

## Solicitations & Awards

### Search NIJ Grant Information Online

The fully searchable portfolio of all NIJ grants is now available to Web users at the NIJ Web site.

The online database can be searched using all or one of the following terms: project title, category, project location, date awarded, project number, awardee, and awardee contact name. Once the project is identified, the system provides all remaining information, including a description and funding data.

The portfolio reflects research, evaluation, technology develop-

ment, dissemination, and technical support projects, including those supported by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (the Crime Act) and those conducted in partnership with other Federal agencies through inter-agency and cooperative agreements.

In fiscal year 2000, NIJ made more than 200 awards totaling more than \$116 million.

Visit the online portfolio at <http://www.nij.ncjrs.org/portfolio>. For more information about the latest funding opportunities, visit the NIJ Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij>.

<http://www.nij.ncjrs.org/portfolio>

A screenshot of the NIJ Research Portfolio search interface. The page has a blue header with the NIJ logo and the text 'RESEARCH PORTFOLIO'. Below the header is a search bar with the text 'Search For Keywords'. To the left of the search bar is a vertical navigation menu with links for 'About the Portfolio', 'Search Title', 'Search Category', and 'Search'. The main search area contains several input fields: 'Project Title', 'Category' (with radio buttons for 'All' and 'Full'), 'Search Project Description', 'Project Location' (with a dropdown menu), 'Date' (with a date picker), 'Year' (with a dropdown menu), 'Dissemination' (with radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No'), 'Project Number', 'Awardee Contact Name', and 'Award Title'. At the bottom of the search area are 'Submit' and 'Reset' buttons. A small copyright notice is visible at the bottom right of the page.

## New & Noteworthy

### Special Issue of *NIJ Journal*

“Crime Policy in the 21st Century” is the working title of a special edition of the *NIJ Journal* to be published this Spring. The special issue is the product of a series of roundtable discussions held in 2000 that examined three significant issues the criminal justice field will face in the future.

The topics of the three roundtables were (1) public trust and confidence in the system, (2) sentencing and corrections, and (3) use of technology.

Before each roundtable session, well-known experts in the field were asked to submit background papers

as a starting point for the conversations. The special issue of the *NIJ Journal* will summarize the papers and the conversations; the full-length version of the essays and comments will be available online at the NIJ Web site (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij>).

The special edition of the *NIJ Journal* will explore three primary

policy issues as seen by well-known thinkers and experts on each topic.

All regular *NIJ Journal* subscribers will automatically receive a copy of the special edition. To become a subscriber, email [puborder@ncjrs.org](mailto:puborder@ncjrs.org) and enter “*NIJ Journal* subscription” in the subject line.

**Correction:** The October issue of the *NIJ Journal* incorrectly identified the location of “Building Data Systems for Monitoring and Responding to Violence Against Women.” It can be found in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports*, vol. 49, no. RR-11, published October 27, 2000, and it is available online in both .pdf and .html formats. Volume 49 of the MMWR can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/indrr\\_2000.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/indrr_2000.html).

## Events

### DNA Commission Holds Its Final Meeting



The National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence convened its 11th and final meeting November 19–21 in Boston. Held in conjunction with the “DNA and the Criminal Justice System” conference, cosponsored by Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, the Commission members focused on critical issues, including DNA database privacy issues, postconviction DNA testing and retesting, funding opportunities, and the relation of genetics and environment to criminality.

The opening panel for the conference, “Behavior, Genetics, and the Criminal Justice System,” addressed the concept of a gene for criminality and how it would affect the roles of responsibility and rehabilitation in the criminal justice system. The panel included Nobel Laureate James Watson, who identified the structures of DNA in 1953.

Proceedings of the meeting will be available through the Commission’s Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/dna>.

*The Future of DNA Testing: Predictions of the Research and Development Working Group* also was released at the conference. This NIJ publication describes past and present techniques used to analyze DNA and predicts improvements over the next decade, including:

*What Every Law Enforcement Officer Should Know About DNA Evidence* (already available as a brochure) is soon to be released free of charge as an interactive training program on CD-ROM. The computer-based training will provide in-depth training on identification, preservation, and collection of DNA evidence at a crime scene.

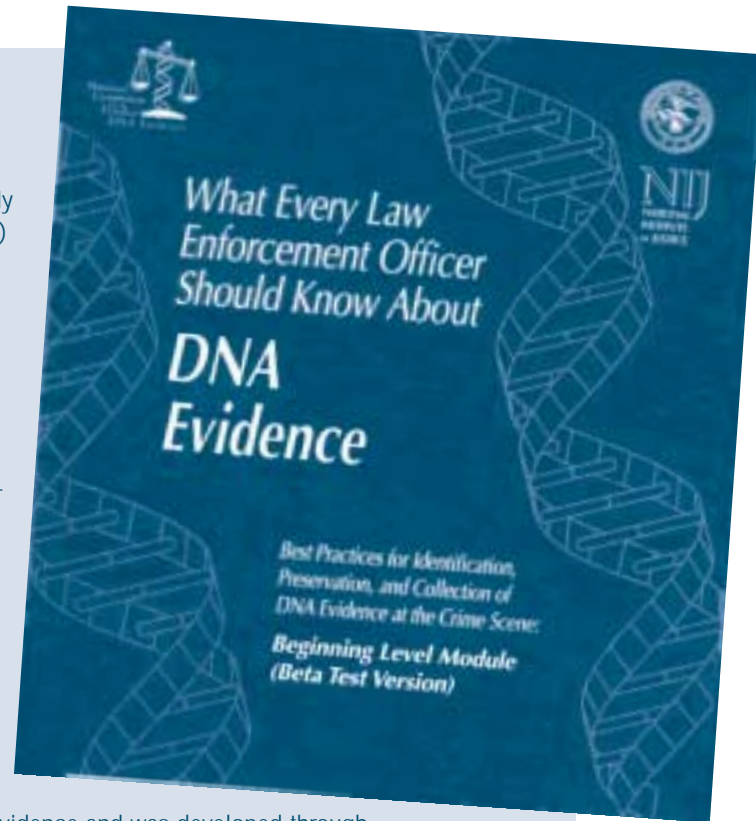
The training program was written by members of the Crime Scene Investigation Working Group of the National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence and was developed through an NIJ grant to Eastern Kentucky University and Advanced Systems Technology, Inc.

The program can be used on any desktop or laptop computer equipped with a CD player and can be used by both individual officers or in groups, such as at roll-call or in an academy training session.

The training has two modules: The first module covers basic information on identifying and preserving potential DNA evidence; the second module is a more advanced curriculum designed for the investigating officer or evidence technician who collects evidence at the crime scene.

The CD program will be available free of charge in early 2001 through the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS). Call 1–800–851–3420 for more information.

- More reliable and quicker results created through increased automation.
- Production of small, mobile computer chips which would allow officers to complete DNA testing at a crime scene.
- Improvements in the ability to analyze small and/or degraded DNA samples.
- More comprehensive DNA databases of convicted criminals.
- More accessible global information and international DNA comparisons.
- Increased number of suspects identified through DNA databases.



Former Attorney General Janet Reno established the DNA Commission in 1996 to respond to concerns in five specific areas: (1) the use of DNA in postconviction relief cases; (2) legal issues arising out of expanded use of DNA technology in DNA cases; (3) criteria for training and technical assistance for criminal

justice professionals involved in the identification, collection, and preservation of DNA evidence at the crime scene; (4) essential laboratory capabilities in the face of emerging technologies; and (5) the impact of future technological developments on the use of DNA in the criminal justice system.

To learn more about the Commission, visit its Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/dna/welcome.html>. Copies of *The Future of DNA Testing: Predictions of the Research and Development Working Group* are available from NCJRS (NCJ 183697) and at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/183697.htm>.

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## OLETC Conference Exhibits New Technologies

Advances in technology can help criminal justice practitioners stay one step ahead of criminals. To spotlight technological advances, NIJ's Office of Law Enforcement Technology Commercialization (OLETC) held the National Commercialization Conference 2000, which brought together more than 200 researchers, developers, and users to discuss new trends in technology.

The conference emphasized topics such as "Bringing New Technology into Your Agency" and "Partnering Basics," which showed the importance of partnerships and demonstrated how the commercialization process works.

In his keynote speech, Captain Donald R. Gagnon discussed the Navy's simulated training efforts as well as current projects and partnerships.

Established in 1995 and located on the campus of Wheeling Jesuit University (West Virginia), OLETC works to bring new technology and innovations to the market. Its mission is to join research and private industry activities so that affordable, market-driven technologies are

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developed, commercialized, and made available to practitioners in the field.

Technologies exhibited at the conference included:

- CruiseCam™, which combines a camera, microphone, control panel, and recording equipment into a seat (developed by Lear Corporation).
- Integrated Law Enforcement Face-Identification System, a next generation system based on a 3D framework (developed at Wheeling Jesuit University through a cooperative agreement with NIJ).

- Puncture-resistant gloves, which provide additional protection to officers who come into contact with individuals in custody (developed by Gimbel Glove Corporation).

For more information, visit the Office of Law Enforcement Technology Commercialization's Web site at <http://www.oletc.org>.



## Crime Mapping Investigates “Broken Windows”

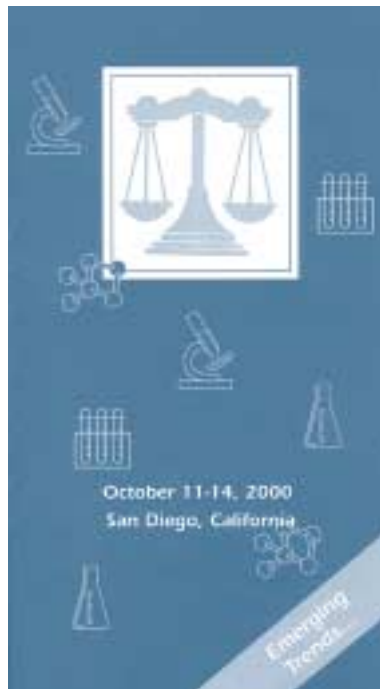
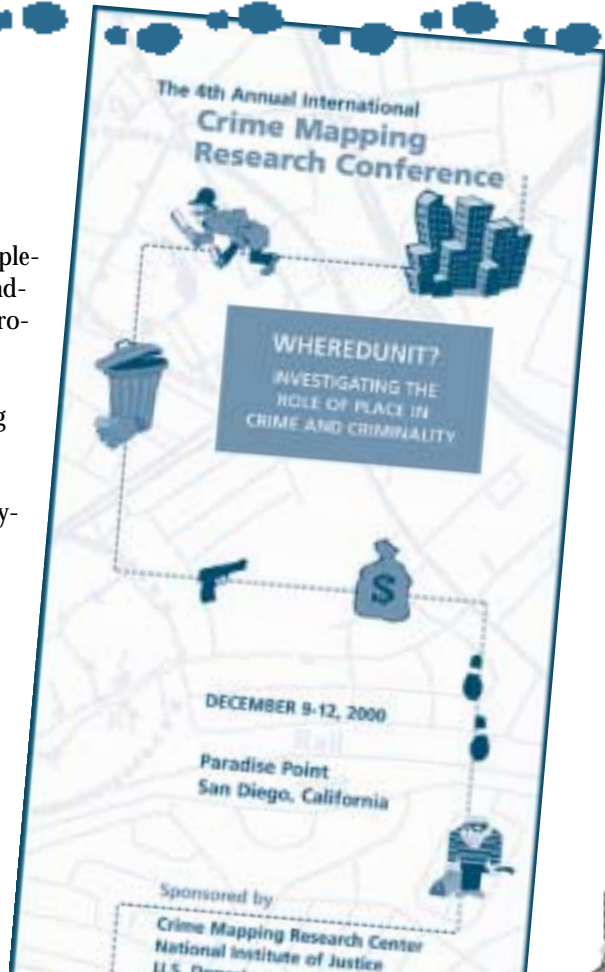
The increasing role of geographic information systems (GIS) in investigations was the focus of the fourth annual International Crime Mapping Research Conference, “Wheredunit? Investigating the Role of Place in Crime and Criminality,” sponsored by NIJ’s Crime Mapping Research Center. The conference brought together crime analysts, police officers, researchers, and criminal justice practitioners to look at several topics, including the use of GIS in school safety, multijurisdictional cases, and juvenile criminal justice.

How GIS sheds light on the “Broken Windows” theory was of major interest at the conference. Featured speaker Dr. Lawrence Sherman, Albert M. Greenfield Professor of Human Relations and Director of the Jerry Lee Center of Criminology at the University of Pennsylvania, discussed aspects of the theory in

his lecture, “Hot Spots, Broken Windows, and Tipping Points.”

The conference, which included more than 45 plenary sessions and 70 leading expert presenters, provided information on hotspotting methods, Internet-based mapping applications, advanced spatial analysis techniques, and spatial analysis tools. Victimization, corrections, and school safety were all analyzed in depth.

For more information about the crime mapping conference, visit the Crime Mapping Research Center’s Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/cmrc>.



## Courtroom Science Subject of NIJ Conference

Improving understanding among scientists, attorneys, and judges is important for the developing relationship between science and the law.

The second annual National Conference on Science and the Law, “Emerging Trends: Scientific Evidence in the Courtroom,” brought together 400 criminal justice professionals to discuss just how to improve these relationships.

The NIJ-sponsored conference fostered discussion among speakers and attendees on topics they felt would benefit from additional research, such as the use of DNA

to predict dangerousness, the challenges to the admissibility of expert testimony, and new and historically accepted scientific techniques in light of recent Supreme Court rulings.

In addition, to help attendees develop questions for future research, panel discussions included risk assessment and predictions of dangerousness, new identification procedures, and case study and forensic evidence presentation for court.

For more information about the Science and Law conference, contact Anjali Swinton, Senior Forensic Analyst, NIJ, 202-305-9076, [swinton@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:swinton@ojp.usdoj.gov). You can also visit the conference’s Web site at [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/more\\_scall.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/more_scall.htm).

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## Practice and Research Team Up at VAW Conference

A recent conference marked the first opportunity for NIJ to discuss with both researchers and practitioners findings from NIJ's violence against women and family violence research portfolio.

The conference drew almost 200 participants and promoted researcher-practitioner interaction by having practitioners serve as discussants on the various research panels.

Keynote speaker Beth Richie challenged participants to question the effectiveness of their efforts to conduct research that serves all women in all situations and populations.

Dr. Richie, associate professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, stressed the importance of conducting studies of and providing services for all kinds of women, especially those in hard-to-reach populations. In particular, she highlighted the domestic violence experiences of women in prison and women on the street, noting that these populations are the ones most often forgotten and perhaps in need of the most attention.

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For more information about NIJ's portfolio on family violence, including funding opportunities, visit the Violence Against Women and Family Violence Program's Web page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/vawprog>. For

information about other violence against women and family violence projects within the Office of Justice Programs, visit the Violence Against Women Office Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo>.

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## Top Thinkers Speak at Free Lecture Series

As part of the fifth annual "Perspectives on Crime and Justice" lecture series, NIJ has invited four of the top thinkers in the criminal justice field to speak about this year's hot topics.

The well-attended breakfast series gives policymakers a chance to talk candidly with leading thinkers in a question-and-answer session that follows each lecture.

The scholars, their topics, and dates for the 2001 series are:

- Alfred Blumstein, J. Erik Jonsson University Professor of Urban Systems and Operations

Research, H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management, Carnegie Mellon University, "Why Is Crime Falling —or Is It?" February 14, 2001.

- Laurence Steinberg, Distinguished Professor, Psychology Department, Temple University, "The Juvenile Psychopath: Fads,

Fictions, and Facts About the Identification and Treatment of Serious Juvenile Offenders,” March 20, 2001.

- Carl Bell, President and CEO, Community Mental Health Council and Foundation, Inc., “Violence Prevention 101: Implications for Policy Development,” April 20, 2001.
- Margaret Berger, Suzanne J. and Norman Miles Professor of Law,

Brooklyn Law School, “Raising the Bar: The Impact of DNA Testing on the Field of Forensics,” May 9, 2001.

This year the series moves from Capitol Hill to the JW Marriott Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue near the White House.

The lectures are free and include a continental breakfast, but because of limited space, reservations are required. For more information or

to register, visit the Institute for Law and Justice’s (ILJ) Web site at <http://nijpcs.org/upcoming/perspectives.htm>, contact ILJ at 703-684-5300, or email ILJ at [nijpcs@ilj.org](mailto:nijpcs@ilj.org).

Videotapes and the collected papers have been published for the last 3 years. Call NCJRS at 1-800-851-3420 for more information or to obtain copies of the videotapes or books.