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ACE! Presents...The 5 Myths of Incarceration

What will it take to *undo* the mass incarceration (and over-criminalization) policies and practices that have taken root in our public policy while recognizing the need for sound policy to prevent and control crime? Current policies and practices affect the ability of people to resume full citizenship and become contributing members of society. That is, these practices present “brick walls.” If we intend to “undo” the consequences while protecting public safety, we have to begin by addressing some common misconceptions. Only then can we forge a pathway toward effective policy that protects public safety and justice while reducing costs and offending behaviors.

Myth #1: Once an offender, always an offender

- About 40 percent of people in jail, prison, on probation/parole are *FIRST TIME* offenders.
- Recidivism depends on how we measure it: just like mortality—every person can fail depending on the measure used.
- Offending behavior varies considerably, with some people making mistakes that are situational.

Myth #2: Mass Incarceration reduces crime

- Science finds that incarceration has no impact on recidivism rates, but instead prison may in fact be criminogenic (cause future criminal behavior) (Cullen, Nagin & Jonston, 2009).
- Incarceration rates have hit a point of diminishing returns where the rate of incarceration does not deter crime, instead it has become part of the expected lifecycle for some males.

Myth #3: Severe sentences produce the best outcomes

- Incarceration is the preferred punishment since it is considered TOUGH.
- US incarceration rates are longer than other countries.
- Science has determined that SEVERITY does not deter criminal activity but swift and certain action does.
- Reducing sentence length is a reachable policy (Clear & Austin, 2009), through resuming to 1988 levels or reducing average sentence by 6 months.

Myth #4: Community sanctions do not work

- While ~80 percent of the offenders are supervised in the community, most offenders are on standard supervision.
- Fewer than 10 percent are in intermediate sanctions programs.
- Fewer than 8 percent can participate in substance abuse treatment in the community while 70 percent need care (Taxman, Perdoni, & Harrison, 2007).
- Few resources are spent in community corrections—an average of \$3.82 a day in probation vs. \$78.95 in prison (Pew, 2010).
- Systematic reviews confirm that other options are less criminogenic than prison: Drug Treatment Courts, Residential Treatment with Aftercare, Intensive Programs with CBT, etc.
- Building capacity in the community will ensure that community sanctions will serve to reduce recidivism.

Myth #5: Incarceration only affects offenders

- Children of prisoners: More than 4 in 10 fathers are black, about 3 in 10 are white, and about 2 in 10 are Hispanic. 1 in 28 children have a parent in prison (Glaze & Maruschak, 2009).
- Communities: Offenders tend to return in concentrated areas, causing instability in these areas, including increased STDs, pregnancy rates, and lack of male role models (Rose & Clear, 1998; Thomas & Torrone, 2006).
- Serving time reduces hourly wages for men by approximately 11%, annual employment by 9 weeks and annual earnings by 40%. By age 48, the typical former inmate will have earned \$179,000 less than non-CJS (Western & Petit, 2010).

Visit our website to download more information about the **5 Myths of Incarceration**:
<http://gmuace.org/>



ACE! Symposium: Undoing Mass Incarceration

On January 14, 2011, the ACE! team was thrilled to host our inaugural symposium, along with Pat Nolan of Prison Fellowship. The theme of our symposium was “Undoing the Effects of Mass Incarceration,” and it featured Senator Jim Webb (D-VA).



Senator Jim Webb, Photo courtesy of University Relations

The symposium began with Mark Earley of Prison Fellowship welcoming panelists and attendees, followed by ACE! Director Faye Taxman, Deputy Director Danielle Rudes, and Pat Nolan discussing the “5 Myths of Incarceration” (see page 1). Next, Sen. Webb spoke about the value of creating a national Criminal Justice Commission and his efforts to create such a commission, and took questions from the audience.

In order to bring home the impact of incarceration, our first panel discussion featured scholars with individuals impacted by our criminal justice policies, who supplied much needed perspective on the effects of incarceration on individuals and families. This insightful discussion featured Dr. Alford Young, a professor at the University of Michigan whose primary area of research is low-income African American men, Dr. Aaron Kupchik, a professor at the University of Delaware with expertise in the school-to-juvenile justice pipeline, and Dr. Kiminori Nakamura of the University of Maryland, who researches the long-term effects of offending on employment and other issues in reentry. They were joined by Kevin Gale, a returning citizen in DC, and Max Freedman, a University of Maryland student whose father is incarcerated, sharing their personal experiences with the criminal justice system.



Kevin Gale, Photo courtesy of University Relations

Rounding out the morning were presentations from Cindy Redcross of MDRC, a nonprofit education and social policy research organization, and Dr. June Tangney of George Mason. Ms. Redcross, a Senior Research Associate in MDRC’s Welfare and Barriers to Employment policy area, presented on designing and implementing employment programs for returning citizens. Dr. Tangney, a Professor in GMU’s Psychology Department, discussed mental health issues among individuals in the criminal justice system and how we can address the problem, with a special focus on Borderline Personality Disorder, which affects one-third of inmates.



Faye Taxman with GMU President Alan Merten, Photo courtesy of University Relations

After a welcome message at lunch from University President Alan Merten, we heard presentations from reformers in Louisiana and Maryland: Burl Cain and Ernest Eley. Burl Cain serves as Warden of Angola Prison in Louisiana. Under his leadership, the prison has gone from one of the most violent to one of the most peaceful in the U.S. He described some of the strategies he has employed and the benefits of the reforms, such as increasing bonds between children and their incarcerated parents. Ernest Eley is currently the Deputy Director for Special Programs at the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation, with responsibility for the acquisition of 10 Pre-Release Centers; the agency’s Drug and Mental Health Courts operations, a research component; and Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement Initiative (CSAFE) – a community collaboration strategy in 40 communities throughout the state. Mr. Eley is a leader in implementing evidence-based practices in corrections.

Undoing Mass Incarceration

Focus on Virginia

During the afternoon of January 14, we focused mainly on activities and reforms in Virginia. We were fortunate to have Harold Clarke, Director of the Virginia Department of Corrections as a panelist. Mr. Clarke described the value of researcher-policymaker partnerships and how his administration can help move Virginia away from mass incarceration policies. Afternoon panels also featured Judge Dennis Smith (Fairfax County Circuit Court), who is starting a project similar to Hawaii's Project HOPE (Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement), Jane Brown, Director for Community Partnerships in the Public Safety Secretariat of the Office of Governor Robert McDonnell, and Lester Wingrove, a leader in implementing evidence-based practices as Chief Probation and Parole Officer in Williamsburg.



Danielle Rudes with Harold Clarke, Virginia DOC



Burl Cain, Angola Prison; Photo courtesy of Mary Schnebelen

We were also joined by representatives from community-based organizations in Virginia, including Derwin Overton of Opportunities, Alternatives, & Resources (OAR) in Fairfax County (see page 11 for more information on OAR), Kari Galloway of Friends of Guest House in Alexandria, Debora Lavin of Loudon County Aftercare, and Owen Cardwell of Healing Communities, New Canaan International Church in Richmond, VA and Executive Director for New Jubilee Educational and Family Life Center, Inc.

These speakers shared some of the initiatives they have led, such as becoming a pilot site for video-conferencing meetings between incarcerated parents and their children.



Faye Taxman with Ernest Eley, MDPP; Photo courtesy of Rebecca Vernier

Providing additional input from the research community were Dr. Nancy LaVigne,

Director of the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute and Dr. Craig Schwalbe, Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work at Columbia University. Drs. LaVigne and Schwalbe spoke on the topic of Justice Reinvestment as a tool for undoing mass incarceration and its effects.



Faye Taxman and Danielle Rudes with Cindy Redcross, MDRC, and June Tangney, GMU; Photo courtesy of Mary Schnebelen

To learn more about the symposium and the speakers or to view archived video from the symposium, please visit our website at <http://gmuace.org>.

Thank you!

ACE! wants to thank everyone who helped make our first symposium so successful, including Pat Nolan, Mark Earley and everyone at Prison Fellowship, Senator Webb and his staff, George Mason University President Alan Merten, our outstanding graduate students, student photographers Rebecca Vernier and Mary Schnebelen, all our speakers and the 200+ in-person and webinar attendees.

ACE! Ongoing Research: Evidence-Based Implementation Projects

What is the value of interagency collaborations for advancing the use of evidence based practices? Juvenile Assessment, Referral, Placement, and Treatment Practices

Study coordinated by Carolyn Watson and conducted by Danielle S. Rudes, Jill Viglione and other researchers. Funding provided by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (HS018614-02) and BJA (2009-D6-BX-K021).

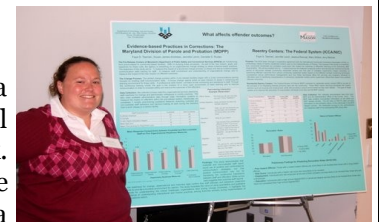
The Juvenile Assessment, Referral, Placement, and Treatment Practices (JARPP) study is a RCT that involves examining the collaboration and communication between juvenile probation officers (POs) and external service providers and justice actors such as police, prosecutors, judges, defenders, and case managers. JARPP researchers surveyed external service providers (e.g. counselors, case managers) and justice agencies (e.g. judges, prosecutors) to assess how the quality of these external actors' relationships with juvenile justice workers affect their willingness to collaborate and to provide services to justice-involved youth. Analysis of survey data shows that a having positive relationship with juvenile justice agencies led to more information sharing, fewer perceived barriers to service provision, and fewer perceptions that POs need additional training. In addition, service providers reporting a more positive relationship with juvenile justice workers also reported a higher level of collaboration in case management activities such as specifying target goals for youth, use of sanctions and incentives, and service referral for youth on probation.

Another question that interests JARPP researchers is whether POs' role orientation is related to their perceptions of evidence-based training/practices and the youth they supervise. Qualitative researchers randomly selected POs involved in the JARPP study to participate in semi-structured interviews. These interviews focused on the primary PO responsibilities and their view of job training (including, but not limited to, JARPP-related trainings) and youth. Using a qualitative analysis technique called Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA), we analyzed the interview data, finding that, unlike what some literature suggests, PO roles do not have a direct influence on perceived views of training and youth. These findings have important implications for structuring training on and implementing evidence-based practices in probation agencies.

How do system actors in a state correctional agency experience and respond to organizational change? Maryland Division of Probation and Parole

Faye Taxman, Susan James-Andrews, Danielle S. Rudes, Ron Wilson, Jennifer Lerch, Jill Viglione, and Ajima Olaghere. Sponsored by the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation.

This project seeks to understand the processes of organizational change within a correctional environment through a mixed methods approach. Essentially, the goal is to transform pre-release facilities from a security oriented to a reentry framework. The mixed methods include surveys, review of administrative files, and on-site qualitative observations and interviews. We have been collecting annual survey data in two facilities with the aim of measuring how the communication styles and staff perceptions about organizational climate change through the training and coaching process. Thus far, second year survey findings suggest improvements in organizational climate, reductions in correctional staff cynicism, and increased written and oral communication practices among correctional supervisors and staff.



Project Manager Jennifer Lerch presents a poster on MDPP at CEBCP's Evidence-Based Crime Symposium

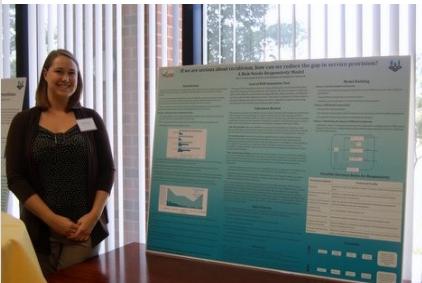
Additionally, the qualitative research team (Rudes & Olaghere) is examining *how recently trained corrections officers undergoing top-down organizational reform adhere to changing workplace philosophy and practices during interactions with inmates*. This work explores how different settings within the correctional reentry facility (e.g. meal/activity times, stationary posts, during rounds, and checking in/out of a facility) affect the implementation of the therapeutic reform agenda. Using direct observation and semi-structured interviews with correctional officers, our data suggest that training, boosters, and coaching are useful but they do not account for intra-organizational workplace task- and position-related differences. Understanding how correctional officers use or misuse the reform information they receive is critical to assessing the veracity of implementation change strategies.

ACE! Ongoing Research: Evidence-Based Courts & Corrections

If we are serious about reducing recidivism, how do we go about addressing risk and needs? Risk Needs Responsivity Simulation Model

Study conducted by Faye Taxman, Stephanie Ainsworth, Erin Crites, Jim Byrne (UML) and April Pattavina (UML). Funding provided by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (2009-DG-BX-KO26) with additional funding from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.

The Risk, Need, and Responsivity (RNR) principles offer a stable foundation for guiding appropriate program placement of offenders for maximum recidivism reduction. The ACE! team and our partners from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell and Maxarth, Inc. are developing a simulation model based on the RNR principles, including assessments for profile classification and program placement. Presently, the simulation model is in the validation stage in which three nationally representative datasets from the Bureau of Justice Statistics are being used to test our initial assumptions about distributions of low, moderate, and high-risk individuals, and the prevalence of criminogenic needs and destabilizing factors within prisons and jails. The datasets used include the Survey of Inmates in Local Jails (SILJ), Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities (SISFCF), and State Court Processes Statistics (SCPS). The first round of validation was conducted using the SILJ and SISFCF, and then a second round using SCPS. We developed profiles for individual offenders based on race, gender, age category, and instant offense. These profiles, along with additional criminal history variables available in the SILJ and SISFCF were used to create distributions of static risk which can be applied to other data sets. Because the SCPS data does not provide extensive criminal history information, we imported risk score distributions from the SISFCF and SILJ using the profiles. We then conducted sensitivity checks to assess appropriateness of imported distributions. This process can also be used to import risk information to other nationally representative data sets such as the National Survey on Drug Use and Health to provide population prevalence estimates for risk and need profiles. The various data sources can then be merged to create one data set with risk and need information for individuals at every stage in the criminal justice system.



Project Manager Stephanie Ainsworth presents a poster on RNR at CEBCP's Symposium

Supervision and treatment program placement categories are also being validated with evidence of effectiveness. These categories (A-F) address a range of treatment and supervision options to be combined to address the risk level and criminogenic needs of offenders. This additional assessment combines individual profiles and risk/need scores to provide supervising agents information regarding the appropriate category of programming for each profile of offender. Jurisdictions will also be able to assess the ability of currently available programs and services to fit the offender population within their jurisdiction. These categories will be evaluated using evidence available in meta-analyses, systematic reviews, and secondary data sources to ensure the validity of constructs used to place individuals and to suggest reductions in recidivism associated with this placement.

Thank you to the Public Welfare Foundation and the Bureau of Justice Assistance for funding a new website to host the RNR tool!

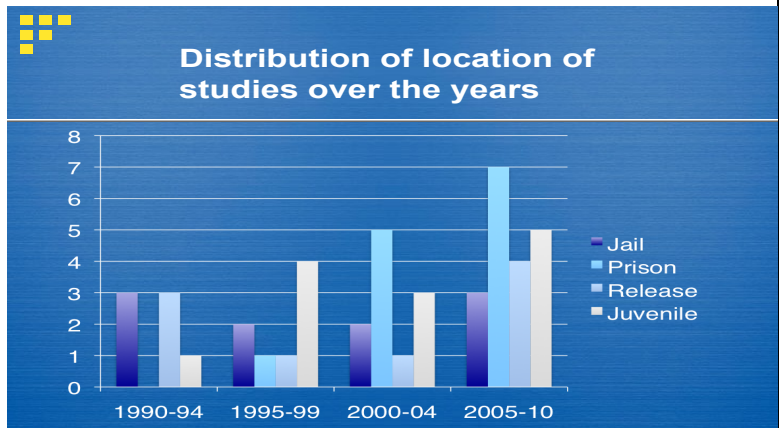
ACE! Ongoing Research: Evidence-Based Courts & Corrections

What is the state of knowledge of HIV prevention in correctional settings? Evidence Mapping to Advance Justice Practice

Study coordinated by Carolyn Watson and conducted by various researchers. Funding provided by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (HS018614-02) and BJA (2009-D6-BX-K021).

The Evidence Mapping to Advance Justice Practice (EMTAP) project uses a systematic review process to identify meta-analyses and other reviews of correctional topic areas (e.g. case management, substance abuse treatment). This project is compiling research on what does and does not work in order to help practitioners better understand evidence-based practices and how to use them while identifying knowledge gaps that need further research. To advance this study, ACE! has reached out to a litany of academic collaborators inside and outside George Mason University.

One of ACE!'s EMTAP collaborators, Michael Soule (Yale School of Medicine), recently conducted a search on HIV prevention measures in correctional settings and presented his results at the 4th Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health. Search terms included the condition of interest (HIV) AND intervention (e.g. prevention, education, testing, peer group) AND setting (e.g., arrest, jail, prison, parole). Nine publications meet search criteria, two of which were published systematic reviews (one was a registered Cochrane review). Both published reviews outlined interventions in the juvenile justice system. They reported that, empirically, sexual risk and condom use behavior were both difficult to influence in a juvenile correctional population but noted that modest positive results had been obtained. Perhaps one of the most interesting results of this search was the discovery that *there is no systematic review of the primary literature on HIV prevention in adult correctional settings*. Mr. Soule, with his mentor Dr. Rick Altice of the Yale School of Medicine, and ACE! researchers will be undertaking that effort in the coming weeks.



If you are interested in collaborating with ACE! on the EMTAP project, there are still several topic areas that have not yet been researched. These include: 1) screening; 2) physical care; 3) organizational change; 4) organizational culture; 5) pay-for-performance (P4P); and 6) quality improvement. Please contact Carolyn Watson at cwatson4@gmu.edu or (703)-993-9699 for more information or visit our website at <http://gmuace.org/>.



Michael Soule, Yale School of Medicine

Michael Soule was born and raised in and around Chicago. He attended Brown University and graduated magna cum laude with a major in International Relations and a focus on political economy and development. He is currently a medical student at Yale School of Medicine and has been working with Dr. Frederick Altice and Dr. Faye Taxman on a national survey of correctional institutions. He has worked on research projects abroad as well, one regarding record-keeping at an injection drug use treatment center in Delhi, India and another evaluating integrated health care for HIV+ injection drug users in Kyiv, Ukraine. Mr. Soule is an amateur poet, cellist, and photographer.

ACE! Ongoing Studies: Evidence-Based Courts & Corrections

How can we reengineer probation and problem-solving court systems to better serve clients? Justice Steps

Study conducted by Faye Taxman, Danielle S. Rudes, Shannon Portillo and Amy Murphy. Funding provided by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (U01 DA 16213).

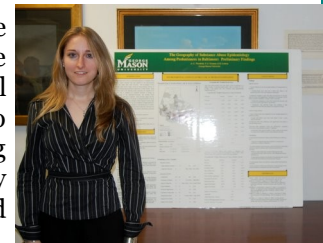
The Justice Steps (JSTEPS) study is at a very exciting stage—all five federal probation sites have designed and are now operating a contingency management (CM) protocol. In each protocol clients receive points for compliance with designated behaviors, such as negative drug tests and counseling attendance, and redeem those points for social and material rewards. Each site has received technical assistance by Dr. Peter Luongo, a consultant to the project. The research team is taking this opportunity to bring the sites back together for a second learning session. In this session, planned for May 2011, we will use the performance benchmarks for each site on client compliance to help review and refine the CM protocols. The learning session will be modeled after the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (www.ihl.org) quality improvement process. Sites will present on their progress and setbacks with JSTEPS and will have the opportunity to help each other reengineer their systems.

ACE! Ongoing Studies: Evidence-Based Treatment

Which criminogenic need changes are most important to promoting desistance from crime? Manualized Treatment

Study conducted by Alese Wooditch, Stephanie Ainsworth, Faye Taxman, and Liansheng Tang. Funding provided by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (R01 DA 17729).

Prior studies have found that decreases in criminogenic needs can significantly reduce an offender's likelihood of reoffending. The major target behaviors and attitudes are substance use, anti-social cognition, anti-social associates, family and marital relations, employment, and leisure and recreational activities. In this study, we seek to identify which changes have the greatest impact on offender desistance by examining these changes on criminal offending and drug use over a 12 month period. The study uses data from 250 drug-involved probationers who participated in a randomized controlled trial (assessed at baseline, 3-, 6-, and 12-months post randomization). While controlling for presenting problem areas, we found that probationers who enhanced their work commitment ($p < .01$), decreased number of days of consuming alcohol ($p < .05$) and decreased number of days of using drugs ($p < .01$) had the greatest reductions in self-reported criminal activity. In addition, those who changed their social networks by decreasing the number of criminally-involved friends ($p < .001$) and a reduction in alcohol use days ($p < .001$) were significantly less likely to self-report drug use over time. With this study we will continue to learn about desistance and the factors that are important for probationers with drug-related problems.



Alese Wooditch presents a poster on Manualized Treatment at CEBCP's Symposium

Reentry Centers: What Factors Affect Positive Outcomes on Probation?

Study conducted by Jennifer Lerch, Jessica Rexroat, Mary Shelton, and Faye Taxman.

The ACE! team, through a cooperative agreement with the International Community Corrections Association, is studying reentry residential centers (RRCs) used by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). These RRCs are a part of the three-phase continuum of care model for treatment (in-prison, RRC, and post-release supervision) established by the federal system. The RRCs can assist returning individuals with services such as substance abuse, housing, and employment (Stewart, 1994). Using administrative data from the BOP and Administrative Office of the Courts, this study builds on previous research by examining the impact of organizational factors, such as in-prison treatment and incarceration time, on time spent in the RRCs. Findings indicate that after controlling for risk level and core variables (i.e. instant offense, age, and release location) the completion of in-prison drug treatment and duration of incarceration time before the RRC result in longer stays in the RRC. The next part of the study will assess the recidivism outcomes of different types of offenders based on their duration of time in a reentry center.

ACE! Ongoing Research: Evidence-Based Community

Can peer support lead to better outcomes? Supporting Healthier Outcomes for Women

Study conducted by Faye Taxman, Anne Rhodes, and Shannon Portillo

Supporting Healthier Outcomes for Women (SHOW VA) is an evaluation project sponsored by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). VDH is conducting a pilot project in Southwest Virginia that employs Patient (peer) Navigators (PNs) and utilizes Motivational Interviewing (MI) techniques to engage and retain HIV-positive women in medical care. Patient Navigations is a technique that has been used successfully with other chronic diseases, like cancer, to assist patients with overcoming barriers to care and becoming own advocates in the system. In SHOW VA, PNs focus on those “lost to care” (patients that care cannot seem to reach) and those newly diagnosed with HIV. ACE! is evaluating the project, initiated in August 2011 by collecting follow-up client data. These data demonstrate some initial improvements in medical indicators, such as CD4 counts (T4 cells that determine the risk for transmitting HIV/AIDS) and also show referral rates above those for other types of outreach projects. The project is expected to continue for another three years to determine the effectiveness of PN on retention in care.

How can communities support returning citizens? Healing Communities Reentry

Study conducted by: Kerri Legette, Faye Taxman, and Harold Trulear (Howard University)

With funding from the Healing Communities initiative (www.healingcommunitiesusa.org), ACE! Researchers will be learning about how to build community support within local faith congregations to assist people returning from prison. Healing Communities believes that faith based institutions can serve as resources for transforming neighborhoods into places where family and social support networks are available to assist people affected by crime and incarceration. This study will examine the perceptions of congregations regarding forgiveness, experiences and legitimacy of the criminal justice system, and concerns about people returning to their communities. A survey of 1500 – 2000 congregation members will occur during the summer of 2011. Studying these perceptions will provide insight about the issues that the Healing Communities model must address to achieve their goals.

New Project!

ACE! is partnering with Dr. Scott Walters of the University of Texas and researchers from RTI International on a study of the use of Motivational Interviewing (MI), a directive, client-centered counseling style for eliciting behavior change by helping clients explore and resolve ambivalence, in two sites. This NIDA-funded study will compare in-person MI sessions with a computer-assisted MI program and with probation supervision intake and monitoring as usual.

ACE! Community Spotlight

Community Provider: Opportunities, Alternatives, & Resources

Opportunities, Alternatives, & Resources (OAR) of Fairfax – a non-profit whose mission includes rebuilding lives and communities by breaking the cycle of crime – actively partners with local businesses that have agreed to consider OAR’s “Employment Ready” clients for job openings. Through a partnership with these employers, OAR of Fairfax’s Work Empowerment Program (WEP) successfully prepares job seekers transitioning back into the community. These men and women are earnest about turning their lives around to make positive contributions in both the community and their families. Some studies demonstrate that employment can reduce recidivism by as much as thirty percent, translating to lower costs to residents and a safer, more profitable community to us all.



OAR’s partners agree to consider WEP participants for job openings based on their skill level, personal attributes as well as the position requirements, but are under no obligation to offer employment to OAR’s job-ready workers. Partners can be assured that before a program participant is referred to apply for a job, they must successfully demonstrate that they are motivated to obtain and keep a job, are dependable, have acquired time-management skills, and have attended workshops and coaching sessions.

If your company wishes to be part of this success story, please contact OAR of Fairfax County’s Employment Developer at 703-246-3056 or by email at kmorilak@oarfairfax.org

Meet the New Students!



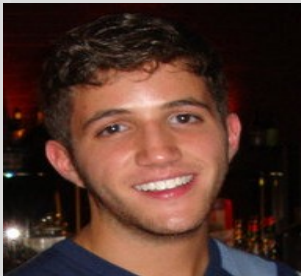
Kerri C. Legette is a doctoral student in the Criminology, Law & Society Program at George Mason University. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Johnson C. Smith University in 2004 and her M.S. from North Carolina Central University in 2007. Kerri spent three years as an Adjunct Criminal Justice Instructor for Alamance Community College (Graham, NC) and two years as a Probation Officer both in North and South Carolina. Currently, she is a research assistant in the ACE! Her research interests include community corrections policy, use of legitimacy in corrections and violence against women. Her most recent work examined African American college student's perceptions of rape.



Ajima Olaghere is a second year PhD student in the Criminology, Law & Society program. She also serves as a Graduate Research Fellow with George Mason's Center for Justice, Law and Society and works as a research fellow at The Sentencing Project and The Lloyd Society. She is also a research assistant for ACE! Her research interests include reentry, conditions of confinement and rehabilitative and education-driven sentencing and corrections policy. Ms. Olaghere believes in balancing research work and endeavors with community service and direct work when possible; she mentors and is a founding member of her neighborhood civic association.



Erin Crites is a first year PhD student in the Criminology, Law & Society department at George Mason University. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Colorado Christian University and recently completed her Master's degree in Criminology, Law & Society at George Mason. Erin is currently a research assistant for the ACE! Past research assistantships were held with the Center for Justice, Law and Society at George Mason and the National Institute of Justice. Her research interests include specialized courts, therapeutic jurisprudence, sentencing policy, and correctional treatment programs and interventions.



Matthew Casper is an undergraduate student at George Mason University seeking a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and International Politics with a concentration in International and Comparative Politics and a minor in Criminology, Law & Society. He is researching mental health treatment for ACE!'s EMTAP project.



Christine Imperato is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology, Law & Society and a minor in Sociology. As an undergraduate at George Mason, her research interests include substance abuse and narcotics, and she plans to go into the area of law enforcement at the local or federal level upon graduation. Christine is researching substance abuse prevention for ACE!'s EMTAP project.

Recent Publications

Recently Published Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- Kuhns, J. B., Wilson, D. B., Clodfelter, T. A., Maguire, E. R., and Ainsworth, S. A. 2011. A Meta-Analysis of Alcohol Toxicology Study Findings Among Homicide Victims. *Addiction*, 106(1): 62-72.
- Gooden, S. and Portillo, S. 2011. Advancing Social Equity in the Minnowbrook Tradition: Perspectives from Minnowbrook III. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 21: 61-76.
- Portillo, S. 2010. How Race, Sex and Age Frame the Use of Authority by Local Government Officials. *Law & Social Inquiry*, 35(3): 603-23.
- Maynard-Moody, S. and Portillo, S. 2010. Street-Level Bureaucracy Theory. pp. 252-277, in Durant, Robert (ed.) *Oxford Handbook of American Bureaucracy*. Oxford University Press.
- Rudes, D. S. & Taxman, F. S. "Early Release." In William Chambliss & J. Geoffrey Golson (eds.), *Corrections*. Sage Publications.
- Taxman F. S., & Lerch, J. The sociopolitical environment of delivery probation services in Fergus McNeill, Peter Raynor, & Chris Trotter (eds). *Offender Supervision: New Directions in Theory, Research and Practice*. Portland, OR: Willan Publishing.

Forthcoming/In Press Publications

- Taxman, F. S., Debus-Sherrill, S., & Watson, C. W. (forthcoming). Youth in confinement. In Elena L. Grigorenko (ed.), *Handbook of Juvenile Forensic Psychology and Psychiatry*. Springer.
- Taxman, F. S. (forthcoming). Probation, intermediate sanctions, and community corrections. In J. Petersilia and Kevin Reitz (eds), *Oxford Handbook on Sentencing and Corrections*.
- Taxman, F. S., & Sachwald, J. (in press). Managing chaos: Techniques to improve the quality of supervision. In Fergus McNeill, Peter Raynor, & Chris Trotter (eds.), *Offender supervision: New directions in theory, research and practice*.
- Rudes, D. S. (in press). Framing organizational reform: Misalignments and disputes among parole and union middle managers. *Law & Policy*.
- Portillo, S. (in press). The Paradox of Rules: Rules as Resources and Constraints. *Administration & Society*.
- Taxman, F. S., Rhodes, A., & Dumenci, L. (forthcoming). Construct and predictive validity of criminal thinking scales. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*.
- Johnson, J. E., Friedmann, P. D., Green, T. C., Harrington, M. & Taxman, F. (in press). Gender and treatment response in substance-use treatment mandated parolees. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*.
- Farrell, J., Young, D. W., & Taxman, F. S. (forthcoming). The effects of organizational factors on use of juvenile justice supervision practices. *Criminal Justice & Behavior*.
- Wilson, M., Taxman, F. S., & O'Grady, K. (forthcoming). The relationships of social networks to HIV risk behaviors from a sample of probationers in a randomized trial. *Prison Journal*.
- Trotman, A., J.-M., & Taxman, F. S. (forthcoming). Implementation of a contingency management-based intervention in a community supervision setting: Clinical issues and recommendations. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*.

Revise & Resubmit

- McGrew, M., Hummer, D., & Wooditch, A. A Survey of Program Strategies for Offenders with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities under Correctional Supervision in Pennsylvania. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*.
- Wooditch, A., Lawton, Brian, & Taxman, Faye. The Geography of Drug Abuse Epidemiology among Probationers in Baltimore. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*.
- Wooditch, A. revise & resubmit. Human Trafficking Law and Social Structures. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*.

Recent Activity

American Society of Criminology Annual Conference

ACE! students and faculty took part in more than ten sessions at the November 2010 conference of the ASC, as presenters, panel chairs, interviewers, and focus group leaders. ACE! projects highlighted during the conference included Manualized Treatment, the Risk-Needs-Responsivity Tool, the Maryland Department of Probation and Parole, and JSTEPS. ACE! presenters included Director Faye Taxman, Deputy Director Danielle S. Rudes, Ales Wooditch, Stephanie Ainsworth, Shannon Portillo, Lincoln Sloas, Jill Viglione, Jennifer Lerch, and Amy Murphy.

Academic & Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health

Faye Taxman presented at the 4th Annual Correctional Health Conference on *EMTAP—Evidence Mapping to Advance Justice Practice* in March 2011. She was joined by Rick Altice of Yale School of Medicine, our partner on the new STRIDE study, and Michael Soule, a Yale student conducting research on HIV prevention for the EMTAP study.

Joint Meeting on Adolescent Treatment Effectiveness

Dr. Faye Taxman and Carolyn Watson presented Juvenile Assessment, Referral, Placement, and Treatment Practices (JARPP) Survey Findings: Collaboration in the Juvenile Justice System at the Joint Meeting on Adolescent Treatment Effectiveness in December 2010.

National Institutes of Health Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation

Dr. Faye Taxman served as co-chair on a panel discussing Implementation in Complex Systems with Disparate Goals: Addiction Treatment in the Criminal Justice System at the 4th Annual NIH Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation. Fellow panelists included Dr. Danielle S. Rudes and Dr. Shannon Portillo.

Upcoming Events

ACE! researchers will deliver presentations at the following conferences in upcoming months:

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals

Dr. Faye Taxman, Dr. Danielle Rudes, Dr. Shannon Portillo, Amy Murphy, and their colleagues will present on early findings from the JSTEPS study, a multi-site implementation study of contingency management in federal probation offices and drug courts at the NADCP annual training conference in July 2011.

American Probation and Parole Association

Dr. Faye Taxman, Stephanie Ainsworth, and colleagues will present on risk-needs-responsivity models in July 2011.

From Disparities Research to Disparities Interventions: Lessons Learned and Opportunities for the Future of Behavioral Health Services, Conference at the University of South Florida

Anne Rhodes and Dr. Shannon Portillo will present a poster on the Federal Minority AIDS Initiative.

College on Problems of Drug Dependence

Anne Rhodes will present on longitudinal changes in the social networks of drug using probationers during a poster session on June 21, 2011.

Law & Society Annual Meetings

Drs. Danielle Rudes and Shannon Portillo will present on therapeutic jurisprudence at the June 2011 meetings in San Francisco, CA. Dr. Portillo will also present on conceptualizing and measuring justice in social science.

Public Administration Theory Network Annual Conference

Dr. Shannon Portillo, Ajima Olaghere, and Stephanie Ainsworth will present on judicial discretion in administrative hearings.

Society for the Study of Social Problems Meetings

Drs. Shannon Portillo and Danielle Rudes will present on evidence-based practices in problem solving courts.

American Sociological Meetings

Drs. Shannon Portillo and Danielle Rudes will present on roles in federal problem solving courts.

CJDATS2, Qualitative Working Group

Dr. Danielle Rudes will present on qualitative methods at the April 2011 workshop at Texas Christian University.



Announcements

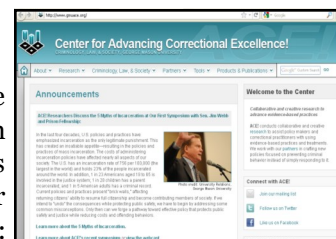
Addiction Health Services Research Conference



On October 3-5, 2011, ACE! will host the annual conference for Addiction Health Services Research (AHSR). This conference serves as a gathering of scholars and policymakers who work across disciplines to address issues related to addiction. For more information, please email us at ebct@gmu.edu.

ACE! on the Web

If you want to learn more about our studies, partners, and areas of expertise, please visit our website at <http://gmuace.org>. You can view video from past events, learn of upcoming, events, see past presentations, and learn about the tools and resources we are developing for the field. To further stay connected with ACE!, you can join our mailing list by emailing ebct@gmu.edu and follow us on Twitter: [@CorrectionsGMU](https://twitter.com/CorrectionsGMU).



ACE! Advances Undergraduate Research Using QEP



George Mason's Quality Enhancement Process (QEP) is an exciting part of university's SACS accreditation that focuses on building undergraduate scholarship into existing faculty activities inside and outside the classroom. The QEP promotes scholarship through increased visibility, opportunity and support. The goal is to increase occasions for undergraduate students to partner with faculty members and engage in research and scholarship to grow as scholars and life-long learners. To advance the QEP among Criminology, Law & Society undergraduates, ACE! has hired several undergraduate students to work with our graduate student and faculty team on our grant-funded projects, primarily the Evidence Mapping to Advance Justice Practice (EMTAP) project (described on page 6). After receiving training on the project and the protocols used for identifying appropriate studies, the students are working on using search terms to find literature in selected topic areas. By working at ACE!, students learn the research process, experience research in "action" with justice, courts, and correctional agencies, and see the value of using research to improve practice. We practice what we preach—planning, studying, doing, analyzing and making research to improve outcomes at the individual, agency, community or system level. Field research is not only action-based and is relevant to the world!

ACE! is also hiring several undergraduate students to work over the summer and fall on some of our other projects. This work will include qualitative data analysis, data coding, and conducting literature searches/reviews. These experiences place undergraduate research students on active research projects with a team of highly productive and passionate scholars in a research center on campus. For more information or to submit a resume contact Danielle Rudes at drudes@gmu.edu.

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