

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### IBS IN AFRICA

**Jane Menken** and **Dick Jessor** were in Johannesburg, South Africa November 7-9 to visit with colleagues at the University of the Witwatersrand School of Public Health and the Population Studies and Demography Program in the School of Social Sciences. Meetings were held with CU Post-Docs **Georges Reniers** and **Olu Taiwo** and also with Dr. Kathy Kahn, about the graduate training program in demography, and with five students who attended the 2006 and 2007 short courses at CU. On November 10, they traveled to Nairobi for a meeting of the Board of Directors of the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) of which Jane has been a longtime member. During that meeting, Jane was elected Chair of the Board for a three-year term. While at APHRC in Nairobi, Dick presented a colloquium to the research staff and served as a research consultant for one of their new grants on the transition to adulthood among adolescents in the informal settlements around Nairobi; that study is using survey measures developed in research here at IBS. He also met with several Post-Docs to review research reports and advise on drafts of papers. Jane was occupied with reviewing efforts to strengthen capacity-building and with planning the next Wits/Brown/CU/APHRC Colloquium to be held in Johannesburg in July, as well as the Longitudinal Data Management and Analysis Short Course to be held there as well.

Returning to Johannesburg on November 19, both Jane and Dick were involved in several meetings with Steve Tollman and Kathy Kahn, our key collaborators at Wits. One meeting was held in Pretoria, at the Ministry for Science and Technology, on Socioeconomic-Demographic Longitudinal Study Platforms as contributors to and users of science and technology. Jane gave a presentation on use of such sites in providing sentinel information in a number of sub-Saharan and Asian countries. Another meeting was with the Dean of Health Sciences and the Head of the School of Public Health at Wits; and another with the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research. All agreed the collaboration with CU is now their model for working with Northern universities. In addition, Dick and Jane participated in the inauguration of a new set of offices for the population studies students and faculty (at which Jane gave a talk), and were invited discussants at an interdisciplinary roundtable with a select group of Wits faculty, including the Head of the School of Social Sciences, on the topic of strengthening quantitative social science at the university. Jane and Dick left for home on November 23; their visits to both Wits and APHRC were designed to deepen collaboration between CU and these two leading African institutions, and they were pleased with the outcomes.

### ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY PROGRAM

Governor Bill Ritter held a reception at the NCAR Mesa Lab on Monday, November 26, to honor the twenty Colorado scientists who had participated in the activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which received, with Al Gore, the Nobel Peace Prize. Scientists from the University of Colorado, NCAR and NOAA were in the honoree group. **Chuck Howe** was among those honored for his role as a lead author in the

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

*Continued from page 1*

Third Assessment Report published five years ago. An article about the scientists and the award appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, November 27.

**John Weiner** made several presentations over the past year (2007) at the Colorado Water Congress, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) National Water Program annual meeting, the Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop, and Universities Council on Water Resources. He also contributed to the Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance Handbook (a guide to weather and climate information). In ongoing work, John is serving as an advisor and participant in the Water Transfers Guidelines Committee of the new Arkansas Basin Roundtable, after serving on three of the Statewide Water Supply Initiative Technical Roundtables. The inquiries and presentations center on new water leasing, instead of permanent sales, and the various issues and opportunities presented by the changes, currently focusing on anticipation of problems in farm management, socio-economic impacts, and biological issues of change in the hybrid ecology. Funded research with NOAA support will include further cooperation with NCAR scientist Dr. David Yates in modeling the new forms of transfer, and continuing collaboration with **Chuck Howe** on water transfers.

### **In Print**

Slaughter, Richard A. and **John D. Wiener**. "Water, Adaptation, and Property Rights on the Snake and Klamath Rivers." *Journal of the American Water Resources Association* 43, no. 2 (2007): 308–321. Water demand in a viable economy tends to be dynamic: it changes over time in response to growth, drought, and social policy. Institutional capacity to re-allocate water between users and uses under stress from multiple sources is a key concern. Climate change threatens to add to those stresses in snowmelt systems by changing the timing of runoff and possibly increasing the severity and duration of drought. The authors examine Snake and Klamath River institutions for their ability to resolve conflict induced by demand growth, drought, and environmental constraints on water use. The study finds that private ownership of water rights has been a major positive factor in successful adaptation by providing the basis for water marketing and by promoting the use of negotiation and markets rather than politics to resolve water conflict.

### **HEALTH AND SOCIETY PROGRAM**

Catenacci, Vicki, Kelly Gilmour, **Mark Turbin**, Susan Johnson, Renee Wing, James Hill, and Daniel Bessesen. "A Questionnaire to Measure Enjoyment of Active Leisure Time Pursuits." *Obesity* 15, no.9 (2007): A189. A person's enjoyment of active leisure time pursuits probably plays an important role in his or her decision to be physically active. This relationship has been the target of several studies that evaluate the generation of psychological responses to acute exercise bouts. However, it is not well understood how general affective states correlate with physical activity in an individual's usual environment. We designed the Feelings About Leisure-Time Activities (FALTAC) questionnaire to assess attitudes toward active leisure time pursuits. In addition, we assessed the relationship between a positive affect state towards physical activity as assessed by the FALTAC and subjective and objective measures of engagement in physical activity during leisure time. Results showed that measures of positive affect toward physical activity and of the importance of physical activity had acceptable internal consistency and reliability, and showed expected relations with measures of actual

*Program Activities continues on page 4*

## IN FOCUS

## Social Aspects of Human-Caused or Technological Disasters



**Liesel Ritchie**  
 Research Associate  
 Natural Hazards Center

Given my background and experience, my research tends to address issues in coastal communities with the hope that lessons learned in these sites are transferable to other locations.

*Liesel A. Ritchie, a research associate at IBS, holds joint appointments with the University of Colorado's Natural Hazards Center and the Evaluation Center at Western Michigan University.*

The path that led me to the Natural Hazards Center has been an exciting one, with many opportunities to participate in diverse research projects along the way. This journey began in 1989 at Mississippi State University's Social Science Research Center (SSRC), where I initially served as graduate research assistant to the director. The SSRC became my professional home as I received my M.A. in History and began working full time as a Research Associate. I subsequently pursued my Ph.D. in Sociology, concurrently holding the positions of Research Scientist and Coordinator of the Evaluation & Decision Support Laboratory at the SSRC. In September 2005, I joined The Evaluation Center at Western Michigan University as a Senior Research Associate.

Throughout the past decade I have been fortunate to work with a variety of agencies and organizations. Most of my early work was with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, evaluating the effectiveness of their education programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. I have since been involved with activities associated with the National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Minerals Management Service, and others. To date, I have served as PI or Co-PI on almost fifty research and evaluation projects.

I first became engaged in disaster related research in the spring of 2001 when I had the opportunity to conduct field work in Alaska for an NSF project examining chronic social impacts of the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. This work sparked my interest in the arena of disasters and laid the foundation for my doctoral studies and subsequent research endeavors. My research primarily focuses on social aspects of such incidents, including the relationship between social capital and community preparedness, response, and resilience—particularly in the context of human-caused or technological disasters. My dissertation entitled *Voices of Cordova: Social Capital in the Wake of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill* was a qualitative study based on forty-eight in-depth interviews and participant observation in Cordova, Alaska. Since receiving my Ph.D., I have pursued my interests in disaster, risk, and hazards in a variety of ways. In 2005, I conducted fieldwork with Duane A. Gill (Mississippi State University) in the Aleutian Islands to study disaster and risk associated with the December 2004 wreck of the *Selendang Ayu*. More recently, in November 2007, we conducted similar research in San Francisco following the *Cosco Busan* oil spill. I am currently serving as the team leader for fieldwork on Kodiak Island, Alaska for an NSF-funded project studying tsunami preparedness and effectiveness of warnings.

In addition to disaster-related projects, I am engaged in a number of professional activities with the goal of improving community resilience to

*In Focus continues on page 4*

## IN FOCUS

*Continued from page 3*

disasters through research and evaluation. In 2005, I spearheaded efforts to develop the American Evaluation Association (AEA) Topical Interest Group (TIG) on Disaster and Emergency Management Evaluation (DEME) and currently serve as program co-chair of the DEME TIG. Notably, the 2008 AEA meetings will be held in Denver this November. I am developing a proposal for a special issue of the journal *New Directions in Evaluation*, highlighting the role of evaluation in improving understanding of impacts of disasters. I have also served on panels in Mississippi and Georgia discussing social impacts and evaluation associated with hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

My primary role at the Natural Hazards Center is Research Coordinator for the Bay Area Disaster Preparedness Initiative (BayPrep). This two-year project is addressing issues of disaster preparedness among community-based, faith-based, and other non-profit organizations serving at-risk populations in the San Francisco Bay Area. Our approach is to conduct face-to-face, structured interviews with a random sample of more than one hundred organization leaders using quantitative and qualitative measures of preparedness and resilience.

In addition to my work on the BayPrep Initiative, I am seeking external funding to continue the lines of inquiry I have pursued since 2001. Given my background and experience, my research tends to address issues in coastal communities with the hope that lessons learned in these sites are transferable to other locations. In addition to understanding social capital in the context of disasters, my interests include how and the extent to which local knowledge is used in the aftermath of a disaster, with an emphasis on preparedness and response. I am Co-PI on an NSF proposal to examine the social impacts of litigation associated with the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. Although it has been almost twenty years since this spill, the case is just now being heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. A decision regarding punitive damages for approximately 28,000 plaintiffs (commercial fishermen and Alaska Natives) is expected by June 2008 and, regardless of the Supreme Court ruling—for or against Exxon—the social impacts will be numerous and far-reaching. Specifically, the proposal seeks to learn more about the long-term, chronic social impacts of technological disasters—including litigation typically associated with them—and how these affect the wellbeing of communities that experience them.

I consider it a privilege to be a part of IBS and the Natural Hazards Center, and look forward to learning more about the work of my colleagues across the CU campus.

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

*Continued from page 2*

physical activity. Also, mean scores on the attitude measures, as expected, were higher for obese participants who had lost weight and maintained the weight loss than for those who had not. These results support the validity and utility of this new measure of attitudes toward physical activity. Interventions designed to increase physical activity or to maintain weight loss may benefit from a focus on promoting positive affective states with exercise.

### **POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE PROGRAM**

#### **In Print**

Moore, Sarah, Patricia Sikora, Leon Grunberg, and **Edward S. Greenberg**. "Work Stress and Alcohol Use: Examining the Tension-Reduction Model as a Function of Workers"

*Program Activities continues on page 5*

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

*Continued from page 4*

Parents' Alcohol Use." *Addictive Behaviors* 32, no. 12 (2007): 3114–3121. In an effort to identify groups who may be more vulnerable to tension-reduction drinking [Frone, M. "Predictors of Overall and On-the-job Substance Use Among Young Workers." *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology* 8, (2003):39–54.], the authors examine whether drinking alcohol in response to work stress varies as a function of whether workers were raised in homes where (a) both parents abstained from alcohol, (b) at least one parent drank non-problematically, (c) at least one parent drank problematically, or (d) both parents drank problematically. Employees participating in a large, longitudinal study who reported using alcohol in the previous year (N=895) completed various measures of work stressors, alcohol use, and alcohol problems. They found few mean group differences for either the work stressor or alcohol measures, but did find a greater number of significant and moderate correlations between work stressors and alcohol for those reporting that both parents drank alcohol problematically. Interestingly, a number of significant correlations were found for those reporting that both parents abstained from alcohol; few were found for the two groups reporting that at least one parent drank with or without alcohol problems. Results are interpreted in light of where and how alcohol expectancies and other coping methods are learned.

### POPULATION PROGRAM

**Rick Rogers** presented "Health Disparities in the United States: The Effects of Socioeconomic Status and Race/Ethnicity on Health and Mortality" to the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, November 29.

**Rick Rogers** presented "Social Disparities and Health: Sex Differentials in Mortality" to Cells to Society (C2S): The Center on Social Disparities and Health at the Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University, October 29. The presentation was also videocast live to the Northwestern Medical School and the Evanston Northwestern Healthcare Research Institute. This presentation was based on research conducted with **Bethany Everett, Jarron Saint Onge, Patrick Krueger**, and Bob Hummer. The trip to Northwestern was very useful for finding ways to bridge activities between our University of Colorado Population Center and their new NICHD-funded C2S center.

### PROBLEM BEHAVIOR PROGRAM

**Kelly E. Knight** presented a paper, "Assortative Mating for Antisocial Behavior," at the Annual Conference for The American Society of Criminology in Atlanta, GA, held November 14-17. Using data from the Rochester Youth Development Study, the paper showed that males but not females positively assortated on seven different measures of antisocial behavior. Kelly is a Ph.D. graduate student in Sociology and Graduate Research Assistant in the program's Rochester Youth Development Study.

**David Miklowitz** received a \$600,000 grant to fund a new study of family psycho-educational treatment from the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. Kiki Chang of Stanford University is a co-principal investigator on the project. This study is to determine if early treatment of children with a high risk of developing bipolar disorder can help head off the disease's effects before they severely disrupt people's lives. A podcast featuring **Miklowitz** discussing his bipolar disorder research can be heard on the Web at [www.colorado.edu/news/podcasts/](http://www.colorado.edu/news/podcasts/).

## UPCOMING COLLOQUIA

Please refer to the following webpage for the IBS colloquia schedules:  
<http://www.colorado.edu/ibs/events/colloquia.html>.

## RESEARCH PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

### Political and Economic Change Program

Greenberg, Ed	Alcohol Outcomes of Separation from Work: A Secondary Analysis of Panel Data NIH/NIAAA	07/01/08 - 06/30/11	Resubmission	\$563,736
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### Environment and Society Program

Ritchie, Liesel	Technological Disaster and the Resolution of High-Stakes Litigation: Recovery or Conflict in Alaskan Coastal Communities? NSF via Mississippi State University	07/01/08 - 06/30/11	New	\$270,605
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Hunter, Lori Twine, Wayne	Climate Variability, Migration, and Rural Livelihoods National Institutes of Health	08/01/08 - 07/31/10	Resubmission	\$369,693
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### Health and Society Program

Barham, Tania	Effects of Childhood Health Interventions on Human Capital Development NIH/NICHHD	07/01/08 - 06/30/10	Resubmission	\$149,554
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### Problem Behavior Program

Grotpeter, Jennifer	Mean Girls (and Boys) and Delinquency: Augmenting Traditional Delinquency Research with Relational Aggression in the National Youth Survey Family Study Department of Justice	01/01/08 - 12/31/09	New	\$386,249
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## RESEARCH PROPOSALS AWARDED

### Environment and Society Program

Tierney, Kathleen	Clearinghouse on Natural Hazards Research and Applications Oak Ridge National Laboratory	11/15/07 - 04/15/08	New	\$20,000
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### Problem Behavior Program

Woodward, Bill	State Homeland Security Program State of Colorado, Department of Local Affairs, Division of Emergency Management	10/12/07 - 10/31/09	New	\$200,000
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Jane A. Menken, Institute Director

**Environment and Society Program**

Lee J. Alston, Director

Natural Hazards Center

Kathleen Tierney, Director



**Political and Economic Change Program**

Edward S. Greenberg, Director



**Problem Behavior Program**

Terence P. Thornberry, Director

Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence

Delbert S. Elliott, Director

**Health and Society Program**

Richard Jessor, Director



**Population Program**

Richard G. Rogers, Director

CU Population Center

Richard G. Rogers, Director

Population Aging Center

Jane A. Menken, Director



**Computing and Research Services**

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