EVIDENCE OF OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP

Note to the Reviewer: This review is organized into 6 major components as delineated in the UNF “Evaluation, Promotion and Tenure Policies” (http://www.unf.edu/groups/unffa/). They include: Section 1: Statement of Research Agenda; Section 2: Published Scholarship; Section 3: Refereed Presentations; Section 4: Funded Research; Section 5: Grant Reports and Non-Refereed Articles; and Section 6: Work In Progress.

Section 1: Statement of Research Agenda

The research agenda and scholarly activities for the past decade at UNF focused on two primary avenues. First and foremost, as a Sociologist, I concentrated the vast majority of my activities on understanding the causes and consequences of social problems facing society, with a primary focus on poverty and inequality. In particular, I have attempted to address how those problems most impact the young in society, and how my research and scholarship can better inform public policy. From this approach, I have been involved in a range of research endeavors. My primary research interests are in the areas of inequality, urban society, social problems and public policy. An examination of my vitae reveals that the bulk of the funded research I have participated in the past falls into in the areas of at risk youth, Juvenile Justice, and criminology. These research projects offer me an opportunity to integrate research on inequality, urban society and social problems with the needs of juvenile offenders and at risk youth, as well as on issues of education, healthcare, and homelessness. I am able to examine the impact of inequality and urbanization on the most disadvantaged in our society, thereby to better understand the dynamics of social problems. With this understanding, I am able to help policy makers develop solutions to serious societal problems. These projects provide important opportunities to fulfill UNF’s mission for working with the community, as well as to provide realistic classroom activities and materials for classes I teach.

Second, my training, as is true for most Ph.D.’s, was focused on the development of research skills. I specialize in quantitative design and analysis techniques such as survey research, census data analysis, and statistical analysis using computer applications. Skills in quantitative design and analysis have allowed me to pursue a very broad and diverse research agenda. In addition to my primary interests in inequality and social problems, I have undertaken research in juvenile delinquency, corrections, and alternative education programs. I have been involved in several projects addressing applying Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis, including spatial analysis of voting patterns and trends, developing models for the placement of social service provider locations, and developing models for placement of insurance agents. A major benefit of this has been the opportunity to work with a variety of community interests in developing and applying social policy, as well as to expand the influence of UNF within the community. I have been able to include a large number of graduate and undergraduate students, with a wide variety of interests, on these engaging projects.

Objective 4: The University of North Florida will increase the number and dollar value of contracts and grants, with a focus on grants for applied and basic research that include support for student research and, where appropriate, address community needs.

UNF STRATEGIC PLAN: GOAL II
Section 2: Published Scholarship and Book Reviews

Over the course of my professional career, I have been successful in developing available outlets for my scholarship and research writings. I have produced two books, three chapters in books, and have had five articles published in refereed journals. I have been active giving presentations of research findings at professional meetings. Finally, an active research agenda for persons like myself who do applied research includes producing a significant number of professional reports (which frequently are published as professional articles or books). Below I have listed my publications under these headings.

Books and Monographs. I have two book publications. My most recent major publication is *The Deserving Poor*. Published by Garland Press, this book is a revised edition of my dissertation. In late 1992, Garland solicited the manuscript for inclusion in the “Children of Poverty” series. *The Deserving Poor* was well received. *The Deserving Poor* attempted to gain a better understanding of the underlying constructs of public opinion toward the poor. The monograph *Public Opinion On Environmental Problems And Programs In Massachusetts* was published by the Social and Demographic Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts. This monograph was used by the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency for developing environmental policy within the state.

Books And Monographs


Book Chapters. In addition to books and monographs, I have been a major contributor to three (3) book chapters. While listed as a “chapter,” it is important to note that these articles actually represent “refereed” publications. Most recently, I published a chapter with Professor Henry Camp in “Charting Florida’s Future,” published by the Florida Institute for Education. This chapter was designed to inform Florida State Legislators with an understanding of the most significant issues facing the state.

In my early tenure at UNF, I published a chapter with Professor John Cochran (now at Central Florida) and Ms. Jill Garner (a former student from the University of Oklahoma) on religious affiliation and perceptions of persons with AIDS. Our chapter was selected by the editors, along with seven other articles, for the 1994 edition of *Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion*. We were selected for inclusion over a large number of other submissions.

The final chapter listed below represents earlier work conducted in public policy issues. In this article, Professor Rifkin, Dr. Lam and I examined the impact of the use of alternative dispute resolution strategies in addressing student disputes.
Book Chapters


Journal Articles. In addition to books and book chapters, I have published a number of articles in refereed Journals. These articles have been published in the primary journals in the sub-disciplinary and/or signature journal for the association. For example, the most recent journal article *TV Or Not TV* (with Owens and Camp) was published in the premier journal for the National Juvenile Justice Association. One article was published in the journal *Sociology of Religion*. This is the primary journal for the Association for the Sociology of Religion and is one of the primary Sociology of Religion journals worldwide. Sociological Analysis is one of the primary research methods oriented journals in Sociology. These articles draw on my primary interests in social problems and inequality in American society. One article is currently under review.

Articles


Section 3: Refereed Paper Presentations

The primary outlet to disseminate applied research findings has been through participation in Regional, National, and International research conferences. Virtually all of these presentations have been refereed. My paper presentations have been accepted at some of the most prestigious sociology and social science conferences. The presentations were well received.

In all, I have presented 35 papers at conferences, including 30 since arriving at UNF. Of these, 24 presentations have been made since I received promotion and tenure here. As can be seen below, many papers have included co-authorship with current and former UNF students, research center staff, and faculty colleagues. Several of my major, long-term, research projects (see below) have been the basis for multiple research presentations at conferences. Several different aspects of my research on homelessness (e.g. homelessness and health; homelessness and economic issues) have been presented at different meetings. I am on line to present three papers at conferences over the next academic year.

Refereed Conference Presentations While At UNF (Regional, National, International)


Section 4: Funded Research, Grants and Fellowships

Research Funding. The most successful aspect of my scholarship efforts over the past 10 years has been through efforts to secure research and grant funding. In all, since arriving at UNF in 1993 I have been the Principle Investigator or Co-PI on over 50 funded contracts, representing 34 separate “projects.” Overall, I have been PI or co-PI responsible for over $2.2 million in research grants and contracts, and over $3 million in training grants.

In line with the research agenda stated above, these projects represent two primary foci. First, the majority of my projects address the sociological analysis of inequality in American society, social problems (particularly vis a vis children) and public policy. Several of these research grant projects have included an analysis of inequality in the Northeast Florida region (e.g. Race Relations in Jacksonville, Status of Women and Girls, Homelessness), while a number of these efforts have included the evaluation of several juvenile justice programs (e.g. the EDIP, PIDE and Jacksonville Coalition for Prevention Program), and programs for at risk youth (e.g. Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program, PACE Center for Girls, Bridge of Northeast Florida). Major projects have also included the evaluation of health delivery programs for reducing infant mortality rates in Jacksonville (the Magnolia Project) and intervention programs for women at risk for HIV (The Azalea Project).

The second primary foci concerns projects more specifically associated with the development of research design and analysis, including evaluation research projects. These projects include prison reform (for the Florida Department of Corrections), examining the impact of drunk driving initiatives (Institute for Police Traffic Management), GIS spatial modeling (Family Support Services and State Farm projects) and domestic violence intervention programs (Hubbard House). In addition, I have worked with several other faculty to bring two training programs, the AMERICORPS project and The Florida Police Corps, to UNF.

Most important, these projects have formed the basis for inclusion of more than a dozen faculty members at UNF, scores of undergraduate and graduate student paid research assistants, and several hundred volunteers. I am currently the director of the Northeast Florida Center for Community Initiatives (founded in 1996 with professors Charles Owens and Henry Camp). At this time, CCI employs three (3) full time A&P research staff members (all of whom are former UNF students) and approximately 10 undergraduates. In addition, I am Director of Research for The Florida Center for Public Policy and Leadership (created in 2000 by Dr. Adam Herbert). My primary responsibilities with The Florida Center are to work with Faculty Fellows within the Center, as well as to recruit additional faculty, in developing and carrying out research projects through the center.
UNF Based Evaluation and Applied Research Grants
(Note: Multi-year/Award grants have been combined for space purposes)

**Race Relations Related Grants**


**Juvenile Delinquency and At Risk Youth Related Grants**


Health Care Evaluation Grants


Homeless Research Grants


Criminal Justice Evaluation Grants


**Training Grants**
Herbert, Adam H and Jeffry A. Will. *Lead Agency for the Florida Police Corps.* The Florida Center for Public Policy and Leadership, University of North Florida. Department of Justice. January 2002. (Combined program and Agency Grant -- 3 years, $3,300,000)


**Others**

**Section 5: Grant Reports, Non-refereed articles, and Non-refereed papers.**

The normal outcome of most applied research projects is the preparation of final (and often interim) reports to the funding agency sponsoring the project. While not reviewed in the normal “peer review” process, they are previewed and critiqued by agency staff. Over the past decade, individually and with other faculty, students, and staff, I have produced approximately three (3) dozen research reports. A comprehensive list of reports can be found in the accompanying Curriculum Vita. Select reports are also included in the dossier (paper as well as on C.D).

Of particular importance to the research and scholarship agenda is the outcome of the reports information and recommendations. Researchers lament that their reports, filled with important conclusions and recommendations, remain un-read on the shelves in the headquarters. While I am sure a number of reports I have produced have met a similar fate, most of the reports generated from the applied research efforts have been used to implement changes in agency policy, direction, and activities. Many reports have been used for internal review and program improvement. Reports on several of the juvenile justice programs, for example have been used to re-design applications and program components, data collection strategies, and training issues.

Other projects have resulted in dramatic changes in how agencies operate. For example, my colleagues and I worked with the Jacksonville Coalition for the Homeless for 8 years conducting the Annual Homeless Census and Survey (several years we worked as unpaid consultants, and in recent years we received small grants for the activities). Information from these reports was used by the Coalition to develop a number of research grant proposals. These proposals, based on our findings, were used to parlay funding from several national foundations, which allowed for the development of a number of programs at the I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless. Similarly, the findings from the Phase 1 of the Race Relations study for the City of Jacksonville were used by the Human Rights Commission to secure funding for the Study Circles project. Funded by the Jessie Ball duPont fund, the Study Circles program brings together diverse community residents from throughout the Jacksonville area to discuss race relations issues and develop potential efforts to alleviate disparities. In addition, these findings...
were the impetus for carrying out an on-going study to assess changes in relations over time, and were used as the primary focus for a recently completed summit on race relations in Jacksonville. Finally, the findings from the Inmate Needs, Risks and Escape Project led to the re-design of the Florida prison systems reclassification process.

Section 6: Work in Progress.

As stated above, my primary research agenda centers on addressing issues of inequality and public policy, and applied research methods. I envision that the primary thrust of my research over the next decade will continue to build on my past record of community commitment. There are several particular areas I will continue and expand. I am working with the central administration mapping out the future of the Florida Center for Public Policy and Leadership as well as the Northeast Florida Center for Community Initiatives (CCI). We have long term initiatives already in place, and are developing several long-term project proposals looking at educational reform, labor force participation, and race relations.

In addition to past efforts, I am developing a number of projects designed to integrate my interests in inequality and public policy, as well as research design, into new areas. To better understand the impact of globalization, I have worked with Tom Leonard and Jeff Steagall examining the impact of MERCOSUR (the South American free trade agreement similar to NAFTA) on member nations. In addition, I am working with colleagues from a consortium of universities in Florida, as well as researchers from Universidad de Chile and Universidad de Paraguay, to develop an on-going research agenda examining the impact of globalization on Latin American-American relations. As part of my efforts to globalize my research, I spent two 2-week sessions in a total immersion Spanish language program during 2002.

I am continuing to integrate more students (graduate and undergraduate) into research projects. It is essential that we introduce our students to the hands-on aspects and implications of social research. Through The Florida Center and CCI, I believe that these centers can provide the leadership for the University’s research efforts over the next decade.