WELCOME

IBS welcomes Kathleen Tierney as the new director of the Natural Hazards Center. Dr. Tierney holds a full professorship in the Department of Sociology as well. Most recently, she was a professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice and co-director of the Disaster Research Center at the University of Delaware. She received her PhD in sociology from the Ohio State University, and did postdoctoral research on a National Institute of Mental Health fellowship at the University of California, Los Angeles. Before joining the Sociology and Criminal Justice faculty in 1989, she held appointments as research associate at the University of California, Los Angeles; special consultant to the California Seismic Safety Commission; adjunct assistant professor at the Institute of Safety and Systems Management, University of Southern California; and assistant professor of social ecology at the University of California, Irvine.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

ENVIRONMENT AND BEHAVIOR PROGRAM


In Print

Toney, Michael B., Chalon Keller, and Lori M. Hunter. 2003. “Regional cultures, persistence and change: A case study of the Mormon Culture Region.” The Social Science Journal, 40(3), 431-445 pp. There are at least two gaps in the literature on culture regions: (1) little research on regions other than the South, and (2) a lack of examination of regional distinctiveness across time. In addition, existing research provides contradictory conclusions regarding the perpetuation of culture regions. Some results suggest modernization forces are obliterating regional distinctiveness, while other studies point to the endurance of differences. Making use of data reflecting twenty-four socioeconomic characteristics across the period 1950-1990, the authors find that the Mormon Culture Region remained distinct from the United States as a whole, and was even more distinct in 1990 than in 1950. The authors believe their socioeconomic
indicators represent important dimensions of regions, and are linked to the subjective identities that tend to be the focal point in analyses of culture regions. Additional research on other regions is needed to fully explain regional differences, as well as to adequately interpret results obtained when regional indicators are incorporated into empirical social research.

Hunter, Lori M. and Joan Brehm. 2003. “Qualitative insight into public knowledge of, and concern with, biological diversity.” Human Ecology, 31(2), 309-320 pp. While social research continues to document high levels of public concern with environmental issues, substantial evidence also continues to accumulate as to the low levels of public environmental knowledge. The present qualitative study contributes to the social research on public environmental concern and knowledge, with a focus upon a topic little studied within social science: biodiversity. Using a case study approach with a study population within a rural, biologically rich community in the Intermountain West, the authors ask: What are the levels of knowledge and concern with issues related to biodiversity? The study results reveal that residents had low levels of knowledge with regard to conservation terminology and issues, as well as little understanding of the forces leading to species decline (excepting local population and development pressures), or the implications of biodiversity loss.

Hunter, Lori M., John Beal, and Thomas W. Dickinson. 2003. “Integrating demographic and GAP analysis biodiversity data: Useful insight?” Human Dimensions of Wildlife, 8(2), 145-157 pp. Given that humans are a dominant force in habitat change, consideration of relative levels of anthropogenic threat to the landscape may allow for better informed conservation policy decisions. This paper outlines a project designed to incorporate demographic data into an existing conservation management tool, the aim being to better reflect development pressures upon natural habitat. Spatially explicit secondary data reflecting housing density from Census 2000 are merged with indicators of biological richness from the National Biological Services Utah Gap Analysis Program. The intersection of the two data layers allows identification of biodiversity “hotspots” within Utah, areas characterized by high levels of species richness combined with high levels of housing pressure. Additionally, several areas are identified as potential conservation targets, given their high levels of species richness and relatively low housing density. Implications are discussed, both with regard to the research methods and the project’s results.

Natural Hazards Center

IBS extends best wishes to Sylvia Dane, the former editor of the Natural Hazards Observer, as she concludes her fifteen years of service at NHC to become the new Emergency Planning Coordinator for the CU Boulder campus. Her contribution here will be missed, but we look forward to our future collaboration with her in the capacity of her new job.

Dennis Mileti, the former director of the Natural Hazards Center, will continue his affiliation as senior research scientist and welcomes this opportunity to enhance his research and collaborations with those in the field.

Program Activities continue on page 4
Following the September 11th disasters, hazards warning systems came to the forefront of national security concerns, disaster preparation, and response organizations throughout the United States. While many case studies on risk communication and disaster warnings exist, a complete inventory of knowledge about human responses to emergency public warnings was last published in 1990 by Dennis Mileti of the NHC and John Sorensen of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Through funding provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), they are endeavoring to update this publication and to produce the second state-of-the-art assessment on warning systems titled Warning America. I have worked with them on this project and outline the themes of this book below.

The nation has constructed warning systems for a wide range of events that impose a quick-onset threat to the public. Natural events include earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, landslides, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, wildfires, and avalanches. Technological advances have also given rise to emergency situations requiring public warnings. The most obvious include nuclear power plant accidents, hazardous material production site and transportation accidents, and dam failures. In addition, there are two particularly serious national security hazards—nuclear attack and terrorist activities involving weapons of mass destruction. These natural, technological, and national security events have several important common elements: (1) they represent low-probability risk events that can materialize, (2) they can pose the threat of widespread disaster for a human population when they do occur, (3) their potential impact can be detected, and (4) a public protective response before impact can enhance safety, reduce losses, and save lives.

Up until now, warning systems have been based upon linear theories of social psychology of public response, making use of a Symbolic Interactionist approach. This project will rework current knowledge, suggesting a Social Constructionist framework where warning systems are linked to realities within local communities and networks of interpretation. Linear systems suggest a single channel through which detection, confirmation, and dissemination of a warning is provided to entire populations with a singular and consistent message. Research shows that warnings systems do not function linearly, but in a web-like fashion where multiple channels are used for detection and multiple channels are used for dissemination with messages that are tailored to specific populations. One of the goals of the project is to help assist emergency managers in planning, designing, installing, and operating community warning systems that correspond directly to the demographic, social, economic, geographic conditions, as well as the threat potential prevailing in that community. Characterizing warning systems currently in use, creating an inventory of recent research on human responses to risk communication, and developing a guidance manual for use by FEMA and emergency managers throughout the U.S. is a major theme. This guidance manual is of particular importance for communities because it will present research-based information in relation to warning systems for hazards in their area.
Natural Hazards Center (cont.)

Congratulations to Wanda Headley, the library manager at NHC, who recently began studies for a Master of Arts in Library Science in the School of Library and Information Studies at Texas Woman's University. The degree will be completed entirely on-line through TWU’s distance learning program.

Lori Peek and Alice Fothergill (former NHC grad and now at the University of Vermont) attended the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association meetings in Atlanta, Georgia on August 16-19. Peek and Fothergill presented “Poverty and Disasters in the United States: A Review of Recent Sociological Findings,” and Peek presented “Community Isolation and Group Solidarity: Examining Muslim Student Experiences after September 11, 2001.”

Natural Hazards Workshop 2003

In July the Natural Hazards Center hosted their annual invitational workshop for researchers and practitioners in the broad natural hazards fields to come together to share and discuss the latest challenges and ideas for dealing with disasters and emergencies. This year several themes emerged around the most significant national change to the institutional arrangement for managing disasters in the U.S. since the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was established—the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

One theme focused on how decades of work toward an all-hazards approach to disaster management can be integrated with the new emphasis now placed on homeland security and terrorism. Many participants in these conversations, including DHS Undersecretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response Michael Brown, were able to express concerns, goals, and suggestions for future collaboration.

Workshop participants also stressed the importance of continuing to engage government agencies and the public in a collaborative and participatory fashion across the entire hazards cycle. A key strategy for reducing vulnerability is recognizing that members of the public are not a problem to be managed in disasters; they are quite often the solution. A “bottom-up, collaborative, participatory process around risk assessment and risk management,” as described by one workshop participant, is crucial for all-hazards management.

Themes of discussion included the tremendous advances in science and technology, including the human-technology interface. At the same time, limitations and problematic aspects of some of these advances were identified. Other discussions focused on the challenges associated with the rapid changes, primarily due to the war on terrorism, in the policy and funding environment in which hazards research and implementation take place.

The overall challenge that emerged from the workshop was to continue to expand the dialogue with the new players on the hazards scene, to communicate with them what is known, and to learn from them what they need—all in a systematic and coordinated way.
In this manner, the hazards-related knowledge that has been gained and the sound policies and practices that have been developed over decades will continue to have an impact.

Lori Peek was a discussant for one of the workshop’s plenary sessions on “The hidden victims of disaster.” Peek presented on the impact from the unanticipated consequences of disaster on religious and ethnic minority populations.

In the workshop session, “Coordinated research for natural hazards and homeland security,” Kathleen Tierney presented her work with the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute to prepare a research plan that will take a comprehensive approach to earthquake loss reduction over time. This plan is in recognition that mitigative decisions must take place in the context of all hazards.

Jeannette Sutton presented preliminary findings from a report she is preparing for FEMA with Dennis Mileti, John Sorenson, and Barbara Vogt, in the workshop session “Communicating emergency warnings to the public: An assessment of the state-of-the-art.” It synthesizes recent research findings and major issues related to warnings and translates those findings into a guide for state and local government.

**Natural Hazards Center (cont.)**

Drabek, Thomas. June 2003. “Strategies for Coordinating Disaster Responses,” *Monograph 61*, Program on Environment and Behavior, 242 pp (a publication of the Natural Hazards Research and Information Center). When disaster strikes, people respond. Initial response involves the rapid mobilization of a local core of trained individuals such as fire, police, and emergency medical services personnel who are collectively known as “first responders.” Upon arrival at the scene, first responders often confront a variety of unofficial helpers—friends, neighbors, people who are simply offering assistance.

In addition, the flow of communication between personnel, agencies, and the public quickly becomes complex. Local emergency managers are often at the center of these communication pipelines. The Hazard Center’s newest monograph explores how the presence and effectiveness of emergency managers can help shape overall emergency response and recovery to a given event. Emergency managers are called upon to facilitate the smooth functioning of all responders, activities, and jurisdictions, and to create a seamless atmosphere of swift and effective response. This task is not easy, nor is it well understood. The author uses extensive interviews with over 150 emergency managers, agency executives, and emergency management team members, all of whom have participated in a large disaster response, to shed some light on the structures and strategies used to initiate and maintain the process of multi-agency coordination during disaster. The key lesson from the data is that many emergency managers must learn to operate under the auspices of a new paradigm and a different perspective. They must learn to think strategically.

_Natural Hazards Center In Print_
Melton, Heather C. and Joanne Belknap. 2003. “He hits, she hits: Assessing gender differences and similarities in officially reported intimate partner violence.” Criminal Justice & Behavior, 30(3), 328-348 pp. Within the study of intimate partner violence (IPV) controversy exists over whether perpetration and victimization of domestic violence is gender specific (gendered). Some researchers maintain no or few gender differences in IPV offending and victimization, particularly at less severe levels. Others argue that IPV is highly gendered and perpetrated largely by men against their female partners and ex-partners. Using officially collected data (through pretrial services and police reports) in a large Midwestern city, this study examined 2,670 IPV cases of which 14 percent had female defendants. This study was an effort to further clarify the debate regarding gender differences and similarities in reports of perpetration, victimization, context, and consequences of IPV. The political and research perspectives that guide this debate, the family violence and feminist perspectives, are also discussed.

Hartman, Jennifer and Joanne Belknap. 2003. “Beyond the gatekeepers: Court professionals’ self-reported attitudes about and experiences with domestic violence cases,” Criminal Justice & Behavior, 30(3), 349-373 pp. This study used intensive interview and survey data from 62 municipal court professionals (judges, prosecutors, and public defenders) to expand on the limited research on court processing of domestic violence cases. The participants reported legal variables as both what should be and what were actually most commonly used in domestic violence court decisions. Victim testimony was also reported as important, and these data suggest that domestic violence victims cooperate with the courts more often than is believed. Victim advocate and batterer intervention workers’ opinions were reported as both what should be and were least influential in the case outcome. Finally, the respondents rated the case sentences as having very little impact on domestic violence recidivism.

Belknap, Joanne, Erica Winter, and Bonnie Cady. 2003. “Professionals’ assessments of the needs of delinquent girls: The results of a focus group study.” In Gendered Justice, B.E. Bloom, Editor, Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 209-240 pp. This chapter focuses on findings from five focus groups of fifty professionals in Colorado who work with delinquent girls. The professionals report far more limited funding and services offered to girls than to boys who enter the Department of Youth Corrections in Colorado. Key policy implications are to provide services to meet girls’ needs (including funding for gender-specific programs), and for training and retraining skilled, experienced staff. An important component of empowering girls and curbing recidivism is providing pre-adjudicated and committed girls with programming that fosters self-efficacy. This is done by helping girls create mastery and confidence in their own strengths and skills and providing continuing access to options beyond delinquent behavior. The authors propose that all facilities and programs serving girls across the country must be informed about the issues and needs of delinquent girls, basing policy and treatment decisions on what is in girls’ best interest rather than on their charges, pressure from the community, or what is most convenient or inexpensive.
Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence

Delbert S. Elliott, Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar, the Safe Communities-Safe Schools Initiative, the Colorado Trust, and the Colorado School Districts’ Self Insurance Pool have begun four regional training sessions for October.

The Safe Communities-Safe Schools Initiative works with Colorado schools and communities to create safe and welcoming learning environments for students and school staff. Following the Columbine shootings, and as a result of the Initiative, several Colorado laws were passed to help schools and communities deal with school safety issues.

The four sessions will provide training for school administrators, school board members, and school resource officers on how to implement Colorado’s school safety laws and school safety issues. The following are some of the areas that will be covered during this training:

1) how to manage the problem of bullying in schools;
2) how to create and implement a model interagency agreement on information sharing between schools, law enforcement, and other agencies in possession of juvenile justice information, now authorized and mandated by Colorado law;
3) how to develop a safe school plan and implement effective violence prevention programs; and
4) developing a Safe School Hotline.

“Over the past four years, Colorado has passed significant school safety legislation into law,” said Attorney General Salazar. “We now need to make sure we are assisting school personnel and addressing their questions about how best to implement the requirements.” Training sessions are being held during October in the following communities:

* Pueblo, Monday, Oct. 13
* Sterling, Friday, Oct. 17
* Denver, Tuesday, Oct. 21
* Grand Junction, Friday, Oct. 24

School personnel can register to attend a seminar by contacting the Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool at (800) 332-3556, ext. 225. The Safe Communities-Safe Schools Initiative is funded primarily by The Colorado Trust.

Elliott was an invited speaker as part of the Implementing Science Based Prevention Practices segment at the National Institute of Drug Abuse’s What Do Schools Really Think About Conducting and Implementing Prevention Research? Blending Research and Reality Conference, held on April 3 in Bethesda, Maryland. He spoke on “Implementation Challenges from the Researcher’s Perspective.”
Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (cont.)

On April 4, Elliott and Bill Woodward were invited speakers at the Leadership Denver: Crime and Justice Day Conference sponsored by the Denver Metro Chamber Foundation and Leadership Denver. The focus of their presentation centered around “What we know about crime and violence.”

On April 14-15 in Snowbird, Utah, Elliott was an invited presenter at the Advances in Drug Abuse Prevention: Current Findings, Critical Issues, and Future Directions Conference organized by Weill Medical College of Cornell University. Elliott presented “A critique of the ‘negotiated balance’ approach in the fidelity-local adaptation debate.”

Elliott was a keynote speaker, along with Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar and David Hawkins of Seattle's Social Development Research Group of the University of Washington at the 3rd Annual Safe Communities-Safe Schools Conference at the Omni Interlocken on May 1-2 in Broomfield. The CSPV staff (including Jane Grady and Susan Williams) coordinated and hosted the conference. Workshop presenters included staff members Bill Woodward, Sharon Mihalic, Greta St. Martin, Sheryl Cardozo and Delbert Elliott; facilitating the workshops were staff members Diane Ballard, Jane Grady, Susan Williams, Grace Taylor, Bill Woodward, Greta St. Martin, Sheryl Cardozo, Sharon Mihalic, and Delbert Elliott. More than two hundred participants attended the two-day event which was funded by the Colorado Trust and The Colorado Division of Criminal Justice.

Sheryl Cardozo presented “Safe schools: An evaluation of what works (and what doesn’t) in a school violence prevention process” (co-authored by Greta St. Martin) at the American Educational Research Association’s annual conference in Chicago on April 22. The presentation was part of a panel discussion on “How Students Deal with Conflict and Violence in Their Schools.” Attendees included administrators, prevention specialists, and researchers looking to further explore school violence prevention.

Sharon Mihalic spoke on “Implementation fidelity as a factor in successful replication” for New York county and state agency partners participating in the Integrated County Planning Project on June 10 in Syracuse, New York.

The Blueprints staff and National Health Promotion Associates hosted a training of trainers June 5-7 in Breckenridge to enhance the ability of Blueprints grant recipients to sustain the Life Skills Training Drug Prevention Program once funding has ended.

Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence

In Print


Program Activities continue on page 9
HEALTH BEHAVIOR PROGRAM

Angela Bryan gave an invited presentation, “Sex, drugs, and detention: development of a theory-based HIV/STD prevention intervention for adolescents” involving her research on alcohol and risky sexual behavior among high risk adolescents at the Missouri Alcoholism Research Center at the University of Missouri, Columbia on June 13. Bryan also served on a National Institutes of Health Scientific Review Committee, Behavioral and Social Science Approaches to Preventing HIV/AIDS (BSPH) study section from July 22-23 in Washington, D.C.

Ann May presented a paper entitled "Maasai migration, city work, and AIDS in Tanzania," in Port Elizabeth, South Africa at the 13th Annual Pan-African Anthropological Association Conference June 29-July 4, 2003. An expanded version of that paper, based on her dissertation research on rural-urban migration of youth and pastoralists in Tanzania between 1999 and 2000, and additional fieldwork in 2001 that focused on HIV/AIDS as a migration risk factor for pastoralists, funded by the Population Aging Center, is currently being reviewed for publication. The co-author is J. Terrence McCabe (IBS Environment and Behavior Research Program).

Following the conference, May was an Institute of Cultural Affairs International volunteer on an HIV/AIDS training program for two weeks in Mto wa Mbu, Tanzania. The project educated sixteen community leaders and launched a year-long AIDS awareness program in that area.

And, congratulations to Ann who has accepted a position with REPOA (Research on Poverty and Alleviation), as the Research and Communications Officer in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. REPOA is a British and Dutch NGO.

POPULATION PROCESSES PROGRAM

Denney, Justin T., Patrick M. Krueger, Richard G. Rogers, and Jason D. Boardman presented “Race/ethnic and sex differentials in body mass among U.S. Adults” at this year’s American Sociological Association meetings in Atlanta, Georgia, August 16-19. Current research incompletely documents race/ethnic and sex disparities in body mass, especially at the national level. Data from the 2000 National Health Interview Survey, Sample Adult File are used to examine overall and sex-specific disparities in body mass for non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Puerto Ricans, Mexican Americans, and Cuban Americans. Two complimentary multivariate regression techniques, ordinary least squares and multinomial logistic, are employed to control for important confounding factors. The presenters find significantly higher body masses for non-Hispanic blacks, Native Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Mexican Americans compared to non-Hispanic whites. Among very obese individuals, these relationships are more pronounced for females. Given the known health consequences associated with overweight and obesity, and recent trends toward increasing body mass in the U.S., these findings underscore the need for public health policies that target specific subpopulations to close the wide disparities in body mass in the U.S.
Congratulations to James Raymer who has accepted a position as lecturer at the University of Southampton, England in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Social Statistics starting in January 2004.

Please Continue Virus Protection Efforts. Due to your cooperation, very few IBS computers were corrupted by the recent epidemic of worms. Please continue your efforts: (1) delete any suspicious emails without opening attachments; (2) make sure Norton AntiVirus is installed on your computer and updates are occurring regularly; and (3) check daily for new critical updates to your computer operating system. Do this by launching Internet Explorer, click on the “Tools” menu, select “Windows Update”, click on “scan for updates,” and follow the instructions for installing any new critical updates. If you have questions, please contact Richard Cook (richard.cook@colorado.edu).

The CCRS Computer Lab, which is available to IBS students, staff, and faculty for training workshops and other research uses, is being upgraded with newer, faster computers. These computers will be equipped with all standard research software: MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Stata, SPSS, SAS, and Splus as well as the full suite of GIS software offered by ESRI that includes ArcView and all ArcGIS products. Other specialty software will be available on some machines, e.g., EndNote, NVivo/N6 (formerly NUDIST), HLM, and SpaceStat. Also available in the Computer Lab are an image scanner, a text scanner with PDF and MS Word conversion software, and a high resolution color printer.

**RESEARCH PROPOSALS AWARDED**

**Political and Economic Change Program**

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*IBS News continues on page 11*
HUMAN RESEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

In an effort to keep the research community better informed of changes at both the national and campus level, the Human Research Committee (HRC) will be providing a brief, bi-monthly newsletter to campus investigators. The newsletter, “What’s New at the HRC,” and updates will be available on the HRC website at http://www.colorado.edu/GraduateSchool/HRC/.

Correction: In the IBS May/June 2003 newsletter, pg. 4, Environment and Behavior Program Director, Lee Alston, was mistakenly placed under the Political and Economic Change Program caption.

Newsletter Changes: Starting with the September-October issue of the newsletter, Barbara McLean and Marcia Richardson will be the co-editors of the newsletter. Julie Klauss has moved on and is now pursuing her master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Jane A. Menken, Institute Director
Research Program on Environment and Behavior
Lee Alston, Director
  Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center
  Kathleen Tierney, Director
Research Program on Health Behavior
Richard Jessor, Director
Research Program on Political and Economic Change
Edward S. Greenberg, Director
Research Program on Population Processes
Richard Rogers, Director
  Population Aging Center
  Jane A. Menken, Director
Research Program on Problem Behavior
Delbert S. Elliott, Director
  Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence
  Delbert S. Elliott, Director
Center for Computing and Research Services
Jani S. Little, Director
Barbara McLean and Marcia Richardson, Co-editors
Richard L. Cook and Thomas W. Dickinson, Web Site Coordinators