



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



C e n t e r o n
Race &
Social
Problems



2008
ANNUAL REPORT
2009



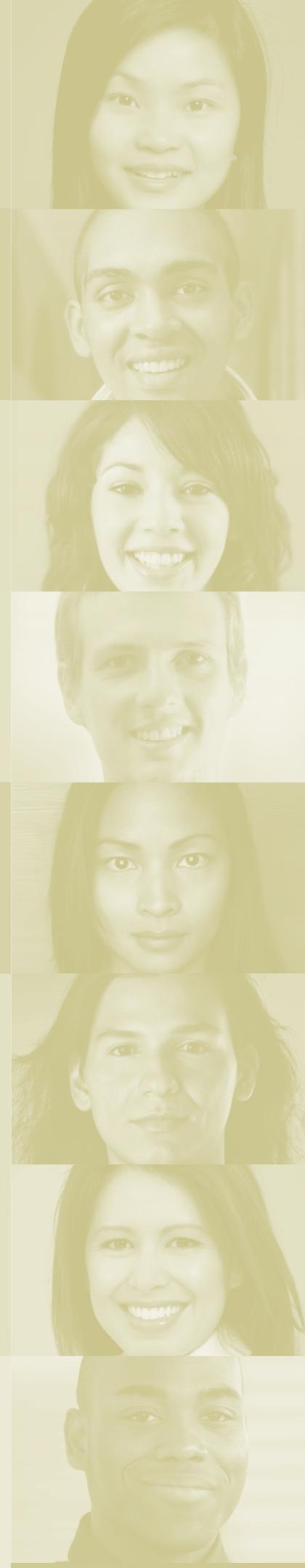


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Credits

Published by the Center on Race and Social Problems

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From the Director—2009

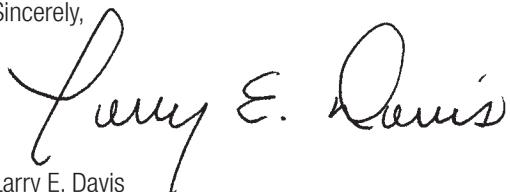
Once again each year seems to go by even faster than the last. As has been the case in the past, 2009 was a busy year for the Center on Race and Social Problems. Each year, it seems we add new dimensions and projects to the center's already active agenda. It is sincerely with great pride that I say that the center is doing well. The speaker series, summer institutes, studies abroad, new journal, mentoring of scholars, and the increasing numbers of piloted and funded research projects have kept us running at full speed.

The journal *Race and Social Problems* has been a bright spot for the center. I want to thank Dr. Gary Koeske for taking on the role of editor-in-chief. He is doing a marvelous job of reviewing, editing, and shepherding manuscripts through the review process. He also has shown amazing interpersonal skills in dealing with authors in the preparation of their manuscripts. In addition, I want to thank the associate director of the center, Dr. Ralph Bangs, who also is associate editor of the journal, for his tireless efforts to solicit manuscripts and then to assist in their review and editing once they arrive. It also is true that we have had the good fortune that many of the editorial board members have been forthcoming in their efforts to review papers submitted for publication. All these individuals are deserving of a major thank you.

We began this year planning for the Race in America conference, which is to take place June 3–6, 2010. You can go online to www.race.pitt.edu to register for the conference. The planning of this conference has required that we spend a great deal of time and energy strategizing and thinking about how to host what we believe will be the most solution-focused conference ever on race in America. Clearly, in light of the sustained state of racial inequality in virtually every aspect of society—education, economics, health, mental health, families youth and children, and criminal justice—the conference we are planning appears to be sorely needed. As supporters of the center we wholeheartedly hope that you will join us here in Pittsburgh for this exciting and important event.

As always, I want to thank those who have so consistently supported and sustained the center.

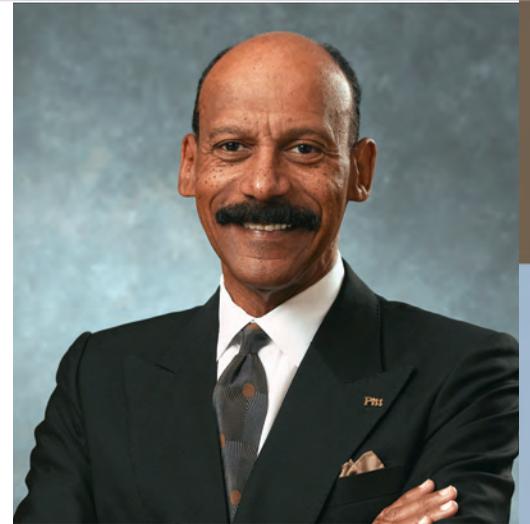
Sincerely,



Larry E. Davis

Director, Center on Race and Social Problems

Dean and Donald M. Henderson Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work



Background

Mission

Although progress has been made since these words were spoken more than 100 years ago, America's race-related problems remain with us in the 21st century. Race and ethnicity matter in virtually all aspects of our society and are likely to increase in importance; currently, persons of color make up 30 percent of the U.S. population, and by 2050, this portion will increase to 50 percent. This shift will have a profound effect on the social, psychological, and economic lives of all members of our society.

“The problem of the 20th century is the problem of the color line.”

W.E.B. DuBois, author, 1903

The mission of the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) is to conduct applied social science research on race, color, and ethnicity and their influence on the quality of life for all Americans. The University of Pittsburgh established CRSP in 2002 to help lead America further along the path to social justice by conducting research, mentoring emerging scholars, and disseminating knowledge. CRSP is multidisciplinary in its approach and multiracial in its focus and was the first race-related research center to be housed in a school of social work.

Goals

The goals of the center are to:

- Foster high quality, multidisciplinary research on racial issues. CRSP aims to achieve this goal by developing new knowledge and gaining substantial local and national funding for research.
- Mentor scholars who focus on race-related research. CRSP aims to accomplish this goal by providing students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and other scholars with guidance and support in project design, proposal development and presentation, data gathering and analysis, and publishing.
- Disseminate race-related knowledge and information. CRSP aims to accomplish this goal by providing, forums, conferences, lectures, summer institutes, and courses.



Activities and Functions

Areas of Focus

The center focuses on race-related social problems in the following six areas:

- Economic Disparities
- Educational Disparities
- Interracial Group Relations
- Mental Health
- Youth, Families, and the Elderly
- Criminal Justice

Aligning itself with the mission of the University of Pittsburgh, the center is engaged in the following activities and functions:

Research

Executing a high-quality, multidisciplinary applied research program is at the core of the center's mission. Faculty who work with the center are encouraged to focus on developing realistic and achievable solutions to the topics they address.

Faculty members affiliated with the center are organized into groups based on the six problem areas addressed by the center. These groups, called Research Advisory Panels (RAPs), bring together faculty members with similar interests to work individually or together to develop new research initiatives.

Addressing race-related problems requires a wide range of expertise. The center establishes and maintains relationships with interested faculty from across the University and provides these social scientists with an identity and a location for research and training on racial topics. The center aids University researchers in developing and obtaining external funding for their projects. Finally, the center strives to become a national resource for race-related social science information for both academicians and the general public, and it serves as a collection site for questionnaires, instruments, and relevant research resources.

Service

With focus on, but not limited to, the Pittsburgh region, CRSP serves the informational needs of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. It provides the community with both data and technical assistance, conducts special studies on current issues, and disseminates research findings. Interested citizens can attend the center's seminars, lectures, and conferences to gather information or engage in dialogue on race-related issues. They also are encouraged to visit the CRSP Web site for links to the latest newsletters, papers, and books and information about conferences, summer institutes, and course offerings.

Education

Anyone interested in race-related issues has a variety of opportunities to get involved with the center's research. The center educates, trains, and mentors scholars from the undergraduate to the postdoctoral level. A position on a research project affords individuals the opportunity to gain not only valuable skills and experience, but also funding for their education. The center also offers graduate courses on race and related social problems.

Academic Advisory Committee

The center is guided by an Academic Advisory Committee of experts from across disciplines at the University of Pittsburgh and around the country. In January 2008, **Kathleen Blee** of Pitt's Department of Sociology took over the duties of committee chair. Other committee members from the University of Pittsburgh are:

- **Willa Doswell**, School of Nursing
- **Sara Goodkind**, School of Social Work
- **Audrey Murrell**, Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business
- **Edmund Ricci**, Graduate School of Public Health
- **Janet Schofield**, Department of Psychology and Learning Research and Development Center

Racial Diversity Management in Corporate America: (left to right) Larry E. Davis, Emilio Castilla, Audrey Murrell, Frank Dobbin, Ralph Bangs

- **Richard Schulz**, University Center for Social and Urban Research
- **Stephen Thomas**, Graduate School of Public Health
- **John Wallace**, School of Social Work
- **Lu-in Wang**, School of Law
- **Hidenori Yamatani**, School of Social Work

Members from outside the University of Pittsburgh are:

- **Alfred Blumstein**, Carnegie Mellon University School of Public Policy and Management
- **Joe Feagin**, Texas A&M University Department of Sociology
- **Patricia Gurin**, University of Michigan Program on Intergroup Relations
- **James Jackson**, University of Michigan Institute for Social Research
- **Ruth McRoy**, University of Texas Center for Social Work Research
- **Michael Sherraden**, Washington University in St. Louis George Warren Brown School of Social Work
- **Robert Taylor**, University of Michigan School of Social Work



Research

Note: All faculty members listed in this section are from the University of Pittsburgh unless otherwise noted.

Areas of Focus and Research Advisory Panels

The center provides social scientists with both an identity and a location for research and training on racial topics. It also aids researchers in developing and obtaining external funding for their projects. Faculty associated with the center conduct basic and applied studies, quantitative and qualitative data collection, and primary and secondary data analysis.

Faculty members affiliated with the center are organized into groups based on the center's six areas of focus. These Research Advisory Panels (RAPs) bring together faculty members with similar interests to work individually or in groups to develop new research initiatives. They also provide a place and opportunity for members to present findings on their existing studies as well as to receive feedback on the progress of their work to date.

The chairs of the RAP groups in 2008–09 were:

- Economic Disparities: Ralph Bangs, CRSP
- Educational Disparities: Ralph Bangs, CRSP
- Interracial Group Relations: Janet Schofield, Department of Psychology and Learning Research and Development Center



Sara Goodkind

- Mental Health: Carol Anderson, Department of Psychiatry
- Youth, Families, and the Elderly: Rachel Fusco, School of Social Work
- Criminal Justice: Hidenori Yamatani, School of Social Work (through December 2008) and Sara Goodkind, School of Social Work (from January 2009)

Externally Funded Projects *New Projects*

Evaluation of the Pittsburgh Initiative to Reduce Crime

John M. Wallace Jr. and Ralph Bangs

This project will examine the process, outcomes, and impact of the Pittsburgh Initiative to Reduce Crime (PIRC) on gun-related violence and homicide.

Although Pittsburgh is recognized as one of the safest major cities in the nation, the problem of gun violence—particularly in specific neighborhoods and among particular populations—remains an important one. More specifically, more than half (55 percent) of Pittsburgh's homicides in 2006 occurred in just 10 of the city's 90 neighborhoods, and although African Americans comprised only 27 percent of the Pittsburgh's population in 2006, they accounted for nearly 90 percent of the city's homicide victims (Dalton, 2007). Further, the 2006 homicide rate among African Americans was more than 18 times the rate among Whites (52.9 per 100,000 vs. 2.9 per 100,000).

In response to the violence problem, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, Councilman Ricky Burgess, and other Pittsburgh leaders are working with Professor David Kennedy from the City University of New York John Jay College of Criminal Justice to adapt Kennedy's nationally recognized Boston Gun Project model to Pittsburgh, resulting in the creation of PIRC.

In an effort to assess the effectiveness of the PIRC strategy, Bangs and Wallace will collaborate with the governing board of PIRC, Pittsburgh law enforcement, social service providers, clergy, community members, and other key stakeholders to accomplish the following specific aims:

1. To conduct an incident review of homicides in the City of Pittsburgh (2003–08)
2. To analyze the networks of relationships that exist between street-level groups involved in gun violence in Pittsburgh

3. To document the design and implementation process of PIRC
4. To evaluate the impact of PIRC on gun-related violence and homicide in the City of Pittsburgh
5. To make recommendations to the city on ways to address the problem of violence based on lessons learned from the implementation of PIRC

Ongoing Projects

A National Study of Minority and Women Business Contracting

Ralph Bangs and Audrey Murrell

June 2006–May 2010

Funded by: The National Dream Fund—The Ford Foundation, Marguerite Casey Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Open Society Institute, and the Falk Foundation

The purpose of this project is to help local governments increase prime contracts with minority and women business enterprises (MBEs and WBEs) in Boston, Mass., and Chicago, Ill. Three local governments in both cities are being studied: the central city, housing authority, and water and sewer authority in Boston and the city, county, and school district in Chicago.

For each local government, Bangs and Murrell have determined from archived public data the share of total prime contracts in a recent year that went to MBEs and WBEs. Generally, local governments award very small shares of total prime contract spending to these firms. In addition, Bangs and Murrell are in the process of interviewing 20 strong MBEs and 20 strong WBEs in each of the cities to find out what barriers within local government prevent these firms from obtaining prime contracts. The barriers often include large contract sizes, giving late notice or no notice about contract opportunities, and allowing large change orders and contract amendments for majority firms.



Aging out of the Child Welfare System: Sara Goodkind, Marian Harris, Larry E. Davis, Paul Toro, David Sanders, Jeffrey Shook

Another part of the project is to build partnerships between the researchers and local governments in order to increase understanding of discriminatory barriers and encourage local government adoption of affirmative action programs. The partners will develop local political and legal strategies to get reluctant local governments to change policies and practices.

Potential Eligibility for the Pittsburgh Promise

Ralph Bangs, Larry E. Davis, William Elliott, Erik Ness (Edison Schools)

June 1, 2008–May 31, 2009

Funded by: The Pittsburgh Foundation

The purpose of this study was to determine baseline numbers and percentages of Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) graduates and students by race (Black and White), gender, and income who are potentially eligible for the Pittsburgh Promise college scholarship program. This study used different values for selected eligibility criteria (enrollment in PPS, city residency, grade-point average, attendance, and graduation tests). PPS provided summary data for the project based on student records.

The data and report will enable The Pittsburgh Foundation and others to know how different eligibility criteria affect the inclusion

or exclusion of graduates and students from the Pittsburgh Promise. This will also allow program costs to be better estimated and eligibility criteria to be chosen so that as many graduates and students as possible benefit from the Pittsburgh Promise program.

Forecasts for Alternative Designs for the Pittsburgh Promise

**Ralph Bangs, Larry E. Davis, William Elliott, Erik Ness
(Edison Schools)**

June 1, 2008–May 31, 2009

Funded by: the Falk Foundation

This project estimated the effects of alternative design characteristics for the Pittsburgh Promise college scholarship program on outcomes by race, gender, and income level. The goals of this study were to help the community and leaders design the program so that (1) all socioeconomic groups of students have access to the scholarship, (2) Pittsburgh Public Schools' enrollment and the population of the city of Pittsburgh increase, (3) public school student achievement improves, (4) college enrollment and completion increase, and (5) the Pittsburgh Promise is as affordable as possible for donors. The project forecasted the outcomes of three basic designs for the Pittsburgh Promise:

- The present merit-based program, with its last-dollar scholarship for selected public and private colleges and universities,
- A universal design for the program based on the Kalamazoo (Mich.) Promise, which applies to all high school graduates and offers a sizeable scholarship for a large number of public colleges and universities, and
- A design that combines elements of the above options, with universal eligibility and a last-dollar, midsized scholarship (\$7,500) for a large number of public and private colleges and universities.

For each design, researchers forecasted public school enrollment, high school graduation, college enrollment and completion, and student achievement (grades and test scores) by race, gender, and income. They also forecasted effects on city population and program costs. They used research on state and local programs that are similar to the Pittsburgh Promise as well as data from Kalamazoo, Pittsburgh, and other state and local areas to forecast outcomes in Pittsburgh.



William Elliott

Monitoring the Future: Drug Use and Lifestyles of American Youth

**John M. Wallace Jr. (coinvestigator) with Lloyd Johnston,
Jerald Bachman, Patrick O'Malley, and John Schulenberg
(University of Michigan)**

Funded by: National Institute on Drug Abuse

Monitoring the Future is an ongoing epidemiological research and reporting project that began in 1975 and has become one of the nation's principal sources of reliable information on trends in drug use among adolescents and young adults. This research study has three broad and complementary aims: (1) to monitor drug use and potential explanatory factors among American secondary school students, college students, other young adults, and selected age groups beyond young adulthood; (2) to distinguish which of three fundamentally different kinds of change—maturational, historical, and/or cohort—are occurring for various types of drug use, including the use of tobacco and alcohol; and (3) to study the causes, consequences, and maturational patterns associated with these different types of change in drug use. Papers completed or in progress this year focus on the relationship between race, ethnicity, and social class differences in girls who smoke; gender differences in adolescent delinquency; and patterns and trends in youth violence.

Internally Funded Projects

Pilot Studies

Each year, the center makes a Universitywide announcement requesting proposals for pilot research projects. When evaluating the proposed projects, emphasis is placed on the overall value of the project to the center's goals, the scientific merit of the research, the likelihood that the work will lead to scholarly publication, and the potential for substantial external funding of subsequent studies.

New in 2009

Race and Search Warrant Trustworthiness in the City of Pittsburgh and Environs

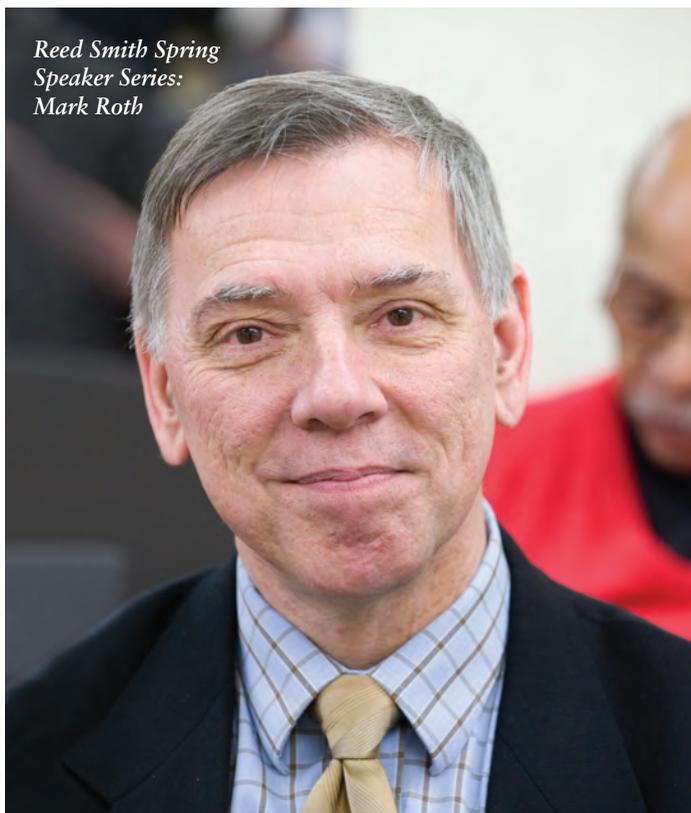
David Harris, Andrew Taslitz (Howard University), and Jeannine Bell (University of Indiana-Bloomington)

Since being awarded the grant, researchers hired and trained four student coders, completed a codebook, worked with University staff to perfect a SNAP-based data-entry program, obtained permission from various judges and administrators to examine search warrant files and returns of service (documents reporting on whether the warrants had been served; what, if anything, was seized; and the circumstances surrounding the seizure). Coders finished coding and downloading to a central

data repository date obtained from hundreds of search warrants and returns of service examined in a variety of police districts in Allegheny County. The next step was to have the statistician analyze the data.

Researchers ran into many unanticipated obstacles in data collection. They discovered fairly quickly that none of the data were available in electronic form, nor was there any central data depository in which they could run searches for information needed. Furthermore, the sheer balkanization of Allegheny County into numerous police departments and magistrate districts, combined with the absence of any sound record-keeping practices, further limited access to data. Some judges and police departments just refused to cooperate. Although there are legal procedures to compel cooperation, relying on those can take several years, time that they did not have pursuant to the terms of the grant, not to mention practical resource limitations. Furthermore, the various relevant county institutions seem to be out of synch with much of the practice in the rest of the country regarding what types of search warrants are sought, when, whom, and how. These observations are noted for several reasons: (1) the database will be smaller than anticipated; (2) it will likely contain different information than what researchers originally sought; and (3) there will likely be gaps in the data they do have that will limit their ability to analyze important variables, for example, whether there is any relationship between the race of the persons to be searched and the likely success in obtaining a warrant. Consequently, they currently are planning an article

*Reed Smith Spring
Speaker Series:
Mark Roth*



*African American Parental Involvement
in Public Education: M. Ann Levett*



on the how the failures to adopt modern technological record-keeping practices in places like Allegheny County can limit the transparency of police practices, raising the risks of discretion with too little restraint, which means insufficient accountability. The article will further address how the lack of transparency can potentially hide racial disparities, thus frustrating the search for solutions to such disparities.

At this stage, the researchers are not suggesting that they will have no conclusions to draw from the data they do have. They must await the statistician's report. They are only emphasizing that, as is so often true in archival research, whatever conclusions they may be able to reach from the data may diverge significantly from their original goals. When they receive the statistician's report, they will in turn file a more complete report explaining the results of their research.

Are the Environmental Protection Agency's Inspections of Polluting Factories Less Frequent in Neighborhoods Populated Largely by Racial Minorities?

Shanti Gamper-Rabindran

This statistical study examines the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s inspections at factories in the U.S. chemical manufacturing sector. EPA factory inspections are mandated by the Clean Air Act and are the agency's primary tool to ensure that factories use pollution abatement measures and maintain minimal environmental standards. Specifically, this study investigates whether inspections are less frequent at factories in neighborhoods populated largely by racial minorities, controlling for other nonracial factors that influence inspections.

This study contributes to public policies that seek to rectify the environmental injustices to racial minorities in the United States—particularly African Americans and Hispanics—who live closer to environmentally hazardous facilities and face greater exposure to environmental toxins. Such exposure is damaging to physical and mental health, the effects of which impede educational and economic progress. Environmental justice advocates have claimed that “environmental racism extends to the enforcement of environmental regulations.”

Gamper-Rabindran has begun by conducting a literature review of this topic and has selected a graduate student researcher whose tasks are to explore the EPA's Air Facilities Database, including understanding what variables are in the database and interpreting which actions in the database constitute inspection actions.

Funded in 2008

Family Group Decision Making: How Does Race Influence Referrals, Satisfaction, and Outcomes in a National Sample?

Julie S. McCrae and Rachel A. Fusco

This study examines Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) among a nationally representative sample of African American and White children. FGDM is a service that is used in child welfare services (CWS) to bring together a broad group of family, community, and agency supports to develop a plan to safeguard the child (Crampton & Natarajan, 2005). Developed in New Zealand to address disproportionality among Maori children entering foster care, this practice aims to reduce the power imbalance between families and child welfare agencies through a process of shared decision making and mutual respect (Garcia et al., 2003). The use of FGDM has increased in the United States, but no studies have compared its use among African American and White families in particular.

This study used data from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-being (NSCAW), the first nationally representative study of children investigated for maltreatment. Children, their primary caregivers, child welfare workers, and teachers have been interviewed in five waves to learn about their experiences with child welfare and other services. This study uses data from baseline and 12-month interviews with caregivers and workers. The study includes 4,129 African American and White children. Their age ranges at baseline were: 0–2 (19 percent), 3–5 (21



percent), 6–10 (35 percent), and 11–14 (25 percent). The study addressed the following questions: (1) What child, caregiver, and maltreatment characteristics are related to FGDM among African American and White families? (2) Who attends FGDM meetings and how does this differ by child race? (3) Among families with identified service needs, do families who receive FGDM also receive more service referrals and services?, and (4) How satisfied are African American and White families with CWS in relation to FGDM? The study used stratified, bivariate, and multivariate regression analyses.

Results show that while race is not related to FGDM receipt, different characteristics lead to FGDM among African American and White families. Surprisingly, caregivers report feeling no more involved in decision making in association with FGDM. The findings are positive in that FGDM appears to target a particular set of needs among African American families, most prominently that FGDM may help resolve disparities in the use of mental health services among children with identified needs. Less positive is that some of the most pressing needs that are associated with children's placement in out-of-home care may not be targeted by FGDM, namely caregivers' substance abuse and chronic problems with maltreatment. Young children and adolescents are at high risk for out-of-home placement, but FGDM is not provided in increased rates among these families. Because FGDM use is increasing in the United States, now is an opportune time to clarify its goals and target the practice to meet these goals. If preventing out-of-home placement is the overarching priority, then services ought to target families with

this risk. There also is an indication from these data that children may be unequally served with FGDM in relation to the race of their caseworker, suggesting directions for training child welfare workers.

Service Pathways among African American and Caucasian Families in Allegheny County Following Contact with Child Welfare Service

Mary Beth Rauktis, Julie S. McCrae, Helen Cahalane, and Cynthia Bradley-King

This study documented the early service paths of African American, biracial, and White children following referral to Allegheny County child welfare services, as well as identifying local decision-making points, case characteristics, organization, and community factors that may contribute to service disparities. The study questions were:

- What is the extent of racial disproportionality at referral, investigation, and service provision?
- Other things being equal, is children's race related to their likelihood of being investigated and accepted for services?
- What do child welfare professionals identify as the causes for disproportionality?

The study took place between January and November 2008 and used a mixed methods design. Administrative and field (case record) data on a stratified random sample of 460 children, ages 0–17, were used in the bivariate and multivariate analyses. Qualitative interviews were conducted with 11 Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) caseworkers, supervisors, and regional directors about their perceptions of how they obtain information to make decisions and the role that race plays in their decisions.

Referrals and investigations at CYF in 2006 show the most notable disparity in the rate at which African American and biracial children are referred to CYF, rather than in the rate that they are investigated or served. African American children are referred to CYF at three times the rate of White children, with little evidence to suggest that their level of risk or need for services is substantially different than that of White children. This is evinced by no significant difference in overall risk ratings at referral and investigation between African American and White families, and few significant differences in ratings of particular types of risks, such as caregiver substance abuse and amount of family support. The only significant characteristics of African American



*Racial Diversity Management in Corporate America:
Larry E. Davis, Ed Gainey, Dina Clark, Candi Castleberry-
Singleton, Reed Kimbrough, Ralph Bangs*

families according to these data are more frequent contact with CYF, referrals involving more children, and slightly higher rates of children having received public assistance. Biracial children are referred at four times the rate of White children, and were significantly different in their level of risk according to caseworkers at the time of referral, particularly regarding diminished caregiver capacity (physical, emotional, or intellectual) and parenting skills and knowledge. Multivariate analyses found that African American children were less likely to be investigated than White children, while biracial children were more likely to be investigated compared with White children.

There was no evidence in these data of a funneling effect for African American or biracial children, where disproportionality increases at each decision point (Vandergrift, 2006). Rather, disproportionality in Allegheny County for African American children, who represented 68 percent of children in foster care in 2008 (Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, 2009), appears related to disparate rates of referrals and more frequent rereferrals that tend to involve greater numbers of children compared with other families.

While the individuals interviewed for this study acknowledged that African Americans are disproportionately involved in child protective services, they identified system bias as a major cause and felt that their decisions were based on safety and not race. The interviewees identified the circumstances that are often associated with being African American such as having a low income, living in unsafe neighborhoods, single parent families, lacking education or using substances or having a serious

mental illness as the factors that make families more vulnerable, increasing their visibility to systems such as child welfare. All of the interviewees felt that being poor and African American were so intertwined that it was impossible to unravel them in order to determine which one has caused African American families to be disproportionately involved with child welfare.

Recommendations are to focus interventions on points in the system where disparities seem to occur. Interventions should draw from multiple explanatory theories for referral disproportionality. Based on the theory suggested by these data that poverty, system bias, and community factors result in referral disproportionality, Allegheny County could utilize evidence-based and evidence-supported practices that focus on reducing disparities at the front end of the child welfare system pathway.

Funded in 2007

Community Opinions Contributing to Use of Mental Health Services for African Americans

Carol Anderson, Evangeline Holmes (Family Services of Western Pennsylvania), Kathleen Hunt (Family Services of Western Pennsylvania), and Sheryl Strothers (Family Services of Western Pennsylvania)

This ongoing pilot study, conducted in collaboration with Family Services of Western Pennsylvania (FSWP), sought to determine the reasons low-income African Americans often do not seek mental health services despite reported high rates of mental disorders and frequent high exposure to the stresses of community violence, financial problems, unemployment, and relationship difficulties. One hundred consenting African Americans were recruited from three sites in Pittsburgh's East End: a barber shop (41.4 percent), day care center (13.1 percent), and a large African American church (45.5 percent). Questionnaires, in-depth interviews, and focus groups were used to explore perceived mental health needs and views of available community services. All direct recruitment and interviewing was conducted by six experienced African American professionals who were familiar with the community. Participants were 61 percent female, had a mean age of 44.62 years, and an educational level that ranged from less than high school (7.3 percent) to high school diploma or GED (22.9 percent) to some college or a college degree (69 percent).

Questionnaire data were analyzed using SPSS 15.0. Responses to most questions did not differ by gender, education level, or site of recruitment, with the exception of the response to four



Reed Smith Spring Speaker Series: M. Belinda Tucker

Aging out of the Child Welfare System: Youth support partners from the Allegheny County Department of Human Services with Helen Cabalane (far left) and JoAnn Hannah (third from left)

questions. Those with higher educational levels were more likely to report that people with emotional problems could solve them with professional help ($p < .05$). Those with less education were more likely to believe that those who were in counseling were less likely to be taken seriously ($p < .05$), and those recruited from the barber shop were significantly more likely than those recruited from the church to say a person should work out his or her own problems ($p < .05$). Participants recruited from the barber shop also were more likely than those from the church ($p < .01$) or those from the day care ($p < .05$) to believe that getting counseling for personal or emotional problems is a sign of weakness.

Qualitative data were collected from 28 in-depth interviews and verified by discussing the themes in two focus groups, as well as a debriefing group held for the interviewers. The interviews and groups were transcribed, coded, and analyzed for themes. Qualitative measures produced a number of stories and examples that revealed important attitudes that could deter the use of mental health services. Four primary factors appear to be barriers to the use of mental health services: (1) Disorders and symptoms often were seen as the result of external factors, including prejudice and environmental stresses, (2) a high value placed on family privacy (i.e., "What goes on in this house stays in this house"), (3) the importance of being able to manage problems on your own (with the exception of the problems of children), and (4) a lack of awareness of resources in the community. Those who had previous experience with mental health services reported mixed experiences. Negative reactions included perceived disrespect, cultural insensitivity, and the excessive number of steps to go through before actually receiving help.

Funded in 2006

Depression Stigma, Race, and Treatment-Seeking Behavior and Attitudes

Charlotte Brown, Valire Carr Copeland, Nancy K. Grote (University of Washington), and Kyaïen Conner (School of Medicine)

Additional funding: University Center on Social and Urban Research and Office of the Vice Provost for Research



This pilot study examined the relationship between stigma and treatment-related behaviors and attitudes in adults with depression. The major focus of this research was to examine the impact of both perceived public stigma and internalized stigma on treatment-related behaviors and attitudes (e.g., current treatment for depression, intention to seek treatment for depression, attitudes toward depression treatment). In addition, researchers examined whether their effects differ by race (African American versus White) and age (<65 versus 65+). This research should refine conceptual understanding of how stigma affects mental service utilization in adults with depression. Researchers also intend to identify modifiable factors that can be the target of clinical and community-based interventions to reduce depression stigma and increase treatment utilization for depression, particularly in African Americans. Data analyses are complete and three manuscripts are currently under peer review.

The Transition to Adulthood among Child Welfare-Involved Youth: A Qualitative Examination of Race, Gender, and Service Use

Sara Goodkind and Jeffrey Shook

Youth "aging out" of the child welfare system are experiencing two simultaneous transitions—one from the care, protection, and supervision of the child welfare system to a position of autonomy and responsibility, and the second from childhood to adulthood. The latter transition has become increasingly complex in the last 50 years, as the period of transition to adulthood in the United States has extended, and traditional markers of a successful transition have shifted (Furstenberg et al., 2004). In fact, most Americans do not expect their children to complete the transition to adulthood until they are at least 23 (Shirk & Strangler, 2004).

Consequently, many youth are receiving increased financial and social support during this period, especially from their parents. Youth aging out of the child welfare system, however, cannot rely on such support. Further, these youth often face additional challenges related to the abuse and neglect they have experienced, their resulting mental health and educational problems, and the poverty in which many were raised.

The challenges facing youth aging out of child welfare have recently received increased attention. As a result, federal legislation has been enacted that has increased the funding available to state and local child welfare systems to provide independent living and other services to youth aging out of the system and has extended the time period during which these services may be provided. Recent research has examined the experiences of youth aging out of the child welfare system, finding that they generally do not do as well as youth not involved in child welfare across a range of outcomes such as educational attainment, employment, public assistance receipt, criminal justice involvement, and material hardships (Courtney et al., 2005).

There are reasons to believe that there are racial and gender differences in the transition to adulthood for child welfare-involved youth and the related decisions they make about whether or not to stay involved with the system. For example, we know that African Americans have a more difficult time than Whites in securing decent employment and housing. In terms of gender, young women are more likely than young men to have children for which they are primarily responsible. Thus, they are required to navigate childcare, financial support for their children, and housing challenges. These factors are likely to impact their decisions about whether to stay involved with the system, as well as their experiences on their own. Yet, there is little research exploring these differences and nothing that examines race and gender simultaneously.

This pilot study seeks to extend the knowledge base related to young people who age out of the child welfare system through qualitative interviews focused on the experiences of child welfare-involved youth after they turn 18. Goodkind and Shook have conducted interviews and small focus groups with 45 youth who have aged out or are in the process of aging out of the system. They also have interviewed six service providers, which enables them to compare young people's constructions of their needs with those of service providers. They have begun analyzing their data and have academic presentations scheduled for the coming year. They also are in the process of preparing academic articles for publication.



*Buchanan Ingersoll &
Rooney Fall Speaker Series:
Eduardo Bonilla-Silva*

Multilevel Characteristics of Incarcerated Youth and the Role of Race

Michael Vaughn (St. Louis University), Jeffrey Shook, and Sara Goodkind

Although rates of crime and violence have fallen over the past decade (Blumstein & Wallman, 2000; Levitt, 2004; Rosenfeld, 2004), there has been a significant rise in the number of Americans who are incarcerated, including juveniles (Sickmund, 2004). Policy and practice disputes continue unabated with respect to the disposition of youthful offenders. These disputes, however, persist with little empirical information about the characteristics and social circumstances that surround incarcerated youth. Given racial disparities in incarceration (Blumstein, 1993, Miller, 1996; Tonry, 1995), policy decisions need to confront the role that race plays in this phenomenon. Thus, the present study proposes to begin the process of addressing the chasm between juvenile justice policy and practice on the one hand and the scientific realities of incarcerated youth on the other. Specific aims of the investigation are to:

- Describe the patterns of demographic, individual, behavioral (e.g., prior offending, substance use, possession, and distribution of drugs), situational (e.g., differential access to

private places), and sociocultural contextual influences (e.g., perceptions of neighborhood disorder) among a sample of incarcerated youth (ages 13–17).

- Compare racial groups across a range of measures and assess the properties of instruments with regard to their reliability and appropriateness.
- Identify distinct characteristics and variables that will facilitate the testing of key hypotheses and inform the direction of future studies.

Researchers have interviewed 153 young men at a Pennsylvania juvenile justice facility and are currently interviewing young women at a Pennsylvania juvenile justice facility. They expect to interview approximately 100 young women. In the coming year, they will be completing data collection, analyzing data, and preparing articles for publication.

Funded in 2005

Race and Perceptions of Sportsmanship

Raymond Jones

Previously, Herbert D. Simons argued in the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* (2003) that the sportsmanship code contains inherent racial biases that place African American athletes at a disadvantage relative to Whites. Often penalties for actions or behaviors that are considered unsportsmanlike are inconsistently applied across racial groups. Both verbal as well as nonverbal behaviors in a sports context are interpreted within the prevailing social context. Actions labeled as taunting, trash talking, excessive celebration, dunking, and inciting spectators are external to the focus of competition within the specific sport (e.g., basketball, football), and judgments of these behaviors are quite subjective. This project will test Simons' assertion that the sportsmanship code is racially biased. This phenomenon not only impacts the effectiveness of an individual athlete's performance during a game, but also the evaluation of that player as a "leader," "role model," or "team player." These types of biased judgments can impact drafting position and especially revenue generated from product endorsement.

Data collection from nearly 100 subjects is complete. The next steps are to begin data analysis (a correlation analysis) and prepare initial reports on the findings.

This pilot study on judgments by referees was a preliminary study that researchers used to assess the salience of race in decision-making situations in the competitive context of sports

and have used this focus in informing/addressing additional work in related areas. For example, they made the presentation "The Ethics of Hypercompetition: Using Sports as a Metaphor for Ethics and Leadership in Organizations" at the November 2009 Coro National Alumni Association Annual Conference.

Funded in 2004

Seeing is Believing: Perceptions of Support and Career Outcomes among African American Employees

Audrey Murrell and David Porter (Walter Kaitz Foundation)

An employee's level of perceived organizational support is known to be determined by the treatment he or she receives from the organization. Factors such as the fairness of employee policies, relationship with their immediate supervisor, organizational rewards, and overall job conditions consistently have led employees to draw conclusions about whether the organization supports and values them. Employees' perceptions of support by the company have a number of positive consequences, such as high levels of organizational commitment, job satisfaction, job involvement, organizational citizenship behavior, and desire to remain with the company. However, there is very little evidence about the experience of African American employees in terms of what drives their perceptions of organizational support. In fact, a majority of the previous work in this important area is based on predominately White and male samples with other important demographic characteristics (e.g. age, race, gender) virtually ignored.

We explore the idea that among African American employees, personal experiences, career progression, and the firm's actions in the external environment are critical to understanding how perceptions of support are formed. Our idea is that for African Americans, perceptions of support are triggered by unique experiences and observations and must be examined separately from the experiences of other racial/ethnic groups. To answer these key questions, we use a Web-based survey of African American employees from a diverse set of organizations across the country. Our Web survey includes questions about perceived support, firm-employee relationships, satisfaction with one's job, commitment to the organization, and citizenship behavior. Data analysis is being completed and preliminary results should be available in spring 2010.

Publications

Articles

Brown, C., Conner, K.O., Copeland, V.C., Grote, N., Beach, S., Schlarb, J., and Reynolds III, C.F. In press. Depression stigma, race, and treatment-seeking behavior and attitudes. *Journal of Community Psychology*.

Conner, K.O., Copeland, V.C., Grote, N., Koeske, G., Rosen, D., Reynolds III, C.F., and Brown, C. In press. Mental health treatment seeking among older adults with depression: The impact of stigma and race. *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*.

Wallace Jr., J.M., Vaughn, M.G., O'Malley, P.M., Bachman, J.G., Johnston, L.D., and Schulenberg, J.E. 2009. Race/ethnicity, socioeconomic factors, and smoking among early-adolescent girls in the United States. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 104S: 42–49.

Goodkind, S.A., Wallace, Jr., J.M., Shook, J., Bachman, J.G., O'Malley, P.M., Johnston, L.D., and Schulenberg, J.E. 2009. Are girls really becoming more delinquent? Testing the gender convergence hypothesis by race and ethnicity, 1976–2005. *Children and Youth Services Review* 31: 885–895.

Taylor, R.J., Chatters, L.M., Bullard, K.M., Wallace, Jr., J.M., and Jackson, J.S. 2009. Organizational religious behavior among older African Americans: Findings from the National Survey of American Life. *Research on Aging* 31(4): 440–462.



Gary Koeske

Opinion/Editorial

Bangs, R., and Davis, L.E. 2009. Commentary: Mentoring programs can build diversity in management. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, October 19, Business section.

Report

Wallace Jr., J.M., Yonas, M. A., and Teixeira, S.N. 2009. *An Environmental Scan of Youth Violence Programs in Selected Allegheny County Neighborhoods*. Prepared for United Way of Allegheny County.

Daniel Rosen



Valire Copeland



New Journal

The first issue of the center's new journal *Race and Social Problems*, published by Springer, appeared in June. The journal provides a multidisciplinary and international forum for the publication of articles and discussion of issues germane to race and its enduring relationship to psychological, socioeconomic, political, and cultural problems. It publishes original empirical articles that use a variety of methodologies, including qualitative and quantitative (descriptive, relationship testing, and intervention studies) and papers utilizing secondary data sources. It also publishes nonempirical articles, including reviews of past research, theoretical studies, policy proposals, critical analyses, historical reviews and analyses, and solution-based papers on critical contemporary issues. We are delighted that this journal had some of the most promising solutions.

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The contents of the first issue are listed below. These articles and those of all issues of the journal are available online at www.springerlink.com/content/1867-1748.



Prologue: Race and Social Problems

Larry E. Davis

From Separate Corners to Dialogue and Action

Biren (Ratnesh) A. Nagda, Patricia Gurin, Nicholas Sorensen, Chloé Gurin-Sands, and Shardae M. Osuna

Jailhouse Islamophobia: Anti-Muslim Discrimination in American Prisons

Kenneth L. Marcus

Parental Expectations and Educational Outcomes for Young African American Adults: Do Household Assets Matter?

Trina R. Williams Shanks and Mesmin Destin

Racial Formation in Theory and Practice: The Case of Mexicans in the United States

Douglas S. Massey

Toward a Framework for Understanding Forces that Contribute to or Reinforce Racial Inequality

William Julius Wilson

Speaker Series

The center hosts a monthly series of lunchtime lectures during the academic year. These lectures provide an opportunity for faculty, students, and community members to engage in race-related discussions of mutual interest.

CRSP is pleased to have the support of two major Pittsburgh law firms, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC and Reed Smith LLC. These firms have generously sponsored the speaker series continuously since September 2004.

The center thanks its sponsors for recognizing the importance of race in our society, the necessity of developing solutions to our country's race-related social problems, and the value of sharing knowledge and engaging in dialogue with interested students, scholars, community leaders, and policy makers.

The fall 2008 series was sponsored by Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC. Speakers were:

- **Daphna Oyserman**, Research Professor, University of Michigan Institute for Social Research
“Harnessing Possible Selves: Identity-Based Motivation and Improved Academic Attainment”
- **Eduardo Bonilla-Silva**, Professor, Duke University Department of Sociology
“Racism, Discrimination, Colorblindness, and Race Matters in Obamerica”
- **Audrey J. Murrell**, Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business
“Unfinished Business: The Impact of Race on Understanding Mentoring Relationships”
- **David J. Herring**, Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Law
“The Multiethnic Placement Act: Threat to Foster Child Safety and Well-being?”

The spring 2009 series was sponsored by Reed Smith LLC. Speakers were:

- **Howard R. Hogan**, Associate Director for Demographic Programs, U.S. Census Bureau “Measuring Race and Ethnicity in a Changing, Multicultural America”
- **Mark Roth**, Senior Staff Writer, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*
“Not All Black and White: The Challenges of Covering Race in the Mass Media”
- **David Takeuchi**, Associate Dean for Research, University of Washington School of Social Work “Discrimination and its Health Consequences across Diverse Racial Groups”

- **M. Belinda Tucker**, Professor, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles
“Marriage, Men, and Money: African American Women’s Continued Investment in the Romantic Ideal”

Summer Institutes

For the second consecutive year, the center’s summer institutes were fully funded—we thank The Pittsburgh Foundation for their generous support of these programs in both 2008 and 2009.

The goals of the summer institutes are to better understand and find strategies to address critical social issues confronting our society and the Pittsburgh community in particular. The institutes are built around presentations by national and local experts, each followed by a question-and-answer period. It is our intent that those in attendance will leave informed on what are the best practices for ameliorating a given social problem. Each of the four one-day institutes was attended by approximately 70 people—researchers, educators, administrators, community leaders, policy makers, and practitioners.

We would like to thank Joan Vondra of the School of Education for her assistance in conceiving and executing this year’s institute on public education, and Mary Beth Rauktis and Helen Cahalane of the School of Social Work for their efforts on the child welfare system event.



*Reed Smith Spring
Speaker Series:
David Takeuchi*

The 2009 institutes were:

May 21: African American Parental Involvement in Public Education

Speakers:

- **M. Ann Levett**, Executive Director, School Development Program, Yale University Comer School Development Program “Public School Strategies to Improve African American Parental Involvement”
- **Patricia Edwards**, Professor of Teacher Education, Michigan State University College of Education “Interventions to Enhance Parental Involvement in Literacy”
- **Mavis Sanders**, Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University School of Education “Community Support for African American Parental Involvement in Education”

Panelists:

- Mark Conner**, Director of Family and Community Engagement, Pittsburgh Public Schools
- Pam Little-Poole**, Director of Parent Education, Beginning with Books
- Debra Tucker**, Vice President of Programs and Services, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh

July 10: Aging Out of the Child Welfare System: Experiences, Outcomes, and Interventions for Youth of Color

Speakers:

- **David Sanders**, Executive Vice President of Systems Improvement, Casey Family Programs “System Change that Works for Children of All Races”
- **Marian Harris**, Associate Professor of Social Work, University of Washington at Tacoma “Disproportionality in Education and Employment Outcomes of Adult Foster Care Alumni”
- **Paul Toro**, Professor of Clinical Psychology, Wayne State University “Youth Aging Out of Foster Care: Developmental Outcomes and Intervention Approaches”
- **Sara Goodkind**, Assistant Professor, and Jeffrey Shook, Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work



African American Parental Involvement in Public Education: Mavis Sanders

“Aging Out of the Child Welfare System in Allegheny County: Race, Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol, and Justice System Involvement”

Panelists:

- JoAnn Hannah**, Transition Programs Manager, Allegheny County Department of Human Services
- Deileta M. Buckner**, Intern, Allegheny County Department of Human Services
- Nicole D.**, Independent Living Program Participant, Allegheny County Department of Human Services
- Dexter F.**, Intern, Allegheny County Department of Human Services
- Ashley Hartman**, Youth Support Partner, Allegheny County Department of Human Services
- Stacy Johnson**, Youth Support Specialist, Allegheny County Department of Human Services
- John P. Ray**, Youth Support Partner, Allegheny County Department of Human Services
- LaToya Steadman**, Intern, Allegheny County Department of Human Services

July 21: Race, Hunger, and Food Insecurity

Speakers:

- **George Braley**, Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Public Policy “Feeding America: A Blueprint to End Hunger in America”
- **Joyce Rothermel**, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank “Hunger, Food Insecurity, and Race in Pennsylvania”

Service

- **Cynthia Moore**, Community Outreach Director, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
“Hunger in the Pittsburgh Region and a Prescription for Change”

Panelists:

- **James Guffey**, Executive Director, South Hills Interfaith Ministries
- **Marla McCreary**, Former Recipient, St. James Foodbank
- **Fay Morgan**, Executive Director, North Hills Community Outreach
- **Richard Morris**, Director, Resident Self-Sufficiency Program, Pittsburgh Housing Authority

August 5: Racial Diversity Management in Corporate America

Speakers:

- **Frank Dobbin**, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Harvard University Department of Sociology
“Effectiveness of Corporate Diversity Programs”
- **Emilio Castilla**, Assistant Professor of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management
“Responses to Diversity Performance Evaluations and Policies”
- **Audrey J. Murrell**, Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business
“Unfinished Business: The Impact of Race on Mentoring Relationships in Corporate America”

The center funds stipends for doctoral students from schools of social work around the country to attend the institutes. In 2009, these students were:

- Karen Castellanos-Brown, University of Maryland School of Social Work
- Diane Fields, University of California Los Angeles Department of Social Welfare
- Susana Mariscal, Kansas University School of Social Welfare
- Ruth McCall-Miller, Norfolk State University School of Social Work
- Susan Smalling, Case Western Reserve University School of Applied Social Sciences

Panelists:

- **Candi Castleberry-Singleton**, Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
- **Dina Clark**, Executive Director, Western Pennsylvania Diversity Initiative
- **Ed Gainey**, Human Development Specialist, City of Pittsburgh
- **Reed Kimbrough**, Manager, Corporate Diversity Programs and Training, United States Steel Corporation

Homewood Children’s Village

The Comm-Univer-City of Pittsburgh is an integrated program of research, teaching, and service designed to investigate and ameliorate social problems that disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged children, families, and communities. Through the Comm-Univer-City of Pittsburgh initiative, an interdisciplinary team of faculty and students will work with Homewood residents, faith- and community-based organizations, the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Pittsburgh Public Schools, United Way of Allegheny County, and other individuals and organizations to initiate the Homewood Children’s Village project. The Homewood Children’s Village is an adaptation of Geoffrey Canada’s internationally acclaimed Harlem Children’s Zone, a New York, N.Y.-based comprehensive community initiative.

Research Aim:

To engage faculty, students, and community members in community-based participatory research projects designed to produce actionable knowledge needed to address pressing social problems that impact the lives of children and families in the Homewood-Brushton section of Pittsburgh. The first research project will engage Pitt students in the identification and assessment of the initial blocks that will comprise the Homewood Children’s Village.

Teaching Aim:

To create an educational immersion experience for students by relocating the classroom from the campus to the community through John M. Wallace Jr.’s course, SW 2047: Community-Based Participatory Research. The course is taught in Homewood-Brushton and, in addition to traditional classroom lectures and discussions, offers students hands-on training in community-based research methods and community organizing.

Service Aim:

To implement a field placement model that locates master's-level social work interns in selected Homewood social service agencies and organizations. Interns and faculty members will help to increase the capacity of community organizations and residents as they involve them in the community-based research projects and classroom instruction.

Youth Crime Prevention

As directed by the United Way Youth Crime Prevention Council, the purpose of Environmental Scan of Programs that Address Youth Violence in Selected Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Neighborhoods is to conduct an environmental scan of the presence, content, and capacity of programs that address youth violence in two City of Pittsburgh and two Allegheny County neighborhoods. These four neighborhoods—Homewood and the Northside in Pittsburgh and Wilkinsburg and Braddock (North Braddock, Braddock, and Rankin) in the county—have been identified as high-risk for youth violence but also well positioned to initiate a community-mobilization strategy to address youth violence. The specific objectives of the project are described below.

Objectives

The first objective of the environmental scan is to identify youth violence-related programs that operate within the four target neighborhoods. Program descriptions will be acquired to identify the programs' basic goals; hours of operation; populations served; inputs, activities, and outputs; and, where available, evaluation outcomes. Information associated with program elements will be obtained from published documents as well as interviews with program and/or organizational administrators. Maps that detail the location of identified programs with data on risk factors associated with youth violence will be developed in order to geographically assess

program availability, potential neighborhood needs, and directions for future program enhancement.

The second objective of the environmental scan is to compare and contrast the programs that exist in the four target communities to best-practice, evidence-based programs that are recommended by past research and by key national research centers and organizations (e.g., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and others). Information related to evidence-based models for youth violence prevention will be obtained from a variety of science/academic, administrative, and federal report resources. The information gathered will be summarized according to ecological level (e.g., individual, family, school, community) in order to facilitate the matching process with unique organizations identified through the first objective.

The final objective is to integrate the information from objectives one and two in order to identify service gaps in youth violence-related programs in the four project neighborhoods. In addition to assessing the application of evidence-based practices to prevent youth violence with local programs, this effort will help to identify underserved populations (e.g., by age, level of risk for youth violence such as adjudicated youth/reentry, underserved geographic areas within the neighborhoods) and underserved ecological domains (e.g., individual, family, peer, school, and community). Organizing and addressing youth violence from an ecological perspective is based on an abundance of existing youth violence-prevention literature.

John M. Wallace Jr.



Education

Undergraduate

Living Learning Community: The Research Experience

In partnership with the Office of Residence Life, CRSP cosponsors one of the University's Living Learning Communities (LLC). LLCs are special floors in the residence halls where small groups of students with similar interests work on projects beyond the classroom.

In 2008–09, CRSP cosponsored an LLC called The Research Experience. Six undergraduate students were paired with a CRSP faculty associate to work on social science research projects, thus gaining experience and knowledge in the design and execution of research; grant writing; and writing, presenting, and publishing research findings.

The projects, faculty mentors, and students were:

- Multidimensional Characteristics of Incarcerated Youth and the Role of Race—Sara Goodkind and Jeffrey Shook, Belen Michael and Greer Reinalda
- Reducing Achievement Gaps in Public Schools—Ralph Bangs, Liz Palathra
- Teacher-Student Relationships across the Racial Divide—Joan Vondra, Neha Mehta

Graduate

Course: Cuban Social Policy Issues

This one-credit graduate course, developed in 2008–09 to be offered during the spring 2010 term, is built around a trip to Cuba. It focuses on a variety of issues, including education, public health, gender concerns, social security, and social work. Class members will meet regularly in Pittsburgh to discuss readings and presentations by experts, travel to Cuba during Spring Break 2010 to do research on social issues and policies, and write papers on social issues chosen by the students.

Course: Race and Social Problems

Every year, the center sponsors a graduate-level course through the School of Social Work. Special Topics: Race and Social Problems, taught by CRSP Associate Director Ralph Bangs, features readings, documentaries, guest speakers, and class discussions that address race in relation to all six of the center's



areas of focus (economic and education disparities; interracial group relations; mental health; youth, families, and the elderly; and criminal justice).

The goals of the course are to (1) understand current conditions and trends in racial disparities and the institutional and structural sources and consequences of those disparities and (2) identify individual, community, and governmental actions that could be taken to address racial disparities in the nation.

Course: Secondary Data Analysis on Race and Social Problems

This doctoral course on the use of existing survey data taught by John M. Wallace Jr., includes such topics as review of past findings, framing testable questions, fundamentals of survey data analysis, and writing for publication.

Student Paper Award

Each year, the center solicits students to submit papers that address contemporary race-related social issues. The University-wide competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students. A \$500 honorarium is awarded to the students with the best papers. As part of the process, students are encouraged to work with a faculty sponsor to submit the winning papers to appropriate journals for publication.

No awards were given for the 2008–09 academic year. We would like to thank all the faculty members who served as reviewers for this year's student paper award: Steve Albert, Ralph Bangs, Sean Eack, William Elliott, Rafael Engel, Andrea Fox, Rachel Fusco, Sara Goodkind, Michael Gunzenhauser, Jonathan Hurwitz, Lynn Martire, Audrey Murrell, Christina Newhill, Mary Beth Rauptis, Daniel Rosen, Lu-in Wang, and Michael Yonas.

Faculty and Staff

Faculty members are from the University of Pittsburgh unless noted and are indicated by discipline only.

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The Center on Race and Social Problems is grateful for funding and research support from the following:

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC

The National Dream Fund—The Ford Foundation, Marguerite Casey Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Open Society Institute, and the Falk Foundation

The Pittsburgh Foundation Human Services Integration Fund

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