*Message from the Managing Director*

Exciting work is happening at the Justice Center for

Research, this spring our researchers were busy

submitting grant applications to NIJ and COPS.

Distinguished Lecturer Professor Steve Messner and

Becky Pettit presented their research to interested

faculty and graduate students. Additionally, our

researchers published and presented posters on

sentencing outcomes and cyberbullying on Twitter.

This month we welcome Dr. Jeffrey Beard as Adjunct Professor of Practice and Research Assistant John Crum.

*Dr. Gary Zajac*

**The Justice Center for Research is a Partnership of the College of the Liberal Arts and University Outreach**

The Docket MAY 2016

**PENN STATE**

*Justice Center for Research*

Gary Zajac, Managing Director

Grant Submissions

* COPS: Smart Policing Initiative: PA State Police TRIAD Project Evaluation. Glenn Sterner, Justice Center for Research Postdoctoral Scholar, Jennifer Gibbs Penn State Harrisburg Faculty Affiliate, Joongyeup Lee, Penn State Harrisburg Faculty Affiliate.
* NIJ: Employment and Crime: An Examination of Moderating Effects. Holly Nguyen, Faculty Affiliate, Gary Zajac, Managing Director, and Faculty Affiliates Derek Kreager and Jeremy Staff.
* NIJ: Understanding Incarceration and Re-Entry Experiences of Female Inmates and Their Children: The Women’s Prison Inmate Networks Study (WO-PINS). Derek Kreager (PI) and Gary Zajac, with Dana Haynie (Ohio State, co-PI), Sara Wakefield (Rutgers, co-PI), and Michaela Soyer (Hunter College and former Justice Center postdoctoral scholar).

Professor Martha Wadsworth Awarded NIMH Grant

Justice Center Faculty Affiliate, Martha Wadsworth and Principal Investigator for “Building a Strong Identity and Coping Skills (BaSICS) Program” begins work on this new project. This is a randomized control trial to study BaSICS, a program designed to teach to low-income and racial/ethnic minority youth healthy ways of coping with stress, develop positive personal and cultural identities and engage in efforts to strength their communities. The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) awarded Penn State $2,800,000 to support this project for the period May 2016- April 2018 and May 2018- April 2021 pending successful completion of the first two years’ goals. The Justice Center provided seed funding to Professor Wadsworth from the Center’s Faculty Fellowship Program for the BaSICS Program to support development of the funding application. Findings from the BaSICS project will elucidate how psychosocial interventions can improve preadolescents’ physiologic regulation, how long-lasting such changes are, and the extent to which physiologic change is necessary and/or sufficient to prevent anxiety and depression in at-risk youth. This work will offer important implications to address income-and-race-based health disparities.

Jeffrey Beard Joins Justice Center as Adjunct Professor of Practice

The Justice Center is pleased to welcome (again) Dr. Jeffrey A. Beard as an adjunct Professor of Practice in the Center. Dr. Beard had first joined us in this capacity in 2010 after retiring as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. He had to suspend his appointment with us in late 2012 after accepting the appointment as Secretary of the California Department of Corrections of Rehabilitation. He retired from CDCR late last year, and we are happy to reinstate his appointment with the Center. Dr. Beard received his B.S., M.Ed., and Ph.D. from Penn State and has over 40 years of experience in corrections at all levels and is a nationally recognized executive in this field.

Justice Center Welcomes New Research Assistant

John Crum joined the Justice Center for Research in May 2016, after completing his Master’s degree in Criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. For his master’s synthesis, John evaluated the effectiveness of police body-worn camera in the United States. While attending IUP, he was a graduate assistant working on areas of ethics, the death penalty, and school-based crime prevention programs. In November 2015, John attended the American Society of Criminology Conference in Washington D.C., where he presented a poster on the Ethics of the Three-Strikes Laws on prisoners and society. In addition, he published a book review on drones and the ethics of targeted killings. John earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Sociology at Penn State Altoona. He obtained an internship with an Altoona law firm, where John assisted in the daily operations of a corporate law office. John, also, was awarded the Excellence in Criminal Justice Award and became a member of Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society.

Distinguished Lecturer: Professor Steven Messner

As part of the Justice Center’s Distinguished Lecture Series, Professor Steven Messner presented his research on “Traditional Strategies of Neighborhood Crime Control in a Changing China: Reassessing the Role of Tiao-Jie and Bang-Jiao.” Following Professor Messner’s talk he was presented with the Justice Center for Research Distinguished Lecturer Award.

Professor Becky Pettit, Brown Bag Co-Sponsored with Population Research Institute

The Justice Center for Research co-sponsored Professor Becky Pettit’s Brown Bag talk with the Population Research Institute. Professor Pettit’s Brown Bag presented on “Constructing Crime and Justice: Eliciting, Engaging, and Evaluating Evidence about Mass Incarceration.”

Justice Center Graduate Student and Faculty Affiliate Publish Paper

Julia Laskorunsky, Graduate Student Assistant at the Justice Center for Research, recently published a book chapter with Jeffery Ulmer, Justice Center Faculty Affiliate. The article explores the effect of juvenile adjudications on sentencing outcomes in criminal court proceedings in the *Journal of Crime and Justice*. The article can be found here: <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjcj20/39/1>

## Glenn Sterner, Ph.D. Presents Poster at the Sunbelt Conference of the INSNA

## Glenn Sterner, Justice Center Postdoctoral Scholar and Diane Felmlee, Faculty Affiliate presented a poster on “The Social Networks of Cyberbullying on Twitter” at the Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis in Newport Beach, California. The poster can be found here: <http://justicecenter.psu.edu/news/documents/twitter-cyberbullying-posters/insna>

Students Present Posters on Twitter Cyberbullying

Justice Center for Research Postdoctoral Scholar, Glenn Sterner and Faculty Affiliate Diane Felmlee and undergraduate students Tyler Strumm and Kaitlin Shartle and graduate student Paulina Rodis presented their research at the Undergraduate Exhibition and Graduate Exhibition. The posters can be found here:

Asian Cyberbullying on Twitter Networks:

<http://justicecenter.psu.edu/news/documents/twitter-cyberbullying-posters/rodis_ge>

The Social Networks of Gender Related Cyberbullying on Twitter: <http://justicecenter.psu.edu/news/documents/twitter-cyberbullying-posters/shartle_ue>

The Social Networks of Racially Specific Cyberbullying on Twitter: <http://justicecenter.psu.edu/news/documents/twitter-cyberbullying-posters/strumm>

Justice Center for Research

The Pennsylvania State University

327 Pond Laboratory

University Park, PA 16802

814-867-3292

[www.justicecenter.psu.edu](http://www.justicecenter.psu.edu)

May 2016