

CREATING A 'POWERHOUSE' IN PRISON-HEALTH RESEARCH

Beginning with a \$1.2-million grant from the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Justice, John Jay is building a research infrastructure that will propel the College toward becoming a "powerhouse" in the burgeoning field of correctional health, according to Professor Hung-en Sung.

Sung, who was awarded the funding in 2010, is working in collaboration with Professor Jeff Mellow, a fellow member of the Department of Criminal Justice. They will serve as mentors to the four junior colleagues who make up the core of what is being called the BRIC (Building Research Infrastructure Capacity) team. Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health will, in turn, serve as the institutional mentor to John Jay over the three-year course of the grant.

"What is happening now is that under that big grant, we have two sub-projects," said Sung. "Two junior faculty members are working with faculty members from Columbia who are national experts in the field of public health."

Frank Pezella, an assistant professor of criminal justice, is collecting data from a group of parolees who are making the reentry transition, according to Sung. Working with the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, he is tracking people in an effort to understand how religious involvement could lead to a more positive health outcome and reduction in illness.

"The DA's Office is running a program where parolees are assigned to mentoring programs run by religious groups," said Sung. "Violet Yu is doing a very different study." Yu, who is also an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice, will be following inmates released from the maximum-security Sing Sing Correctional Facility.

"These inmates tend to be older, have spent 10 or 11 years inside, and have a very high prevalence of mental-health problems," said Sung. "She is tracking their utilization of health resources and the relationship between health and recidivism."

One of the central focuses of this project will be to help minority and immigrant students to become more interested in health-related research



Sung



careers, he noted. A small group of graduate and undergraduate students will be selected to work on different research projects in the field. Two other members of the BRIC team, Professor Valli Rajah-Mandery of the Department of Sociology and Professor Valerie West of the Department of Criminal Justice, will hold research-method workshops. Some of the grant money will be used to allow faculty and students to take classes in public health at the Mailman School, according to Sung.

"It's about investing in human resources so that we may be more attuned to these health issues," he said. "Both NIH and Columbia are listening to us and working with us because we know that among the criminal justice population, this is a big issue. We cannot, we will never understand the problem of health disparities in this country if we don't take a serious look at health challenges that ex-offenders, parolees and inmates are facing."

KENNEDY GETS THE WORD OUT ABOUT CRIMEFIGHTING SUCCESS

Nothing succeeds like success, and David Kennedy, director of John Jay's Center for Crime Prevention and Control, has been having a very successful year. This fall, Bloomsbury Publishing will release his new book, *Don't Shoot: One Man, a Street Fellowship, and the End of Violence in Inner-City America*, and the implementation of his strategies has been credited with a precipitous drop in homicides in Chicago's most dangerous police precinct.

"It seemed like the right time in the work I've been involved in to get it out beyond the specialized audiences that might have been aware of it," said Kennedy about *Don't Shoot*. "The book is telling the story of how that work has something powerful to offer" in areas such as the country's problem with mass incarceration and the toxic relationships between police and predominantly minority communities, he said. "The hope is that it will be interesting enough to

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NY HOUSING-POLICE STUDY TURNS UP 'BURIED TREASURE'

As the nation's police departments began experimenting with community policing in the 1970s, one lawenforcement agency already had a long history of using sworn personnel to sort out problems before they became crimes.

The New York City Housing Police Department policed the city's housing projects from 1952 to 1995, when it was folded into the NYPD. Its experience with using the community policing strategy is the subject of *The Last Neighborhood Cops*, a new book by Professor Gregory H. (Fritz) Umbach of John Jay's Department of History.

"Unlike police departments everywhere else in the country that moved to reactive policing by squad cars, public housing couldn't," said Umbach. "They were obliged to be beat cops. You can't have cars on a stairway. So this major change that everyone decried in American policing — the removal of beat cops — never happened in New York's public housing."

Umbach said he discovered "buried treasure" when he dug into the Housing Authority's archives, kept at LaGuardia Community College. "It is the only paper trail of 20th century police departments and it's really detailed," said Umbach. "They're all the things you wish you could get from the NYPD."

Functioning police departments do not open their books for scholarly scrutiny, Umbach said, but the tens of thousands of documents in the archive belonged to the Housing Authority and not the NYPD,

and were thus exempt from the destruction of precinct-level records.

A key finding by Umbach was that after the 1970s, community policing no longer worked to the satisfaction of either police or residents. Many public-housing tenants supplemented their incomes with off-the-books work, whether it was cooking for restaurants in their homes or sewing piecework. They did not want a police force that knew them well.

Another issue was legal challenges to Housing Authority rules by poverty lawyers, according to Umbach. With the success of these, tenants lost the ability to get neighbors evicted. "If the neighbor next to you is dealing drugs, you are going to work closely with police to get an eviction," he said. "Once there were important court cases that expanded the rights of tenants and you couldn't be evicted, tenants lost interest in collaborating with police."

On the law enforcement side, housing police did not want to be identified with a poor community. They distanced themselves from community policing because the usual incentives for promotion were counter to the goals of the strategy.

"You get promoted today off of how many arrests you make," he said, "but if you're doing community policing, there is no way to quantify it. Community policing is always going to be at odds with the community's informal economy, and with the police sense of professionalism and professional identity."

KENNEDY BUILDS SUCCESS UPON SUCCESS

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those who aren't already obsessed with this stuff."

As for the center, Kennedy said, it has become the "center of gravity" of the National Network for Safe Cities, a supportive community of practice for cities and other jurisdictions that want to implement Kennedy's initiatives. He and John Jay President Jeremy Travis co-chair the group.

"There are more than 70 cities that have signed up that are actively pursuing this approach," said Kennedy. "We are working most closely with a set of 11 leadership group sites, so those are kind of super sites within out national network. We are hands-on in all of those

places. We also do hands-on at some of the rest of the sites, but we are focusing our energy on the leadership group sites as a kind of highly visible vanguard on this," he said.



Kennedy

Grants from the MacArthur Foundation and the Department of Justice's Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services make up the center's \$2-million annual budget, according to Kennedy.

"For the first time in what's now more than 15 years, the resources and the grounding have been created on which to do work with this community of cities rather than just individual cities," he said.

Through the center,

SOME SURPRISING FINDINGS IN CHILD- PROSTITUTE STUDY

A million-dollar federal grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to study child prostitution has led Professor Ric Curtis and a team of researchers to some surprising conclusions.

Curtis, who chairs the Department of Anthropology, worked with doctoral student Meredith Dank and Professor Karen Terry of the Department of Criminal Justice to collect data that included interviews with some 325 "kids" in New York and 125 in Atlantic City.

"One thing that surprised us was that there were more boys than girls," said Curtis. "In retrospect, it wasn't that surprising given New York's place in gay culture; I just hadn't been prepared for that. All the training we received going into the field was about young girls being victimized by pimps."

John Jay is working with the Center for Court Innovation to conduct surveys in Miami, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Dallas and Chicago/Milwaukee. Atlantic City was chosen to pilot the study.

As in New York, where only 10 percent of underage prostitutes said they had a pimp, Curtis said they found very few "bona fide" pimps in Atlantic City. What they found were what he called "spot pimps."

"If a gambler stumbled out of a casino and he's looking for a girl, this guy is in the corner," said Curtis. "He's not really a pimp, but he knows where to find a girl and will get a \$10 or \$20 tip from her."

peer exchanges have been designed so that law enforcement participants in the 11 leadership sites can get together with their counterparts who are doing particularly advanced and effective work, according to Kennedy. Colleges other than John Jay are also involved in the network. In Newark, for example, Rutgers University is working on a project that has the support of a consortium of foundations.

In addition, the MacArthur Foundation is applying separate funding to a project in Chicago. The foundation is investing more than half a million dollars a year there, he noted, in addition to what they have donated for the national work. Right now, the city is in a "key operational moment," when the call-ins during which police and social service organizations begin working face-to-face with gang members start.

"Homicide in the most dangerous precinct in Chicago promptly went down 40 percent," said Kennedy. "That's the kind of results you get when this stuff works."

LIFE-THREATENING FUNGUS TO GET A LONG, HARD LOOK

While healthy people can withstand a simple yeast infection, those with compromised immune systems from chemotherapy, broad-spectrum antibiotics or HIV can find themselves fighting for their lives against the ordinary fungus called *Candida albicans*.

Professor Jason Rauceo is in the second year of a three-year Support for Competitive Research (SCORE) grant from the National Institutes of Health to study *Candida albicans* and the way in which the fungus protects itself when confronted by a specific drug. The \$467,664 grant is the first ever to be



Rauceo

awarded to the College's Department of Sciences. The SCORE grant is given to institutions like John Jay that have significant numbers of underrepresented minorities in the sciences.

"Could this save lives? Yes. In the immediate future, no," said Rauceo. "There is so much unknown about *Candida albicans*."

Present in both men and women, *Candida albicans* is a common cause

of diaper rash, oral thrush and vaginitis. Under most conditions, it is harmless. "The focus of my research is not so much on these superficial infections, but on systemic infections in people with compromised immune systems," said Rauceo. "The immune-suppressed at-risk groups include burn victims, post-



The ordinary Candida albicans fungus can be "lights out" for some patients, says Professor Jason Rauceo.

chemotherapy patients, and those taking broad-spectrum antibiotics."

In such individuals, the fungus can exit its normal location on the surface of the gastrointestinal tract and enter the bloodstream. Once there, it can change its shape from an elongated sphere to a web or a network. "It engages in this really devastating attack on organs like the kidneys and the lungs," said Rauceo. "Once it becomes a systemic infection, it's not easy to get rid of. At that point, it's really lights out. It's really tough to treat." Treatment for this life-threatening condition can be harmful and toxic to the patient. But there is a drug, casparfungin, that works by damaging a key structure in the yeast.

"This drug is designed to attack something in yeast; we don't have that particular cellular feature in our biology," said Rauceo. "My research investigates what happens to each cell internally when confronted with this drug, how each cell responds. Our goal is not only to understand the response mechanism, but to anticipate resistant strains based on how we understand the basic output."

SEX ABUSE BY PRIESTS UNDER SCRUTINY

A groundbreaking study of the causes and context of the sexual abuse of minors by Roman Catholic clergy, released May 18 by a team of researchers from John Jay, concluded that there was no single cause or predictor of such abuses. Situational factors and opportunities to commit abuse played significant roles in the onset and continuation of sexual abuses.

The report, "The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States, 1950-2010," was formally released at a Washington, DC, press conference by Professor Karen Terry, the report's principal investigator and John Jay's Interim Associate Provost and Dean for Research and Strategic Partnerships. She pointed out that despite the recent increased public awareness of priestly abuses, the

bulk of abuse cases actually occurred decades ago.

"The increased frequency of abuse in the 1960s and 1970s," Terry said, "was consistent with the patterns of increased deviance in society during that time." These social influences, she noted, intersected with the vulnerabilities of individual priests who were inadequately prepared for a life of celibacy.



Professor Karen Terry faces the press after releasing the latest Catholic Church study.

Neither celibacy nor homosexuality, the report stressed, was a cause of sexual abuse by priests.

The incidence of abuse declined sharply by the mid-1980s, which researchers attributed to factors within the Catholic Church, including the implementation of "human formation components" in seminary training for the priesthood.

The initial mid-1980s response

by Catholic bishops to allegations of sexual abuse was focused on getting help for the abusive priests, the study found. A comprehensive plan for responding to victims and the harms of sexual abuse was developed by the mid-1990s, although implementation by Catholic dioceses was neither consistent nor thorough at that time. Nonetheless, the researchers found, the incidence of sexual abuse by priests declined more rapidly than overall societal patterns of such cases.

The report is the second of two studies to be produced by John Jay researchers about sexual abuse by Catholic priests. An earlier study, which examined the nature and scope of the problem, was published in February 2004. The latest report was commissioned by the National Review Board, a Catholic lay organization, and funded in part by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The complete report can be accessed on the USCCB Web Site, at <http://new.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/upload/The-Causes-and-Context-of-Sexual-Abuse-of-Minors-by-Catholic-Priests-in-the-United-States-1950-2010.pdf>.

SCHOLAR INCENTIVES

MACNAMARA AWARD TO DAVID GREEN

The Donal E.J. MacNamara Junior Faculty Award was created in November 2000 with an endowment from Professor Emeritus Donal E.J. MacNamara, and is presented annually to an instructor or assistant professor who has made a significant scholarly contribution in the preceding two years to the fields of criminal justice or criminology. The 2011 MacNamara Award was given to **David Green**, an Assistant Professor of Sociology.



Green

2008, received his PhD in criminology from the University of Cambridge and subsequently was a Junior Research Fellow at Christ Church College, University of Oxford. He won the European Society of Criminology's Young Criminologist Award in 2007, and the 2009 British Society of Criminology Book Prize for his first book, *When Children Kill Children: Penal Populism and Political Culture* (Oxford University Press, 2008).

to study "questions of punishment" at the Straus Institute for the Advanced Study of Law & Justice at New York University Law School. While there, Green researched a new book tentatively titled *Selling Redemption: The Second Chance Act and American Penal Culture*. Along with his colleague Maria Hartwig, he recently received a DHS grant of \$400,000 to fund two PhD students for three years. The grant project will focus on issues related to the mass media's role in shaping public policy responses to terrorism. His broader research interests center on the intersection of crime, media, public opinion and politics in a comparative perspective.

Green, who joined the John Jay faculty in January

He was one of nine Thematic Fellows selected

RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR SOCIOLOGY, AND ALL THAT JAZZ

The Mid-Career Research Support Award was created by the Office for the Advancement of Research and is presented to faculty members who are in their first five years after receiving tenure. The office presented two awards for the 2011-2012 academic year.



Adamecyk

Amy Adamecyk, an Associate Professor of Sociology, has broad scholarly interests with research that focuses on religious contextual influences on delinquency and reproductive behaviors, and cross-national differences in attitudes about crime and deviance. Her current research project examines how religion, economic

development and political stability shape cross-national public opinion about homosexuality, and compares portrayals of homosexuality in the public press in the United States, South Africa and Uganda.

Benjamin Lapidus, an Associate Professor of Music, is a teacher, scholar and musician. As a musician, he has performed and recorded throughout the world with prominent

Spanish Caribbean musicians and is regarded as a virtuoso in Cuban tres and guitar. His current research project is an ethnographic study of the Panamanian musical community in Brooklyn.



Lapidus

GRANTS UPDATE

John Jay faculty and staff in a variety of disciplines and departments continue to win major grants to support research, education, training programs and community initiatives. Recent awards include:

Jeffrey Butts (Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation Center), \$30,000 from YouthBuild USA for an Assessment of Mentoring Initiatives by YouthBuild USA.

Preeti Chauhan (Psychology), \$15,000 from the Public Welfare Foundation to support her research into understanding the crime drop in New York City.

Shu-Yuan Cheng (Sciences), \$23,047 from the New York City Department of Education to support the Summer Institute Forensic Science at John Jay.

Hyewon Chung (Psychology), \$19,987 from the American Educational Research Association for her study "Incorporating Student Mobility in Longitudinal Datasets: A Multiple-Membership

Random Effects Modeling Approach."

Ric Curtis (Anthropology), \$54,119.63 from Community Connections for Youth for the South Bronx Community Connections Project.

Ernest Drucker (Anthropology), \$21,450 from the Open Society Institute for a Harm Reduction Development Program.

Joshua Freilich (Criminal Justice), three grants totaling \$570,701 from the University of Maryland to support the creation of a U.S. extremist crime database.

Maria Hartwig (Sociology), \$399,983 from the Department of Homeland Security for the Homeland Security Doctoral Research Fellowship Program. She also received \$9,336 from the National Science Foundation for the project *Guilty Stereotypes: The Social Psychology of Race and Suspicion in Police Interrogations*.

Delores Jones-Brown (Center on Race, Crime and Justice), \$82,000 from the Open Society Institute to support a Roundtable on Current Debates, Research Agendas and Strategies to Address Racial Disparities in Police-Initiated Stops in the UK and USA.

David Kennedy (Center on Crime Prevention and Control), \$600,000 from the MacArthur Foundation to support Year Two of a Five-Year Violence Reduction Strategy in Chicago.

Joseph Rauceo (Sciences), two grants totaling \$295,783 from the National Institutes of Health to study Yeast Cell Wall Damage Response Pathways.

Comments? Questions? Suggestions?
Send them to Matthew Dank,
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Visit the Office for Advancement of Research's Web site at www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/960.php