



**Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
E-Newsletter – June 16, 2003**

Announcements

Cornwall Funded Faculty Research Papers Posted on the Center's Website

Two newly released papers from the Cornwall Center's faculty award program were recently added to the Center's website:

- *"A Comparative E-Government Analysis of New Jersey's 10 Largest Municipalities,"* by Dr. Marc Holzer and Dr. James Melitski. This research identifies areas in which the ten largest New Jersey municipalities can improve their e-government programs.
- *"Juvenile Crime and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment: A Study of Foster Care Children in Urban Areas of Colorado,"* by Dr. Sara Markowitz, Dr. Alison Cuellar, and Dr. Anne Libby. This research examines the effectiveness of mental health and substance abuse treatment in reducing crimes committed by juveniles living in urban areas of Colorado.

To review the complete paper, please visit the Center's website at www.cornwall.rutgers.edu/publications.htm. Additional papers will be added in the coming months.

Ethics Colloquium Series

On Thursday, May 15th, the Cornwall Center and the Prudential Business Ethics Center hosted, *Ethics and Urban Development: The Role of Non-Profit Organizations*, the second in a series of colloquia exploring the ethical responsibilities of community stakeholders in urban development. The panel included:

- Dorothy Knauer, Deputy Executive Director, Community Agencies Corporation of New Jersey
- Alex Plinio, President, AFS-USA, Inc.
- Karen Olson, President, Family Promise
- Maria Vizcarrondo-DeSoto, President and CEO, United Way of Essex and West Hudson
- Ken Zimmerman, Executive Director, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice

Members of the panel discussed ethical issues and challenges their organizations face. A variety of interesting and relevant topics were introduced. Some common themes included the challenge of "doing good" vs. "doing well"; how to help people while also striving to reach the goals of your organization; and, how to balance the many relationships that an organization must maintain. The event was well attended and the audience enthusiastically participated in the question and

answer session at the end. The next colloquium, will take place during the fall semester. For additional information, please visit the Cornwall Center's website at www.cornwall.rutgers.edu.

News

Local News

Newark drinking water barely passes muster. Tests of drinking water in U.S. cities conducted by the National Resources Defense Council found drinking water in Newark "fair". Factors that influenced the lower rating included elevated levels of lead and an unacceptable reservoir system that left treated water uncovered.

Related article: "National study of cities' drinking water rates Newark only 'fair'," Star Ledger, Thursday, June 12, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/105539983859010.xml>

New jail too small for inmate population. The new Essex County jail, scheduled for completion in December, may be several hundred beds too small to handle the average number of inmates currently held in the old facility. The jail has long been the center of controversy due to cost overruns and construction delays. The current problem results from officials scaling back the number of inmate units to cut costs.

Related article: "Numbers for new Essex jail add up to a problem: The \$416 million facility is looking too small," Star Ledger, Sunday, May 25, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1053844859243250.xml>

Newark study proves theory of urban heat. It turns out that the perception that urban areas are hotter than suburbs is correct. A recent study confirmed that surface temperatures in downtown Newark average 10.6 degrees higher than suburban areas during the same period. Scientists suggest planting trees in urban areas as a means to mitigate the heat wave.

Related article: "Think Newark's hot? You're right: Scientists say planting trees is a cool idea," Star Ledger, May 16, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/printer/printer.ssf?/base/news-3/105306698302100.xml>

Need for affordable housing fuels protests. In two separate events protesters demonstrated for much needed affordable housing in the region. Earlier this month protestors rallied at the Newark Housing Authority demanding additional Section 8 vouchers. Each year applicants from Newark far exceed the number of available vouchers. Some advocates fear that the Bush administration proposal to transfer federal responsibility to states through block grants could further weaken the program. They contend that dollars currently allocated for Section 8 might get lost among competing demands and interests.

In late May, Essex County's State Senator Ron Rice lead a protest against a court challenge that would prevent state housing officials from building in Newark and other

urban areas. The suit, brought by advocates that believe the current housing policy segregates poor people and minorities into urban areas. Rice contends that the challenge simply delays bringing needed housing in an area of high demand.

Related articles: “Protesters say they're finished waiting for subsidized housing,” Star Ledger, Sunday, June 08, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/10550526986720.xml>

“Rice leads protest on housing delays,” Star Ledger, Tuesday, May 20, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/105341147443220.xml>

Other housing news

Housing director wants “real police” to provide security at housing complexes.

“Newark mulls instituting housing police force: Authority chairman notes the city paid less-qualified private security firms \$8 million in '02,” Star Ledger, Wednesday, May 14, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1052893053295920.xml>

Controversial redevelopment proposal abandoned. “Newark kills East Ward housing project,” Star Ledger, Thursday, May 22, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1053585125223270.xml>

State News

Amid bleak economic forecasts legislators find no easy solutions to state budget woes.

New Jersey’s budget ax continues to swing back and forth as the governor and state legislators seek ways to increase revenues and reduce commitments on the road to balancing the state’s fiscal budget for 2003-2004. Although a recently passed federal tax-relief bill helps lessen the burden officials warn that the state’s surplus remains uncomfortably narrow. Proposed cuts sent effected groups scrambling for support, some causing the governor to rethink planned reductions. New Jersey state law requires passage of the budget by July 1st.

Related articles: “Top Democrat joins fray between McGreevey, casino: Lawmaker seeks crackdown on industry ads blasting tax increase,” Star Ledger, Thursday, June 05, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/105479606424170.xml>

“Governor faults casino industry for opposition to tax increase,” Star Ledger, Wednesday, June 04, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/105470836442450.xml>

McGreevey cuts casinos' new tax load,” Star Ledger, Tuesday, June 03, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1054622047145140.xml>

“McGreevey rethinks preferred drug list: Protests spur officials to look for \$39 million to save health benefits,” Star Ledger, Tuesday, June 03, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1054622042120090.xml>

“State might cancel multiple health policies: Planned budget could close loophole to end officials' dual coverage,” Star Ledger, Thursday, May 29, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1054189375243870.xml>

“Governor spares business incentive program,” Star Ledger, Thursday, May 29, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1054189192243870.xml>

“N.J. fiscal picture looks bleak for next year: As tax revenues dip, treasurer says Jersey can't rely on stopgaps or federal infusion,” Star Ledger, Wednesday, May 28, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1054104206263220.xml>

“Budget report: Surplus growing, but fears remain: Treasurer to warn lawmakers on spending,” Star Ledger, Tuesday, May 27, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/105401698334760.xml>

“Fed bailout a windfall for Jersey: \$561M in aid brightens gloomy budget outlook,” Star Ledger, Saturday, May 24, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/105375712982960.xml>

“Art therapy for kids loses state funding: Amanda's Easel falls victim to budget crisis,” Star Ledger, Friday, May 23, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1053672158180980.xml>

“Calling on 'The Boss' and friends: Lawmakers want to use benefit concerts to raise money for Jersey's arts community,” Star Ledger, Saturday, May 17, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1053152207239030.xml>

“800 artfully protest slashed state funding: Celebs add voices against budget cuts, then it's schools' turn,” Star Ledger, Thursday, May 15, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1052979709277940.xml>

“State avoids closing homes for disabled: Medicaid budget to include needed funds,” Star Ledger, Thursday, May 08, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1052376251151360.xml>

“Jerseyans: Budget ax must fall: In poll, most back cuts over tax hikes,” Star Ledger, Thursday, May 08, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1052376223151360.xml>

“McGreevey vows to find funding for the arts: Governor plans to work with the Legislature to locate a dedicated aid stream for grants,” Star Ledger, Friday, May 02, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/printer/printer.ssf?/base/news-1/1051857600181440.xml>

School budget cuts may violate Abbott ruling. The state's budget balancing cuts may include rejecting about half of the \$750 million dollars in aide requested by urban districts, known collectively as "Abbott districts." Some district budget requests included funds to restore provisions mandated by *Abbott v. Burke*, the state supreme court's ruling to bring parity to lower performing urban schools. In fiscal 2003, the state requested and received permission to freeze additional funding set asides for Abbott districts for one year in order to assess their status. The district budgets reflected their expectation that Abbott districts would receive full funding in FY2004. The state supreme court is currently reviewing proposed modifications to *Abbott*. Urban education advocates contend that by not providing the funding the State is in violation of *Abbott*. Approximately \$80,000 of Newark's proposed budget of \$201 million dollars may be rejected under the current formula.

Related article: State puts squeeze on Abbott districts: Poor schools vow to appeal as half of requested aid is turned down," Star Ledger Tuesday, June 03, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1054621448120090.xml>

Report: School violence down. New Jersey's 2002 annual *Violence, Vandalism, and Substance Abuse Report* showed a 9 percent decline in incidents from 2001. Two large urban districts, Newark and Paterson, reported drops in violence, including assault. In Essex County school violence was down by 39%. These reductions were documented in every category with the exception of substance abuse. Statewide the total number of reported incidents was 22,744 compared to 24,973 in 2000-01. Education Commissioner, William Librera, while encouraged by the data, acknowledged that the reporting system is not perfect and that some underreporting occurs. The system is designed to measure the most serious cases of violence.

Related articles: "State reports drop in school violence and vandalism: Weapon offenses, substance abuse also fall, but officials warn districts may underreport," Star Ledger, Thursday, June 05, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/10547955384660.xml>

"Essex school violence drops 39 percent: Substance abuse is the only category that shows an increase, according to state report," Star Ledger, Thursday, June 05, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/10547954734660.xml>

"State reports 9 percent decline in school violence, vandalism: But officials warn districts may underreport," Star Ledger, Thursday, June 05, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/10547950094660.xml>

Commissioner proposes closing "back door" graduation policy. Education Commissioner William Librera proposes to do away with the Special Review Assessment (SRA), a "back door" for high school students that fail the state's mandatory standardized proficiency exams. Last year about 9,500 or one in ten students statewide receive

diplomas through the SRA policy. In some schools about half the students graduate under the SRA. Librera's plan calls for phasing out the SRA for the class of 2008 and remediation, beginning in the 9th grade.

Related article: "State to drop alternate exit exam: Those failing proficiency test will get remediation," Star Ledger, Thursday, June 05, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-0/105479602324170.xml>

Child protection agency seeks help to reform. The state's Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) continues to face criticism under the scrutiny of federal regulators and advocacy groups. The agency is seeking input from federal child welfare experts and a state commissioned multidisciplinary panel of experts to bring about reforms.

Related articles: "DYFS Managers assailed as inept and indifferent," Star Ledger, Wednesday, June 4, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/105470835042450.xml>

"DYFS asking for help to reform: Feds begin review of Jersey agency," Star Ledger, Wednesday, May 28, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1054104200263220.xml>

"Special unit of DYFS is called failure: Experts in lawsuit say watchdog doesn't protect foster care kids." Star Ledger, Friday, May 23, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1054104200263220.xml>

"Experts peg tab for DYFS fix at \$188 million over 3 years." Star Ledger, Friday, May 23, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1053672127180980.xml>

"McGreevey naming panel to oversee DYFS reform: Group includes experts in education, health and social services

Monday, May 19, 2003

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1053325420147560.xml>

Governor's anti-sprawl policies put to test. Governor James McGreevey is following through on a promise to help municipalities defend against developers to curb growth and protect open space. The state seeks to weigh in as a "friend of the court" in a recent action brought by developers and residents against a township in Hunterdon County. The State Plan designates the disputed area as low growth. In related news the governor's anti-sprawl "Big Map" is gaining support for the State Plan among businesses.

Related articles: "State steps into land-use case to help town resist developer," Star Ledger, Thursday, June 05, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/10547960594660.xml>

“Old proposal to curb sprawl develops new support: Controversy over Big Map leads many to reconsider the State Plan,” Star Ledger, Thursday, May 29, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1054189368243870.xml>

National News

Senate passes low-income family tax credit. The senate overwhelmingly passed a bill to provide a \$400 per child tax credit to working families with low incomes. The tax bill also expands eligibility for the tax credit in the future by increasing the income threshold for families and married couples. The bill awaits action from the congress and president.

Related article: Senate extends child credit to low-income families: Republicans meet Democratic demands to give more workers tax break,” Star Ledger, Friday, June 06, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-9/1054880995237120.xml>

Upcoming Events

Summertime Block Party on Bleeker Street

GlassRoots, Inc., in conjunction with the NJ Small Business Development Center (NJSBDC), and the Cornwall Center is hosting a Summertime Block Party. The event is scheduled for Thursday, July 10th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the mini-park adjacent to 49 Bleeker Street.

The Block Party is a celebration of arts and entrepreneurial ventures in Newark. The event will include demonstrations of glass bead making by Newark teens from GlassRoots, Inc., music by Rutgers’ graduate, Roman Martinez and his ensemble, and refreshments. The event will provide an opportunity to introduce the Newark community to the various Rutgers programs on Bleeker Street.

For additional information or to RSVP, please contact Irene Welch at 973-353-1750 ext. 221 or at irenew@andomreda.rutgers.edu.

Photo Exhibit Showcases Students’ View of Newark

“A Day in the Life of Newark”, a photo exhibit, will be on display at the Robeson Art Gallery from June 17th through June 28th. This exhibit is composed of photographs taken by K-12 and adult education students in Newark. The goal of the project, is to give students an opportunity to show their version of a day in the life of Newark. In mid-March, students equipped with digital cameras, went out into the community to document their surroundings. Pam Morgan, the Supervisor of Instructional Technology for the Newark School System, organized this innovative project to show the diversity and richness of Newark. The exhibit, which consists of 131 photos, is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

“Jazz in the Garden” at the Newark Museum

The Newark Museum’s summer concert series titled, “Jazz in the Garden” is in full swing! Concerts begin at 12:15 pm in the Alice Ranson Dreyfuss Memorial Garden of the Newark Museum. Summer concerts are scheduled for:

June 19th - Chucho Valdes
June 26th - Steve Wilson
July 10th - Dena DeRose
July 17th - Harry Allen & Joe Cohn
July 24th - Joe Magnarelli
July 31st - Dr. Lonnie Smith
August 7th - Donald Harrison
August 14th - Carrie Smith

Admission is free for Newark Museum members for, non-members the suggested donation is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children. The Newark Museum is located at 49 Washington Street. For more information please visit the Museum’s website at www.newarkmuseum.org.

The 29th Annual Newark Black Film Festival

The 29th Annual Newark Black Film Festival will be held Wednesday evenings from June 25th through July 30th at various locations in Newark. The following films are being featured in the festival:

- *Everything’s Jake* on June 25th at 7:00 pm in the Newark Museum’s Billy Johnson Auditorium (49 Washington Street). Guest speakers include Chris Fetchki, the Producer and Matthew Miele, the Director.
- *Ann B. Real* on July 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in University Hall at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) (99 Summit Street). Guest Speaker: Lisa France, Director
- *Half Past Autumn: The Life & Works of Gordon Parks* on July 9th at 7:30 p.m. in the Newark Museum’s Billy Johnson Auditorium (49 Washington Street). Guest Speaker: Chester Higgins, Jr., New York Times Photographer/Author and Special Guest: Gordon Parks
- *The Pawnbroker* on July 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the Newark Museum’s Billy Johnson Auditorium (49 Washington Street). Guest Speaker: Brock Peters, Actor
- *Karmen Gei* on July 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Newark Screens on Springfield Ave. (360-394 Springfield Avenue). Guest Speaker: Zain Abdullah, Professor, Rutgers-Newark
- *Remember The Titans* on July 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the Newark Symphony Hall (1020 Broad Street). Guest Speaker: Coach Herman Boone

The film festival is open to the public. Suggested donations are \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. For more information, please call 973-596-6550 or visit www.newarkmuseum.org/nbff.

The New Jersey Historical Society Leads Walking Tours of Newark

The New Jersey Historical Society will have several walking tours of Newark over the summer. These tours are designed to highlight Newark's many attractions.

- *Art for the Public Eye*
Celebrate Summer with a stroll around downtown Newark. Examine and discuss public art in Military and Washington Parks, including freestanding sculpture and architectural design.
Saturday, June 28 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- *Grand Years: Newark in the Early 1900s*
Discover some of the glories of Newark's past. Spend the afternoon visiting some of the architectural accomplishments of the early 1900s including the recently renovated National Newark Building. Historic photos will add to your perspective on the city.
Tuesday, July 1st 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
Saturday, August 2nd 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
- *Culture and Commitment*
Downtown Newark has seen several periods of growth since the founding of the city in 1666. This tour explores three centuries of the city's architecture through discussion and comparison of the buildings along Washington and Military Parks.
Saturday, July 19 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- *Downtown Gathering Places*
Explore sites where Newarkers, past and present, have met to relax, do business, and discuss the news of the day. Begin by touring the Broad National Building, once home to the 744 Club and the fashionable Downtown Club and other gathering sites, such as Rutgers University and NJPAC. Finish with a visit to McGovern's Tavern, a pub that has been providing good times for over six decades.
Tuesday, July 22 1:00 pm to 2:30 p.m.
- *Broad Street Highlights (New Tour!)*
Join us for a new walking tour of downtown Newark, highlighting some of the treasures of Broad Street. Buildings such as the National Newark Building, City Hall, Prudential and Symphony Hall have all been instrumental in the development of Newark's primary business district. See historic photographs of Broad Street in the 1800s and early 1900s from the NJHS collections.
Saturday, August 9 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Tours will run rain or shine. No reservations required. All tours begin in the lobby of the New Jersey Historical Society (52 Park Place). For additional information please contact Shari Abelson, Adults and Special Needs Program Coordinator, at (973) 596-8500, ext. 234.

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.

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