included workshops led by former gang members, Newark's Police Department, and administrators from the Newark Housing Authority.

Related article: "Newark kids attend conference on how to avoid violence," Star Ledger, Friday, March 28, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-2/1048840241169450.xml>

Battle waged for Head Start programs. The New Jersey Head Start Association organized a protest with more than 300 Newark preschoolers on March 26th to oppose proposed changes in federal funding. Under the Bush administration's proposal, Head Start will move from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Education. In the past, Head Start organizations received funding directly from the federal government. In the new arrangement, Head Start will be organized by the state. Critics argue that this could jeopardize the mission of a program that has been in

existence since President Johnson's "War On Poverty". Today, more than 16,000 children attend Head Start programs in New Jersey.

Related article: "War against Head Start' fought with littlest soldiers," Star Ledger, Thursday, March 27, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-2/1048750310198020.xml>.

Opposing definitions used to describe proposed Newark development area. Residents, business owners, and developers are at odds with how to describe a 12-acre area in downtown Newark. The area is adjacent to the proposed \$355 million sports complex. At dispute is whether or not the area meets current redevelopment standards. How the area is defined has an effect on whether residents can retain their homes and businesses as well as how much developers would have to pay to obtain the properties.

Related articles: "Blight label is ploy by developer, Newark residents say," Bergen Record, Tuesday, March 25, 2003.
<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpenk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXkyOSZmZ2JlbDdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5NjM1ODEwOSZ5cmlyeTdmNzE3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTI=>

"Residents resist development in Newark: Proposal would clear the way for 2,000 condominiums," Star Ledger, Sunday, March 30, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-2/1049026825217100.xml>

State News:

State close to adopting predatory lending law. The state legislature overwhelmingly passed a bill to prohibit abusive lending practices that primarily target the poor and elderly. The bill discourages exploitation through redlining, refinancing without benefit to the borrower, subprime and high cost lending practices, and requires lenders to fairly assess the borrowers ability to make payments. The bill makes violators subject to consumer fraud protections, including victims right to sue. New Jersey legislators negotiated aspects of the bill with bond rating agencies after a similar bill in Georgia caused lenders to pull out of the state. The governor is expected to sign the bill into law.

Related articles: "Upper house clears bill to ban predatory lending," Star Ledger, Friday, March 21, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1048232393278280.xml>

"Bill to curb predatory loans eased," Bergen Record, Sunday, March 16, 2003.
<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpenk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXkyOSZmZ2JlbDdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5NjM1NDQ1NSZ5cmlyeTdmNzE3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTI=>

Lawmakers, constituent groups respond to proposed budget cuts. Reeling from unprecedented budget cuts proposed in Governor McGreevey's 2004 spending plan, groups across the state are developing responses to restore funding and/or increase state revenues to soften the blow. Coalitions and constituent groups have formed to advocate

for reforms that include across the board tax increases, increased taxes for the state's wealthiest citizen's, and changes in local control over property taxes.

Related articles: Citizens groups unite to call for tax increase," Bergen Record, Wednesday, March 26, 2003.
<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk3JmZnYmVsN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk2MzU4NjE1JnlyaXJ5N2Y3MTdmN3ZxZWVFRXI5Mg>.

"Culture advocates take plea to lawmakers; Assembly Budget Committee hears protest over planned elimination of state funding," Star Ledger, Wednesday, March 26, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1048664977229330.xml>

"Boost in income tax urged to ease budget cuts' pain," Star Ledger, Thursday, March 27, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1048750666198020.xml>

"Report predicts gloomier budget picture for state," Star Ledger, Sunday, March 30, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1049026891217100.xml>

"Lawmakers urged to restore budget cash: Advocates for disabled tell of the pain caused by McGreevey's cuts," Star Ledger, Thursday, April 03, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1049355796249570.xml>

"Democrats ponder tax hike for rich: Two lawmakers say option should be on the table in view of cuts in the state's budget," Star Ledger, Wednesday, April 02, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1049268987282600.xml>

State economic indicators mixed, "holding". The rate of home foreclosures and mortgage delinquencies in New Jersey fell slightly in 2002 according to figures released by the National Mortgage Bankers Association. This includes a double-digit decline in the rate of foreclosures among Essex County residents. By comparison, the rate of foreclosures in the country rose slightly, exceeding the rate posted in the September 11th aftermath. The unemployment rate rose slightly, wiping out gains made in the third quarter of 2002. New Jersey's unemployment rate of 5.7% is just under the national unemployment rate of 5.8%.

"National foreclosure rate at a high, but state's falls," Star Ledger, Tuesday, March 25, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/business/ledger/index.ssf?/base/business-4/1048577491314360.xml>

"State's jobless rate rises to 5.7%; economy in 'holding pattern'," Bergen Record, Wednesday, March 26, 2003.
<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXkyOSZmZ2JlbDdmN3ZxZWVFRXI5NjM1ODUxMiZ5cmlyeTdmNzE3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTI=>

Upcoming Events

Rutgers-Newark Celebrates Dr. Richard McCormick's Inauguration

In honor of the inauguration of Dr. Richard McCormick, Rutgers-Newark will host **“Welcoming Our Future”** a panel discussion and reception on **Tuesday, April 8, 2003**. The event will begin at 2:30 pm in the Baker Trial Courtroom at the Center for Law and Justice (CLJ). A panel of Rutgers-Newark faculty will discuss, **“Urban Research Universities and the Future of Metropolitan America”**. The panel, moderated by Professor Marc Holzer, includes Professors Sherri-Ann Butterfield, Nancy DiTomaso, Tanya Hernandez, George Kelling, Richard Langhorne, Joan Morrell, and Clement Alexander Price, with a response provided by President Richard McCormick. A reception for Dr. McCormick will immediately follow the panel. Refreshments will be served in the Atrium of CLJ from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Admission to both events is free.

CGCG and the Cornwall Center Join Forces to Sponsor Two Events on Urban Change

The Center for Global Change and Governance (CGCG) and the Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies will co-sponsor two events on **Friday, April 25, 2003**. The first event, a lecture titled: **“Globalization and Urban Change in Germany: Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg”**, will take place from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm in room 572 at the Center for Law and Justice. The presenter is Dr. Eike Hennig, Professor of Political Science and Dean of the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Kassel, Germany. Dr. Elizabeth Strom will chair the talk. The second event from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm is a screening of **“Berlin Metamorphoses: A Story of Reunification, Rebuilding, and Reconciliation”** a film by Robert E. Frye. Immediately following the screening is a panel discussion with Neil Felshman, author and playwright from New York City; Eike Hennig, Professor from the University of Kassel; Volker Kirchberg, Assistant Professor from William Paterson University; and Elizabeth Strom, Assistant Professor from Rutgers University. Alexander Motyl, Deputy Director of CGCG and Robert E. Frye, Senior Fellow from CGCG will moderate the panel. For additional information, please contact Alexander Motyl ajmotyl@andromeda.rutgers.edu or 973-353-5585.

Showcase of Faculty Scholarship at Rutgers-Newark

The **“Provost's Annual Research Day”** is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 29, 2003** from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm in the University Club of the Robeson Campus Center. The event will feature a series of presentations by new Rutgers-Newark faculty briefly summarizing their research. Glenn Shafer from the Department of Accounting and Information Systems and Maggie Shiffrar from the Department of Psychology will moderate the panel. For additional information, please contact Diane Hill diaheh@andromeda.rutgers.edu or 973-353-1630.

Cornwall Center's Faculty Luncheon Seminar

The third spring 2003 Faculty Luncheon Seminar will be held **Monday, May 5th** from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. Dr. Max Herman, Assistant Professor from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, will present, **“Re-examining the ‘Riots’: Ethnic**

Succession and Urban Unrest in Newark and Detroit During the Summer of '67"

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.

MetroPeople: An Interview with Stacey Smith

*Stacey Smith is a counselor for the **Victim/Witness Advocacy Program**. She's only been on the job for about six months and she's already implemented changes. She's learned a lot about the organizational culture and about Newark.*

Cornwall: So, Ms. Smith, how would you define your job?

Stacey Smith: We deal with all victims of crime that occur in the city. We deal directly with the victims that have complaints in the municipal courts. And since it is the municipal court level, the highest crime would be simple assault. The charge of simple assault is technically defined as fewer than ten stitches; however, what you and I may call "simple" to an actual crime victim may be considered aggravated assault. We notify victims of all of the court dates. We also let them know of all of the services that are available to them such as counseling, housing relocation, etc. In cases of domestic violence, we make sure that they know of the domestic violence shelters. We also put them in touch with the VCCB (Victims Crime Compensation Board). Our job is very challenging. A lot of times we get cases that were originally classified as aggravated assault, but were downgraded to simple assault.

Cornwall: And that's when they come to your office?

Smith: Yes! Those cases are more sensitive than cases that come directly from "the streets" as a simple assault. A lot of times we have to explain to the victim why their case is not an aggravated assault, and how their case is now a simple assault.

Cornwall: About how many cases does your office handle per year?

Smith: In the 2002 report, we handled a little over 1,600 cases....

Cornwall: 1,600 cases? That's a lot.

Smith: And that's just the people that walked into the office. That doesn't count the phone calls and other inquiries. Also, this doesn't count our domestic violence victims who often have more than one case. So, a victim can have three or four cases.

Cornwall: How do you keep up?

Smith: When they come in or call, we complete an intake form. We ask those [them?] questions like, "Do [they] feel safe," and "How can we contact you?" We also ask them what type of assault was it. Also, for statistical purposes, we ask about ethnicity, age, marriage status. Those questions, they don't have to answer. We also ask several questions about the crime itself. We ask if the crime has been reported and where. It's really a challenging job to get these victims to open up to us, but I keep trying. We need them to be forthcoming so that we can determine the types of services they need.

Cornwall: What kind of challenges do you face with this position?

Smith: Again, having the victims be forthcoming is a challenge. About 60 to 70% of the cases I deal with are domestic violence cases, and they are the more serious and chronic cases. Just having them open up to me and feeling comfortable is a challenge in itself. Some people just want to be heard and want someone to listen. Others are like "Why am I here? I want to dismiss the charges."

Cornwall: So, it's mandatory that they see you?

Smith: It is not mandatory. Oftentimes the judge may refer them to my office so that we can do a brief intake and interview because a lot of times they'll be in court and be scared. The victims are scared. If they're not scared of the defendants, they're just scared to be in court. A lot of times it's their first time being in court and to have to explain to a judge, or prosecutor or court administrator what happened in front of a group of people is a little intimidating. The prosecutors also refer victims to our office, depending on the complaint.

Cornwall: What is it that you like most about your job?

Smith: Sometimes I may be talking with a client and I'm thinking that they are not paying attention to me, or that their mind is elsewhere, or maybe I didn't make an impact in this person's life, and then as they're walking out the door they'll turn around and say, "Thank you." That's something that's very touching and let's me know that I can make a difference.

Cornwall: What would you say you like least about your position?

Smith: Umm, that's difficult. As with anyone that works with the judicial system, it's difficult to know that you cannot save everyone. You can try. You can give them all of the options, but not everyone is ready to make that step that it takes to get out of their position.

Cornwall: So, you're saying that a lot of your victims go back into the same sort of social situations?

Smith: Yes, but remember we are dealing with simple assault cases. This is not to trivialize simple assault, but some of the relationships are still at a point where they can be saved. And our goal isn't to break people up. I tell them that all of the time. I tell them that people do argue, but that it shouldn't escalate to the point where someone is getting hurt or abused, or life is threatened.

Cornwall: I understand. Where do you see your office going in the next year? What do you want to accomplish as a counselor?

Smith: We're expanding! We are bringing on a full-time court advocate. So that will be someone that will be in the courtroom dealing directly with the victims. We are looking for more volunteers. With the expansion of staff and resources, we will be looking to reach out to the community.

Cornwall: To get your message out?

Smith: Yes. We want them to know that there is such a thing as victims' rights. Letting people know exactly what makes you a victim because some people are victims and they don't know it. I think that's one of the reasons why we've had such an increase in the amount of cases.

Cornwall: People didn't know they were victims?

Smith: Right! Previous program coordinators have tried to reach out, but have had limited resources. With our expansion, I want to do more of that.

Cornwall: Can you explain some of the programs and outreach efforts?

Smith: I can tell you about the one right now. April 6th through the 12th is National Crime Victims' Rights week. It's the 23rd annual National Crime Victims' Rights week. So, throughout the nation there will be ceremonies and other events. This is the city's 7th annual observance. This year we are combining with the Essex County Victims Witness Advocacy Program and inviting over 50 service providers in the area, different counselors, drug treatment centers, and we are going to have a resource fair in the basement/rotunda of City Hall on April 9th and at 10am we will be having our opening ceremony for the resource fair. From there, we are going to honor four to five service providers that have helped crime victims. This year's theme is called "Victims' Rights: Fulfill the Promise." Last year's theme was "Bringing Honor to Crime Victims" and it was dedicated to the 9/11 service providers. We want to build on last year's program. We want everyone to know that they don't have to be a counselor to help a victim. We want people to know that everyone should help in assisting victims. Again, we want victims to know that they have rights. Some of the honorees will be [Mayor and] Senator Sharpe James, Ms. Pamela McCauley of the Essex County Witness Victims Advocacy Program who has been doing an outstanding job for

fifteen years. We are also going to honor Detective Renaldo Velez of the Newark Police Department. He works with domestic violence victims. And we will be honoring Gregory Smith who is the relocation officer for Newark's Department of Health and Human Services. That's just to name a few. There may be some others. We will be doing a big push to get the message out. There will be flyers everywhere and a concerted effort to increase community awareness.

Cornwall: Thank you so much. You have just been a whirlwind of information, and I think that people need to know what victims' advocacy programs there are out there. It's good to know that you are a part of Newark.

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.

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, Katherine Accousti, LaMont Rouse, and Irene Welch.

Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies

Executive Committee

Marc Holzer - Chair - Department of Public Administration
Alan Sadovnik - Department of Education and Academic Foundation
Paul Tractenberg - School of Law
Leslie Kennedy - School of Criminal Justice

Staff

Katherine Accousti, Senior Program Coordinator
973-353-1750 ext. 224
accousti@andromeda.rutgers.edu

Donita Devance-Manzini, Senior Project Manager
973-353-1750 ext. 228
devance@andromeda.rutgers.edu

Kelly Robinson, Senior Research Analyst
krobins@andromeda.rutgers.edu
973-353-1750 ext. 226

Irene Welch, Administrative Assistant
irenew@andromeda.rutgers.edu
973-353-1750

Cornwall Center Contact Information

47 Bleeker Street

Newark, NJ 07102

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

www.cornwall.rutgers.edu