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**Center for Research on Violence Against Women Announces
2005 Petit Research Grant Recipients**

The Center for Research on Violence Against Women today announced recipients of its 2005 petit research grant awards. Faculty in the College of Social Work and in the Department of Psychology will study legal and health-related aspects of violence against women with the help of grant funding from the Center. “The Center is strongly committed to advancing research into the health, mental health, legal and other complexities of violence against women. The petit research grant program allows us to support the efforts of accomplished faculty across UK who share that interest” said Carol E. Jordan, Director of the Center. The grants are for one year and total \$10,000 each.

The 2005 petit research grant recipients include Jonathan M. Golding, a full professor in the Department of Psychology who will study juror decision-making in cases of intimate partner violence where the victim kills the offender. The aims of the study are to measure experiences with and beliefs about intimate partner violence and to investigate the relationship between these experiences and beliefs and perceptions of jurors in cases where the primary victim kills the abusive partner. That study will be conducted as a cooperative agreement with the Center to compliment its own current study on incarcerated battered women. That study is entitled *The Influence of Gender and Victim-Type on Sentencing and Parole of Battered Women: A Secondary Data Analysis*. Its Co-Investigators are Carol E. Jordan, PI and Director of the Center; James J. Clark, Co-PI and Associate Professor in the College of Social Work; and Robert Lawson, Co-I and Professor in the College of Law.

The second 2005 petit research grant award was given to Gretchen Ely and Melanie Otis, Assistant Professors from the College of Social Work. Their study will focus on victimization experiences and the role of violence in women’s decisions regarding pregnancy termination. While studies of abortion patients indicate that a significant number have a history of abuse, the specific role of violence in abortion decisions remains unclear. For instance, no study has reported data related to the levels of violence the co-conceiving partners of women who terminate an unwanted pregnancy. In some cases, forced intercourse and inability to negotiate birth control use may result in an unplanned pregnancy, and abusers may subsequently use forced abortion as means to deal with these pregnancies. Additionally, research has yet to examine the prevalence and nature of psychosocial problems that may be experienced by abortion patients with a history of abuse. This exploratory study will contribute to the knowledge base in these areas.

This is the third year the Center has sponsored this grant program. Through its 2003 petit research grant program the Center supported projects in the College of Dentistry exploring the knowledge and attitudes of dentists regarding violence against women; in the College of Public Health analyzing violence against older women; in the College of Medicine focusing on the medical school curricula on domestic violence for internal medicine residents; and in the Department of Psychology addressing the psychological processes associated with coping with victimization. Research grants funded in 2004 include a project in the Department of Sociology studying rape victimization and fear of crime; a project in the College of Agriculture looking at poverty and domestic violence; a project on domestic violence offenders funded in the Department of Psychology; a project in the Department of Communications exploring the work of rape victim advocates; and a project in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology exploring four types of cancer and victimization in women.