

**Annual Report  
Jesuit Social Research Institute  
College of Social Sciences  
Loyola University New Orleans  
2009-10**

## **1. Executive Summary**

The Jesuit Social Research Institute (JSRI) of Loyola University was formally established as a collaborative undertaking of the New Orleans Province of the Society of Jesus and Loyola University of New Orleans through a Memorandum of Understanding signed on November 28, 2007. JSRI exists to promote research, social analysis, theological reflection, and practical strategies for improving the social and economic conditions in the Gulf South with a particular focus on issues of race, poverty, and migration. The Institute is intended to further the mission of the Society of Jesus to promote the faith that does justice, to apply Catholic social teaching to the concrete realities of these regions, and to enhance the academic and service missions of Loyola.

## **2. Unit Identification**

### **2.1 Jesuit Social Research Institute [JSRI]**

#### **2.2 General Statement**

From a tradition based upon the principles of Catholic social teaching, the research institute offers research, social analysis, theological reflection and practical strategies for improving the social and economic conditions in the five states of the Gulf South, with a particular focus on issues of poverty, race, and migration. Through fostering close collaboration with faculty, staff, and students of Loyola University—within a network of Jesuit social centers in the United States and partnering countries and links with other universities—the Jesuit Social Research Institute combines academic research, education, and social action in a new paradigm based on the union of faith and justice, the integrating factor of all works of the Society of Jesus.

**2.2.1 Staffing**—JSRI has a full-time director and two full-time research fellows and a half-time administrative assistant. During the fall and spring semesters, it has also had the service of a work-study student.

**2.2.2**—The director and the two research fellows are full-time extraordinary faculty. JSRI also has two unsalaried part-time “associates.”

**2.2.3-2.2.6**—JSRI has no undergraduate or graduate students

### 3. Assessment

**3.1 General.** Assessment within JSRI is conducted in a variety of ways. Events are assessed using feedback forms with participants. For example, in our Fall 2009 conference there were completed evaluations by 130 participants in various events of the conference.

Our research projects are assessed by the Board of Advisors of JSRI, who meet twice a year. Project proposals are submitted to the board in writing and project updates are presented at each board meeting to solicit board input and advice. Monthly staff meetings also contain assessment pieces in that work and events are discussed regularly by the members at a three-hour monthly meeting.

Assessment of our *JustSouth E-Newsletter* includes review of the number of recipients who open the newsletter, click through it, and what items they review.

**3.2 Program Goals.** Now in its third year, JSRI has not had a strategic plan with specific goals. A task force of Loyola and community representatives is engaged in a current strategic planning process to be completed by the November 2011 board meeting

In lieu of a strategic plan, the second director of JSRI, shortly after his arrival on March 1, 2009, consulted with staff individually and as a group and developed a lengthy “Proposed Way of Proceeding” to guide the work of JSRI for the next year or two. The document was a response to six key questions raised by the board at its fall 2008 meeting; and it was discussed and accepted in principle by the board at their spring 2009 meeting. Those areas were: mission (including scope and focus); making decisions and committing resources; strategies; collaboration; effectiveness; and governance and management. Among the specific goals were: a) development of a hard-copy quarterly publication; b) development of a regular e-newsletter to supplement the quarterly; c) development of a state liaison relationship for each staff member and associate to promote outreach and networking; and d) more effective advocacy. Among the effectiveness indicators to be used were:

1. Number of “hits” on web-page.
2. Number of students involved in JSRI projects, writing papers or doing projects supervised by staff, and participating in classes or attending lectures by fellows.
3. Written evaluations of talks, classes, and the annual forum events.
4. Number of publications of staff.
5. Amount of money raised for the work of JSRI.
6. Legislative “successes,” understanding that much of this work is done in coalitions where many hands and many factors produce the results.
7. Particular results from the fall conference, including education of the public, gathering scholars and practitioners, and strengthening partnerships.

**3.3 Student Learning Outcomes:** Not applicable.

**3.4 Assessment Activities:** Of 130 completed evaluations of various events, 128 participants rated events “excellent” or “good” and overwhelmingly affirmed the events’ impact on their *knowledge* of migration realities, *appreciation* of the plight of refugees, and *resolve* to learn more and become more involved. In addition, we had some word-of-mouth responses from professors quoting students who attended events and from civic community members. Staff met weekly during the conference to assess participation and to try to improve participation by posters, handouts, video displays, and personal recruiting in the campus center. JSRI also has incorporated its own lessons from the 2009 conference into planning for a conference in the fall of 2010.

**3.5 Community based learning.** Not applicable.

**3.6 Results:** Various evaluations of our 2008 and 2009 annual conferences were incorporated into the planning for the 2010 conference. Our new strategic planning process begun near the end of the 2009-10 academic year includes use of various listening groups and workgroups to assess aspects of our programs and recommend changes (e.g. communications and public relations group; young Jesuit technology group; fundraising group) as well as the work of the strategic planning task force and the advisory board.

## 4. Summary of Achievements

### 4.1 Unit as a Whole.

**New Publications.** Staff and fellows produced four editions of the new *JustSouth Quarterly* and seven editions of the new *JustSouth E-Newsletter* as concrete “deliverables” on their efforts at research, analysis, education, and advocacy focused on the five states of the Gulf South. The publications are demanding but help to keep staff focused and productive and to increase JSRI visibility on campus and beyond

**Outreach.** Staff began new “liaison” visits to Texas, Mississippi, and Florida to develop ongoing relationships with advocates, service providers, and researchers working on the issues of race, poverty, and migration. On each of the outreach visits staff gather more addresses of people to include within the JSRI network of readers.

### People on the Move Conference

Between four and five hundred folks attended one or another events during our fall conference. A report and evaluation were included *JustSouth Quarterly* and a photo collage of participants was placed on the JSRI website.

### Immigration Seminar

Fr. Tom Greene, SJ, planned and carried off an excellent weeklong seminar for leaders of Jesuit Refugee Service and Jesuit Migration Service of Latin American countries that exposed them to the realities of the U.S. immigration scene, meetings with lawyers, judges, families of detainees, detention centers and so forth in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

### Advocacy

In January 2010, the three fellows on staff met with the Director and Associate Director of the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops (LCCB) to see about ways of expanding collaboration. From that meeting staff worked on briefing papers on migration in anticipation of proposed anti-immigrant legislation, an ongoing briefing paper on payday loans, and a multi-year strategy to address the death penalty in Louisiana. Staff collaborated with the LCCB staff and other advocates in working to defeat an extremely negative anti-immigrant bill in the Louisiana House.

### Educational Presentations

Staff participated in a number of educational presentations on campus, regionally, and nationally. See JSRI in the News: (<http://www.loyno.edu/jsri/news.html>)

4.2 to 4.5 included above or not appropriate.

## **5. Budget for previous year and upcoming year's goals:**

### **5.1 FY 2008-09 salary, operating, and total budgets [actual expenditures]:**

Salary budget:	\$224,058.08
Operating budget:	306,907.97
Total budget:	306,907.97

#### **5.1.1 FY 2008-09 narrative:**

The two endowment “partners” (Loyola University and the New Orleans Jesuit Province) maintained their initial commitment to provide \$150,000 each to support JSRI. This allowed the original staffing pattern of three fellows (including the director) and a full-time administrative assistant. Additional fundraising supplied the needed balance of income.

### **5.2 FY 2009-2010 salary, operating, and total budgets [actual expenditures]:**

Salary budget:	\$186,950.08
Operating budget:	270,403.36
Total budget:	270,403.36

#### **5.2.1 FY 2009-2010 narrative**

The onset of the “great recession” induced the two endowment partners to reduce their earlier commitments to JSRI. The result was the determination to reduce staff by a half-position (administrative assistant) and employ other belt-tightening.

## 6. Planning and goals for the upcoming year

### 6.1 General Statement:

In the spring of 2010, JSRI designed its first strategic planning process with a goal of developing a three-year strategic plan. After getting the overall process set out, staff and associates spent much of the summer recruiting the team and getting all the necessary background material loaded onto *Blackboard* for ready access by the team members and the board members. The full strategic team was to meet in October 2010, followed by a November advisory board meeting.

Planning also continued for the September 11<sup>th</sup> conference on *Post-Katrina New Orleans: A Welcoming Community?*.

### 6.2 How JSRI supports the mission and strategic goals of the university

Within the College of Social Sciences, the Jesuit Social Research Institute (JSRI) was founded in 2007 to promote research, social analysis, theological reflection, and practical strategies for improving the social and economic conditions in the five Gulf South states with a particular focus on issues of race, poverty, and migration. The Institute aims to further the mission of the Society of Jesus to promote the faith that does justice, to apply Catholic social teaching to the concrete realities of this region, and to enhance the academic and service missions of Loyola.

*Loyola's Vision Statement: As a Catholic, Jesuit University, Loyola University New Orleans is an academic community dedicated to the education of the whole person. By thinking critically, acting justly students are to embody the Ignatian ideals of faith, truth, justice, and service. To meet these goals, the University will strive to become an increasingly selective university with outstanding liberal arts and sciences, professional, and graduate programs grounded in intellectual rigor and reflecting the more than 450 year Ignatian tradition.*

To further the university vision, JSRI focuses its research, education, and advocacy activities to apply Catholic social principles to transforming New Orleans and the Gulf South region. In its new publications—the *JustSouth Quarterly* and the *JustSouth E-newsletter*—and by the work of its fellows and associates, JSRI connects Loyola students, faculty, and staff, Jesuit ministries in the South, and Catholic and other regional advocates with the latest research on migration, poverty, and racism in order to foster more informed and committed action. By linking Loyola University to the network of Jesuit and other religious social centers and advocates in the United States and abroad and to other universities and research centers, JSRI strives to become a unique regional resource that combines academic research, education, and social action in a new paradigm based on the union of faith and justice, of critical thinking and just action.

The values spelled out in Loyola's 2009 Strategic Plan emphasize *intellectual rigor, an appreciation for diversity, engagement with the world, and promotion of critical thinking and just action by students, faculty, and staff*. The Plan underscores overarching

strategies that *enhance Jesuit values and enhance reputation and stature* of the university.

- Specifically, the Plan urges attention to *programs that are distinctive in subject matter and that are cross-disciplinary*—reflected in the distinct focus of JSRI on poverty, race, and migration and its method combining social analysis and theological reflection with practical responses.
- Further, the Plan stresses Loyola's *location in New Orleans, the South, and our proximity to Latin America*. JSRI's new five-state strategy and its existing connections to Jesuit networks in the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central America will further Loyola's stature in New Orleans, the South, and with wider publics. As the Plan notes, *The University has been studying such opportunities for years, and it is time to move on some opportunities. Throughout the southern region of the U.S., ours is the only Jesuit University, serving the Catholic community's higher education needs.*

### **6.3 Program Goals for the upcoming year**

To become a unique regional resource, JSRI has begun critical steps towards building its capacity and credibility *at the intersection of church, civil society, and the Gulf South*:

1. The inauguration of the *JustSouth Quarterly* in April, 2009 and its dissemination now to 700 leaders in church and charities ministries, Jesuit educational and other works, advocacy centers, academic institutions, and in the Loyola community must now be expanded to wider audiences in the region and among opinion-makers.
2. Continuation of the *JustSouth E-Newsletter*, first launched in May 2009, which is sent to 7,000 recipients, including *Quarterly* recipients and all of the faculty, staff, and students of Loyola University.
3. The fall 2010 conference on *Post-Katrina New Orleans: A welcoming community* to explore how the community welcomed back its poor, elderly, and people of color and how it has or has not welcomed the new immigrant workers who came to rebuild the city.
4. Deepening JSRI's new five-state Gulf South strategy which enlists each of the staff in a specific liaison responsibility to organizations and individuals in a state in our region for purposes of mutual education, networking, and collaboration, as well as rooting the work of the institute in local realities.
5. Presentations and training provided by staff to such diverse regional groups form the faith-community and the civic community
6. Development of important linkages for its regional migration work with the US Jesuit Conference, the Stone Center for Latin American Studies at Tulane University, Jesuit Migration Service of North and Central Latin America, the Jesuit Refugee Service of Panama, and two Central American Jesuit universities.
7. More intensive engagement of faculty in other departments and colleges by use of sabbaticals, professorships, and funded research.

**7. Appendices**

**7.1-7.2** *JustSouth Quarterly* and *JustSouth E-Newsletter* for 2010-2011:  
(<http://www.loyno.edu/publications.html>)

**7.3** Past year's activities (<http://www.loyno.edu/jsri/news.html>)