

Geographic Accessibility of Health Care in Rural Areas

Measuring the effects of geographic factors on the use of health care providers by rural Americans is the subject of a recent study completed by Dr. Wilbert Gesler, a professor of geography at UNC-Chapel Hill; Dr. Thomas Arcury, professor and research director of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Wake Forest University School of

Medicine; and Dr. John Preisser, research associate professor in the department of biostatistics at UNC-Chapel Hill. The study was funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Study Setting and Methodology

for information

on this study contact
The Center for Urban
& Regional Studies at 919-
843-9708 or email us at
urbanstudies@unc.edu.

Rural Americans are disadvantaged compared to their urban counterparts in several important ways that affect their health: they are disproportionately poorer, proportionately fewer are of working age, and they have less education (Gesler et al. 1992;

Rost et al. 2002; Auchincloss & Hadden 2002). The rural U.S. has 20% of the national population, but less than 11% of its physicians. Rural versus urban residents are more often uninsured (18.7% versus 16.3%), more likely to report being in fair or poor health, have restricted activity, and lower levels of access to a regular primary-care provider (Ricketts 1999).

One of the major problems rural dwellers face is access to care (Schur & Franco 1999; Ricketts & Savitz 1994). The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC 2001) lists several barriers to care among Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas: geographic isolation, distance-to-care,

low population density, economic conditions, scarce providers (especially specialists), and less supplemental insurance. Although access can be measured in many ways, geographic access is of primary concern in many rural areas. People who live in isolated places, relatively far from metropolitan areas or urban centers, often find it very difficult to contact health care personnel or facilities. In comparison to urban dwellers, rural residents have to travel farther to receive care and face other problems such as

continued on page 3

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 1 Geographic Accessibility of Health Care in Rural Areas
- 2 From the Director
- 4 Juvenile Structured Day and Alternative Learning Programs: Impact and Process Study
- 5 The Impact of Rehabilitation Codes on Building Rehabilitation in NJ
- 6 Faculty Fellows Update
- 11 News from CURS
- 12 Center Projects

From the Director



Sabbaticals are designed to provide professors the opportunity to update their knowledge, explore new areas and renew their enthusiasm for teaching and research. I was fortunate to have a recent sabbatical and to receive a Fulbright grant to study urban revitalization in Barcelona and I am happy to say that it accomplished all those goals. I spent six months interviewing politicians, professionals and neighborhood leaders involved in transforming the city of Barcelona from a declining industrial city to an international success story. My objective was to assess the reasons for this success and identify ideas that may be applicable to U.S. cities.

Barcelona, like any city, has its own unique history and context. So, any transference of ideas must be done with extreme caution. The one success factor that stands out among many, however, is an active and creative local government: one that is willing to think big and to develop plans that keep the public interest front and center. Barcelona's city administration has taken the lead in developing redevelopment plans that include important public amenities such as parks, community centers and affordable housing. In addition, it has been willing to make major investments in the future of the city; investments that have paid off by attracting new businesses and residents. This is not to say that the private sector has not been involved in redevelopment projects. They certainly have. But the public sector has taken the lead and the result has been miles of new public beaches, new parks — both large and small — and substantial numbers of new affordable housing units. Many cities and towns in the U.S. might benefit from exercising the type of municipal leadership exhibited by the City of Barcelona.

The articles in this issue of *CURS Update* reflect the wide range of research being conducted at CURS. The cover article addresses the important issue of making health care accessible to the residents of rural areas. A very detailed analysis of this issue in western North Carolina reveals that geographic variables, such as distance to a primary care health provider, are a significant factor in health care utilization as are several social variables including income, age, gender and ethnicity. These findings will be useful in efforts to expand health care provision in rural areas.

The second article addresses the impacts of both Juvenile Structured Day Programs and Alternative Learning Programs on program participants. These programs offer important alternatives to both at-risk youth and youth who come into contact with the criminal justice system. The results of this study find that these programs are a cost effective alternative to incarceration. The final report also contains examples of effective practices for structuring these programs.

The final article addresses the impact of building codes on the renovation of older buildings. Building renovation projects are often discouraged by codes that require renovated buildings to meet the same codes as new buildings. The state of New Jersey has adopted "smart codes" to address this problem and an evaluation of these codes finds that they have led to a substantial increase in the number of properties rehabilitated. This evaluation should lead other states to consider adopting such codes.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Rohe". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bill Rohe

Geographic Accessibility

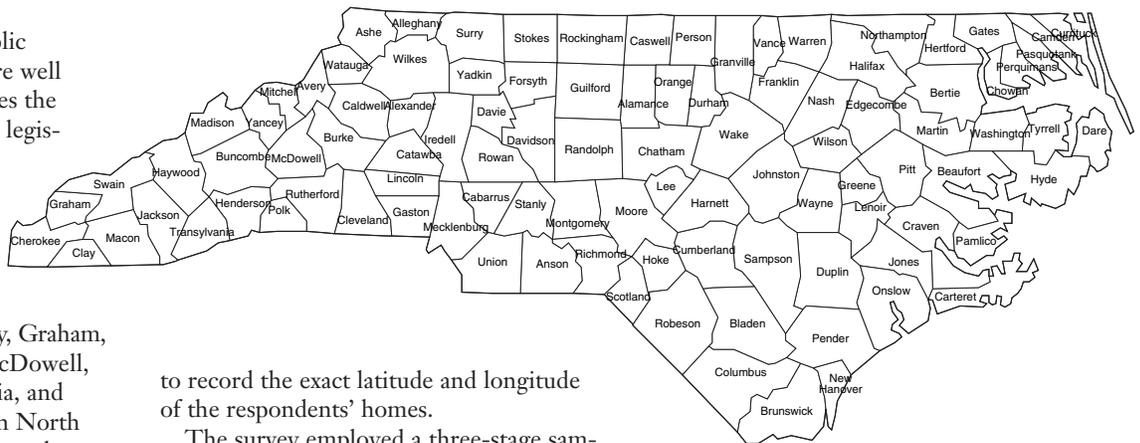
continued from page 1

poor quality roads and lack of public transportation. These problems are well known and yet their solution eludes the efforts of the U.S. Congress, state legislatures, and regional governments (Ricketts 1999).

This study was conducted in 12 rural counties in western North Carolina and is based on the analysis of 1,059 interviews with participants in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Macon, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey counties. Although western North Carolina resembles other rural areas, the region contains some of the most isolated communities in the U.S. For many residents distances to urban places of any size are relatively great, roads are treacherous due to the mountainous terrain, and travel may be difficult in inclement weather. Others, however, have access to towns and amenities, good transportation and mobility. Four-lane highways, shopping malls, and expensive summer homes are becoming common features on the landscape.

Data Collection

Trained interviewers conducted personal interviews in participants' homes. The questionnaire addressed the respondents' demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, health status, health insurance coverage, medical care options, location of health care providers, folk beliefs about health care, use of health care services, health prevention behavior, religious beliefs, location of daily activity venues, and degree of alienation. In addition to answering standard survey questions, respondents were asked to locate places in which they engaged in a series of health-related and normal day-to-day activities on a set of maps. A one-kilometer grid was placed over these maps and the coordinates of place locations were entered on the questionnaire. At the conclusion of each interview, the interviewer used a GPS unit



to record the exact latitude and longitude of the respondents' homes.

The survey employed a three-stage sampling design: census blocks within counties were sampled first, followed by households within blocks, and individuals within households. Interviews were completed in 1,060 households, including 948 non-minority and 112 black households. The overall non-weighted household response rate for all counties was 83.8%. Statisticians developed sampling weights for use in data analysis.

Results

Principal findings in the bivariate were that several geographic and spatial behavior factors were significantly related to health care utilization for regular check-up and chronic care, including having a driver's license, use of provided rides, and distance to place for regular care. In the multivariate analysis, having a driver's license and distance to place for regular care remained significant, as did several predisposing (age, gender, ethnicity), enabling (household income) and need (SF-12 physical health and mental health scores, number of chronic conditions) variables. The model indicates that, geographic measures, as predisposing and enabling factors, were related to regular check-up and chronic care, but not to acute care visits.

The authors conclude that, after demographic, social, cultural and health status factors were controlled, geographic and spatial behavior variables had

an association with utilization of health care in this rural region, but not to the degree expected. Distance to regular care was a predictor of the number of visits for regular check-up care and having a driver's license predicted use of both regular check-up and chronic care. The lack of significance of some geographic variables may be due to their interactions with non-geographic factors. These results also suggest that the type of utilization being predicted in studies of this type is important. More geographic and non-geographic variables were significantly associated with regular check-up and chronic visits which are discretionary, than they were with acute visits, which are non-discretionary. Demographic and need variables (age, gender, mental and physical health status, number of chronic conditions) related to equitable access were important, but those factors related to inequitable access (income, ethnicity, health behaviors) were also important.

These results indicate continuing inequity in rural health care utilization that should be addressed by public policies.

Juvenile Structured Day and Alternative Learning Programs: Impact and Process Study



The Center recently completed an 18-month study of 11 Juvenile Structured Day Programs (JSDPs) and Alternative Learning Programs (ALPs) for the N.C. Governor's Crime Commission. The Commission sponsored this study to learn more about the impact of JSDPs/ALPs on at-risk youth, their families and communities, and to better understand the institutional

and programmatic characteristics of these programs.

In order to examine the processes and outcomes associated with JSDPs/ALPs, the research team reviewed existing documentation on selected ALPs, and conducted primary data collection to evaluate the impact of JSDPs upon program participants. The research methods described below pertain to the data collection and analysis for the JSDPs.

The research team employed a two-stage strategy to study JSDPs. First, the Governor's Crime Commission chose eleven sites from the approximately 24 JSDPs that currently operate in the State of North Carolina, the majority started in 2000. Those programs are in cities as large as Charlotte, Greensboro, Durham, and Wilmington and in smaller, more rural

communities such as Monroe, Asheboro, Laurinburg, Mount Olive, and Wentworth. All programs work with adjudicated youths and youths on short- and long-term school suspension. The number of youths served by these programs varies from ten to 100 per day, with a median of 40 youths served.

Second, the research team chose four of the 11 sites for additional data collection. Those sites were Charlotte, Greensboro, Durham, and Wilmington. In each site a second round of interviews was conducted with program staff, and an initial set of interviews was conducted with other external stakeholders in the communities being served including: local juvenile justice officials; consultants with the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council; and local non-profits providing services in tandem with the JSDPs. Interviews were also conducted with youths attending the program. The research team also collected data on program participants including indicators of program performance, court and school records, and placement at the conclusion of the program. The initial site visits occurred during the fall of 2002, and the subsequent visits were made in 2003-2004.

The findings point to three conclusions: 1) JSDPs fill an important gap in providing community-based services to adjudicated youth and youth at-risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system; 2) JSDPs are cost-effective; and, 3) because JSDPs vary in their levels of development, to grow and prosper they will need technical and economic assistance from the State of North Carolina. Based on qualitative data from stakeholders internal and external to the JSDPs and the quantitative measures of success, the following lessons are suggested:

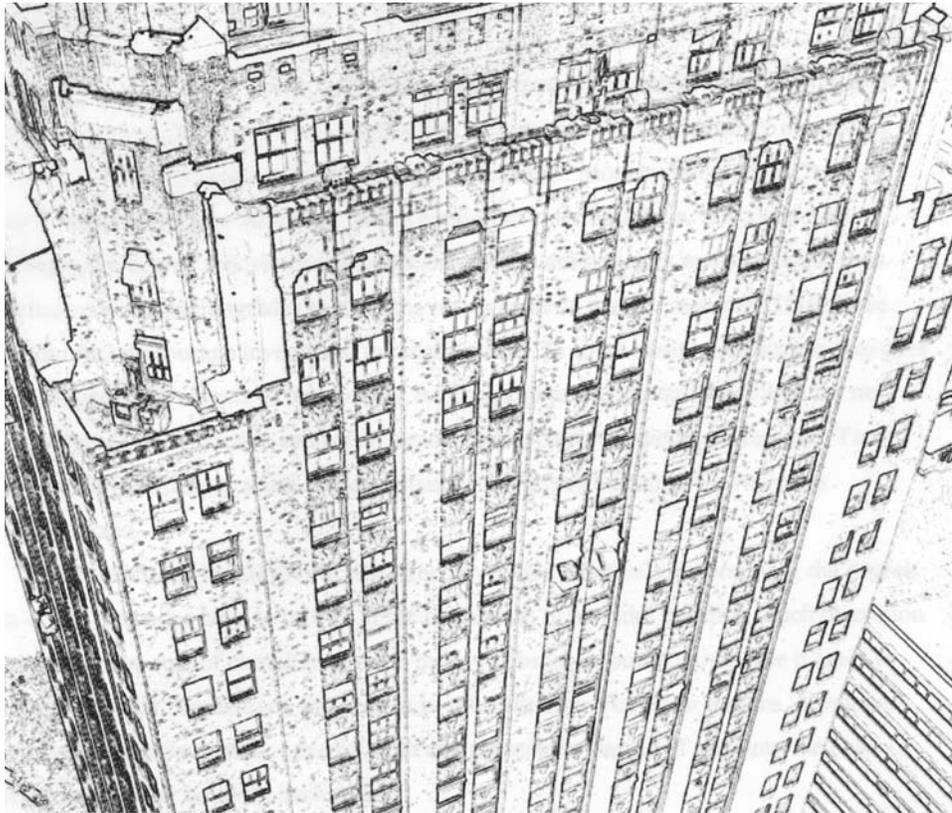
- JSDPs require more long-term and stable funding from the State of North Carolina in order for staff to be able to focus on service delivery instead of fund raising. Even in the most effective programs, a great deal of staff effort continues to be directed toward securing funds in order to keep the doors open. According to many stakeholders, there simply needs to be a more substantial commitment from the State to sustain these efforts.
- Programs report that the development of a strong "community collaborative" is essential to the planning, maintenance, and growth of a JSDP. Many stakeholders recommend advisory boards composed of local juvenile justice officials, school officials, non-profit service providers, parents, and youth who have successfully completed the program—to generate political support and to advise on program policies.
- Information sharing is critical for program success, and virtually every program has developed effective practices in the areas of behavior management, family involvement, multi-modal service delivery, the creation of tailored curriculum for short- versus long-term program stays, interpersonal development opportunities, creative education-employment internships and job training efforts that should be shared.

In summary, the study results show that JSDPs can be effective, community-based interventions that redirect youth away from further contact with the juvenile justice system and toward productive citizenship. The full report presents the results of each program as well as numerous lessons and effective practices.

for information

on this project, contact
Jim Fraser at 919-962-6835
or email him at
pavement@unc.edu.

The Impact of Rehabilitation Codes on Building Rehabilitation in New Jersey



for information

on this project contact
David Salvesen at
919-962-7045 or email him
at dsalv@email.unc.edu.

For centuries, building codes have helped protect the public from substandard building materials and slipshod construction techniques. Such codes cover everything from stair widths to ceiling heights to pipe dimensions. Most building codes, however, were designed for new buildings. When applied to older buildings, the codes often increase the cost of

renovations since modern codes are typically more stringent than earlier versions and upgrades to meet the new standards may be required. Thus, these codes often discourage investment in rehabilitation. In some cases, even simple upgrades can trigger requirements to bring entire buildings up to the standards required for new buildings—a prospect that can render renovation projects financially infeasible. The problem is particularly acute in older cities, where many buildings lie vacant or underutilized.

In addition, building officials often have wide latitude in determining the degree to

which the codes have to be met in the renovation of an older building. Such discretion may make the cost of compliance more or less affordable, but in either case it leads to uncertainty that can dampen investment in rehabilitation. Developers and building owners cannot predict, with any reasonable degree of certainty, the costs of bringing an older building back to life.

To remedy these problems, several states have adopted “smart codes” to spur the renovation of older buildings by making the building code more rational and predictable. The Center for Urban and Regional Studies

recently completed an analysis of the impact of the first of these smart codes, the New Jersey Rehabilitation Subcode, on residential rehabilitation activity. The study, led by Dr. David Salvesen at the Center along with Raymond Burby, professor of Urban and Regional Planning at UNC, and Mike Creed, a doctoral student in city and regional planning, compared rehabilitation activity in a sample of jurisdictions in New Jersey with a sample of jurisdictions from comparison areas without smart codes. The analysis revealed that the New Jersey Subcode led to an annual increase of 120 residential rehabilitation projects per jurisdiction, but that it had no discernible impact on the aggregate value of rehabilitation activity taking place. The positive effects of the rehabilitation subcode in New Jersey were markedly enhanced when localities employed a facilitative approach to code enforcement in which building inspectors used the discretion available to them to remove additional barriers to rehabilitation that can arise in individual cases, which are difficult to foresee in a uniform state code.

These findings represent the first systematic empirical evidence that smart codes are, in fact, stimulating rehabilitation activity. Although they have so far been adopted by relatively few states, if more states follow New Jersey’s lead, smart codes coupled with facilitative enforcement may bring about a marked increase in residential rehabilitation in older cities.

FACULTY Fellows UPDATE

Seventy-two faculty members from twenty-three academic departments, schools and curricula, are currently affiliated with the Center as Faculty Fellows. Collectively, the Center's Fellows have an active interest in the issues that affect our cities and regions, and they conduct extensive basic and applied research that is designed to better understand and improve communities across our state, nation and around the world. The Center provides this diverse and accomplished group with opportunities for collaboration and ongoing communication.

The Center welcomes five new Faculty Fellows:

- Michele Berger
- Martin Doyle
- Karla Slocum
- Yan Song
- Robin Visser

Michele Berger **Assistant Professor** **Curriculum in** **Women's Studies**



The manifestations of inequality provide the connective tissue to describe Dr. Berger's research interests that include women who have multiple and intersecting social stigmas—women of color, low-income women, and drug-using sex workers. Many of these women, as they learn they are HIV positive, begin to develop a public voice and political agenda based on their experience of discrimination. In her recently published book, *Workable Sisterhood: The Political Journey of Stigmatized Women with HIV/AIDS*, Dr. Berger examines the participation of former sex workers and drug users who are HIV positive and politically active. A former Robert Wood Johnston Health Policy Scholar, Dr. Berger also conducts research on the integration of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) within the health sector, the resulting individual and organizational transformations, and the use of CAM among racial and ethnic minority populations. Dr. Berger earned her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Michigan in 1998.

Martin Doyle **Assistant Professor** **Geography**



Dr. Doyle completed his Ph.D. in geomorphology in 2002 at Purdue University. His research and teaching interests include eco-hydrology, river processes, hyporheic hydrology, anthropogenic activities in watersheds and numerical modeling. Among his most recent honors and awards are the Nystrom Award (Association of American Geographers, 2004); the 2002 Chorafas Prize (Chorafas Foundation-Switzerland); the 2001 Fahnestock Award (Geological Society of America); and the 2000 Sigma Xi Dissertation Award from the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Doyle served as Visiting Scientist at the Institute for Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, New York during fall 2004.

Karla Slocum
Assistant Professor
Anthropology



As the Center's Fall 2004 Scholar in Residence, Dr. Slocum developed a proposal to research the changing meanings of race and

community among residents in several historically "all black towns" of Oklahoma. The study will explore how towns that are defined historically both by their racial composition and by their formation out of social movements for racial uplift have undergone transformations in their identities. It also will investigate how race is significant to the meaning of the towns as defined by their 21st century residents, compared to their 19th century founders. Dr. Slocum earned her Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Florida in 1996. Her teaching and research interests focus on globalization, social movements, race, anthropology and development, gender, applied and public anthropology, the Caribbean, and the U.S. Southwest. Her most recent publications include the forthcoming "Globalisation, the Nation, and Labour Struggles within St. Lucia's Banana Industry" in *Revisiting Caribbean Labour*, Constance Sutton, editor, Kingston, Jamaica: Ian Randle Publishers; and "Rethinking Global and Area Studies: Insights from Caribbeanist Anthropology," in *American Anthropologist*, volume 105, number 3.

Yan Song
Assistant Professor
City & Regional
Planning



In 2002 Dr. Song completed her Ph.D. in urban and regional planning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Song specialized in

urban economics of land use planning. Her teaching and research interests include land use planning and regulations; smart growth; economics of land use regulations; spatial analysis of urban form; physical planning and urban design; and modeling on links between the built environment and travel behavior. In addition, she has an interest in how to accommodate research in the above fields by using planning support systems such as GIS and other computer-aided tools. Dr. Song has co-authored and presented several papers including "Urban Growth in U.S. Metropolitan Areas: Quantitative Analysis of Urban Form" and "Developable Land Supplies and the Price of Single-Family Housing," both prepared for presentation at the 50th Annual North American Meeting of the Regional Science Association International 2003.

Robin Visser
Assistant Professor
Asian Studies



Dr. Robin Visser teaches Chinese language, modern literature and culture in the Curriculum in Asian Studies. She earned her Ph.D.

in 2000 from Columbia University in Chinese language and literature and has taught at Christ College (the Honors College of Valparaiso University), Columbia University and the University of Colorado. Her work in progress includes a manuscript, "The Urban Subject in the Literary and Cultural Imagination of Contemporary China," the introduction to a translation of Fang Fang's *Children of the Bitter River*, and forthcoming is "Urban Ethics: Modernity and the Morality of Everyday Life," a chapter in *Contested Modernities: Perspectives on Twentieth Century Chinese Literature*, published by Palgrave. While on sabbatical in Beijing last summer, Dr. Visser presented lectures at the 36th World Congress, International Institute of Sociology and at the International Conference, Beijing Normal University.

Recent accomplishments, projects and publications of Faculty Fellows

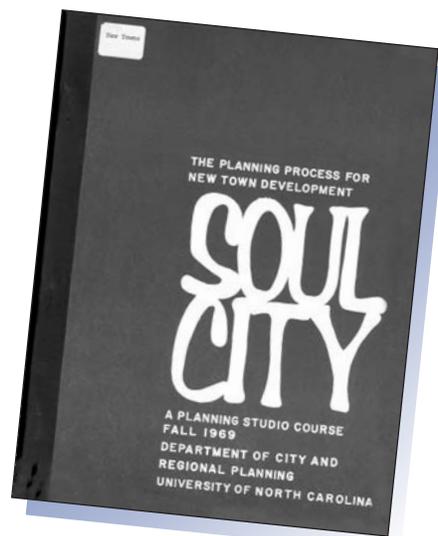
Michele Berger, assistant professor in the curriculum of Women's Studies, recently published a new work, *Workable Sisterhood: The Political Journey of Stigmatized Women with HIV/AIDS*, Princeton University Press. *Workable Sisterhood* is a study of sixteen HIV-positive women who have a history of drug use, conflict with the law, or a history of working in the sex trade. The work explores barriers of stigma in relation to political participation, and demonstrates how stigma can be effectively challenged and redirected to become community-based political participation that challenges the popular representations of "crack addicted prostitutes" and HIV-positive women as agents of social change rather than as social problems or victims. Berger argues that the women's development of a political identity is directly related to a process called "life reconstruction," a process that involves substance-abuse treatment, the recognition of gender as a salient factor in their lives, and the use of nontraditional political resources.

Thomas J. Campanella, assistant professor in City & Regional Planning, will be a Faculty Fellow of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities during spring 2005, where he will be working on a history of Soul City, N.C., the visionary new-town development conceived by black civil-rights leader Floyd McKissick in the 1970s. McKissick helped rebuild several European towns as a soldier in the Second World War, and developed a keen interest in city planning. He later applied this experience to his life dream: to establish a series of African-American new towns across the South as an alternative to migration to Northern cities. Dave Godschalk, Shirley Weiss and Harvey Gantt were among the many North Carolina planners and architects who contributed to the Soul City venture. The study has also been funded by the Center for the Study of the American South.

John B. Stephens, associate professor of public management and government at UNC's School of Government, has authored the *Guidebook to Public Dispute Resolution in North Carolina*. The work presents relevant, timely, and reliable information for anyone interested in public dispute resolution in North Carolina. Dr. Stephens discusses the benefits and limitations of using mediators in public disputes and how to determine when an impartial third party can be helpful. The guide includes: case summaries of North Carolina public dispute; guidelines for selecting an impartial third party; a directory of potential public dispute mediators and facilitators; examines the challenges of effective public participation; and an extensive resource chapter will help people interested in strengthening their mediation and facilitation skills. A related web page includes ongoing listings of case-specific information. For more information about the publication, contact Dr. Stephens at 962-5190 or via email at stephens@iogmail.iog.unc.edu. The link below will take you to the publication's web page: <https://iogpubs.iog.unc.edu/products.asp?page=newpubs>



Koleman Strumpf, associate professor, Department of Economics, participated in the fourth annual Future of Music Coalition Policy Summit, along with rock stars, recording industry lobbyists, think-tank experts and policymakers. Strumpf's research shows that the swapping of downloaded music files does not harm record sales. Dr. Strumpf also studies the economics of Internet gambling and found recently that if U.S. plunged into the Internet gambling market, they would likely win big in two ways: they would gain up to \$190 billion annually by capturing a large share of the wagers placed on offshore web sites and take about half of the \$80 billion to \$380 billion market in illegal sports betting.



FACULTY Fellows UPDATE continued

IN MEMORIAM
Frances M. Lynn
April 12, 1944 – January 18, 2005



It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to one of our beloved Faculty Fellows, Dr. Frances M. Lynn, Clinical Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, who passed away on January 18, 2005 at her home in Durham after a courageous battle with cancer. Dr. Lynn was the founder of the Environmental Resource Program (ERP), a university-based community outreach program which provided expertise on environmental and public health issues to under-served communities throughout North Carolina.

While Dr. Lynn had a long history of political activism, she maintained a strong research agenda on risk communication, particularly on how citizen organizations access and utilize scientific information to address environmental concerns. Her enthusiasm for life was contagious. We will miss her dearly.

Two Faculty Fellows Awarded College of Arts & Sciences Kauffman Fellowship

Harvey Goldstein, professor, City & Regional Planning, and Dorothy Holland, professor, anthropology, have won two of the first three Kauffman Faculty Fellowships designed to support entrepreneurial activities that enhance teaching and research. The fellowship is a component of the Carolina Entrepreneurial Initiative (CEI), a university program promoting a culture of entrepreneurship across academic disciplines to benefit students, faculty and society. Goldstein and Holland will be given research leaves during the spring 2006 semester through the Institute for the Arts & Humanities.

Dr. Goldstein will conduct a research study on changes in behavior and attitudes of higher education faculty and research staff regarding academic entrepreneurship. The study will examine the commercialization of academic discoveries and the dissemination of new ideas. In addition, he will host colloquia on academic entrepreneurship and develop a new course on the topic for both undergraduate and graduate students.

Dr. Holland will work to combine the front-line experience of social entrepreneurs from N.C. nonprofit organizations with the knowledge of university researchers. She will identify and seek to remove communication barriers between the groups and establish workshops focused on increasing the value of academic social science research for communities statewide.

If you're interested in getting up-to-the-minute news, events and publication information from The Center for Urban & Regional Studies, email us at urbanstudies@unc.edu and we'll add you to our listserv.

NEWS FROM CURS

Staff news

Spencer Cowan, Senior Research Associate, presented his findings on the economic consequences of municipal underbunding at the *Invisible Fences: Municipal Underbunding and Minority Exclusion* Conference sponsored by Center for Civil Rights at UNC Law School in November, 2004. The conference focused on the issues that arise when white-dominated political leadership of an incorporated municipality refuses to annex adjacent minority areas while exercising control over land development in those areas through the use of extra-territorial jurisdiction. Dr. Cowan has been working with the Center for Community Capitalism at the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise and Abt Associates on an evaluation of the First Accounts program, a Treasury Department initiative to explore ways to help the unbanked—those with no relationship with insured financial institutions—to open bank accounts.

Jim Fraser, Senior Research Associate, along with Jonathan Lepofsky, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, published “The Uses of Knowledge in Neighborhood Revitalization,” in *Community Development Journal* (volume 38, number 1, pages 4-13). In addition, Dr. Fraser presented “Small Cities, Urban Revitalization, and Re-Thinking Scalar Relations: The Case of a Small Southern City” at the Association of American Geography’s 2004 annual meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Fraser’s most recent work at the Center includes two projects. The first project, funded by URS and FEMA is entitled “The Importance of Place Identity in Understanding People’s Decision-Making: A Study of Repetitive Loss Properties in Urban Floodplains.” The second project is funded by the Durham Housing Authority and is entitled “Mixed-Income Housing, Poverty Alleviation, and Urban Revitalization: A Study of the Few Gardens Hope VI Initiative in Durham, North Carolina.”

Bill Rohe, Director, has recently published an article entitled “Building Social Capital through Community Development,” in the *Journal of the American Planning Association* Symposium: “Using Social Capital to Help Integrate Planning Theory, Research and Practice” (Vol. 72, Spring 2004) and an article (with Rachel Kleit) entitled “Predicting Success in Self-Sufficiency Programs” in *Housing Studies* (Vol. 20, No. 1, January 2005). He recently presented a paper entitled “Balanced Urban Revitalization: The Barcelona Experience” at the ACSP Conference in Portland, Oregon. He (with Roberto Quercia and Spencer Cowan) is currently conducting an evaluation of the Weatherization, Rehabilitation and Asset Preservation program, an 11-site demonstration program funded by the Ford Foundation.

David Salvesen, Senior Research Associate. In April 2004 David Salvesen gave a presentation on linking planning with school facility siting and moderated a panel discussion on overcoming obstacles to walkable schools to the American Planning Association’s annual conference in Washington, D.C. Closer to home Dr. Salvesen met with UNC vice chancellors Tony Waldrop and Mark Crowell to discuss whether the new Carolina North campus should include a school

site. In addition to presenting a smart growth talk at Central Carolina Community College in Pittsboro, N.C., Dr. Salvesen co-presented, along with Dr. Tom Campanella, City and Regional Planning, and graduate student, Helen Chaney, a smart growth talk in Siler City, N.C. In addition, smart growth and schools were the topic of a presentation he made to the Triangle J Council of Government at Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Carolina Transportation Program Launched at CURS

With seed funding from the College of Arts & Sciences, the Vice Chancellor’s Office, the Department of City and Regional Planning and the Center, a new program in transportation research and education has been launched. The Carolina Transportation Program (CTP) will provide a home for the transportation research already underway at UNC, will significantly expand UNC-CH’s capacity to continue cutting-edge transportation research, and to train students for careers in the transportation field.

Dr. Asad Khattak will serve as the Director of the new program and Dr. Daniel Rodriguez will play a major role in developing this new initiative. Both Khattak and Rodriguez are transportation planners in the Department of City and Regional Planning. Both have had critical roles in building the expertise of the department in this area.

The Center is recruiting for a full-time staff position to develop and market the program, seek additional sources of funding, and conduct further transportation research. For more information on this new venture contact Center Director Bill Rohe at 919-962-3077 or via email at brohe@unc.edu.



Aloha Roberto! Welcome Back Bill!

The entire CURS staff wishes to extend a warm “thank you” to Dr. Roberto Quercia who served as Interim Director of the Center while Bill Rohe was in Spain on sabbatical. Dr. Quercia is a professor in the Department of City & Regional Planning and has been closely associated with the Center as a Faculty Fellow and principal investigator on many projects for several years. Dr. Rohe, Director of the Center, spent six months in Spain, funded by a Fulbright grant, researching urban revitalization—Barcelona Style.

CENTER Projects

New research

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

An Investigation of the Ecology of Business Start-up Survival

ED FESER AND HENRY RENSKI—CO-PIs. With funding from the National Science Foundation, this project will use several complementary modeling approaches to test whether proximity to the three key sources of Marshallian externalities (labor pooling, access to specialized inputs, knowledge spillovers) have a positive influence on new business establishment survival rates. The study will also test whether the relationship between externalities and survival is a spatially stationary process using a recently developed spatial analysis technique, Geographically Weighted Regression (GWR). Using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' recently developed Longitudinal Database (LDB) as the main data source for the study, analysis will be conducted for several industries including technology-intensive manufacturing and advanced producer services. For more information contact Henry Renski at hrenski@email.unc.edu.

Regions, Industrial Dominance, and Business Success: An Inquiry into the Geography of Economic Adjustment, Flexibility and Competitiveness

HARVEY GOLDSTEIN—PI. This study investigates the relationship between a concentrated regional corporate structure—the dominance of a given regional industry by a few large firms—and regional business adaptability and performance. The research will test the hypothesis that manufacturing firms in regions in specific industries dominated by a few very large businesses are less productive, other things equal, than firms in the same industries but in regions characterized by less corporate dominance and a broader firm size distribution. The research design combines analysis of secondary data at the micro level with case study research of selected industries and regions in order to maximize the richness and validity of the findings. Contact Dr. Goldstein at 919-962-4767 or via email at hgold@email.unc.edu for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Advanced Modeling System for Assessing Long-Term Regional Development Patterns, Travel Behavior, Emissions and Air Quality

DANIEL RODRIGUEZ AND YAN SONG—CO-PIs. Funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, this research will examine whether regional development patterns, and market and non-market instruments to influence such patterns, will significantly influence localized emissions and regional air quality. The research team will determine if various development patterns implemented using economic and regulatory incentive and disincentive can result in substantially lower emissions to improve air quality, while allocating the emissions to different parts of the metro area. Development patterns of interest include the type of development (e.g., transit-oriented developments, dense developments including mixed land uses, developments supportive of non-motorized transportation modes for non-work trips) and development location (sporadic rural, bundled rural, greenfield suburban, neo-traditional suburban, conventional suburban, new urban core development, and redevelopment). The research will take place in the Charlotte, N.C. Metropolitan Area, a city selected due to its air quality problems and variations in physical, climatic, development, social, and economic factors as well as data availability. For further information contact Dr. Rodriguez at 919-962-4763 or via email at danrod@email.unc.edu. Dr. Song may be reached at 919-962-4761 or via email at ys@email.unc.edu.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Facilitating Collaboration Among School Boards, County Commissioners and Local Planners

DAVID SALVESEN—PI. Funded by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation with additional support provided by the Marion Stedman Covington Foundation, the purpose of this project is to improve the process and outcomes of school site selection by facilitating collaboration among school boards, county commissioners and local planners in North Carolina. The results of the study will come from three sets of workshops: 1) three to four collaborative planning workshops will be conducted in several communities in North Carolina to provide an opportunity for key stakeholders in school facility planning to discuss areas of mutual interest, identify opportunities for collaborations, and most importantly, to examine the links among school location decisions, local land-use regulations and the quality and character of communities; 2) workshops will be conducted in up to five communities where the school board, Board of County Commissioners and local planning director(s) have agreed to participate; and 3) a final workshop where participants will apply the knowledge gained from the preceding workshops to make the selection of a site for a new school in their community or to examine whether to renovate an existing school. To reach Dr. Salvesen call 919-962-7045 or via email at dsalv@email.unc.edu.

NATURAL HAZARDS MANAGEMENT

Mitigation Offer Study

JAMES C. FRASER—PI. Why do natural hazard victims accept or decline offers of mitigation assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)? The purpose of this research is to answer that question through conducting a controlled analytical study of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) recipient responses. There are those who reside in flood-prone areas and repeatedly lose property—homes and/or businesses—to floods. The goal of this study is to better understand the most important reasons why individuals accept or decline mitigation offers. The types of mitigation offers studied will include acquisition, relocation, and elevation projects completed under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program or the Flood Mitigation Assistance program. The information gathered and the results of the research will assist the Mitigation Division of FEMA to better implement mitigation programs and inform policymakers about obstacles and opportunities to reduce the number of repetitive loss properties. Contact Dr. James Fraser for more information at 919-962-6835 or via email at pavement@unc.edu

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Effects of New Urban Developments Compared to Conventional Low-Density Developments on Natural Hazard Mitigation

PHILIP BERKE—PI. This study, funded by the National Science Foundation, compares hazard mitigation practices used by New Urban developments as a compact urban form to conventional low-density developments. The research has four objectives: 1) identify New Urban development projects that are located in hazard prone areas in the U.S. and a control group of conventional low-density development projects; 2) determine the extent to which hazard mitigation practices are integrated into site designs for New Urban developments compared to conventional developments; 3) evaluate the influence of New Urban design, relative to the influence of local mitigation plans and implementation programs on the extent to which developments integrate natural hazard mitigation practices; and 4) draw implications from this proposed research for improving the disaster resilience of New Urban development projects by site designs, mitigation elements of local plans, and local implementation programs. For additional information on this project, contact Dr. Philip Berke at 919-962-4765 or via email at pberke@email.unc.edu.



TRANSPORTATION

Multi-Year Travel Model Research

ASAD KHATTAK—PI. Working within a new collaboration among the Triangle Regional Model Service Bureau of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, this research builds upon ongoing travel demand modeling research at the two universities. The study addresses looming resource constraints within NCDOT as staff members in the state-wide planning branch meet transportation needs of all North Carolina communities regardless of size. To simplify, streamline and standardize the travel demand modeling process the study will create guidelines for best practices for developing travel demand models and submodels for trip generation, distribution, mode choice and assignment. In addition, it will develop recommendations for sources of socioeconomic data and will undertake various kinds of validations of forecasts. These products and associated tools will help ensure that the NCDOT staff members efficiently use their time and resources to carry out their statewide transportation planning and modeling mission. For more information, contact Dr. Khattak at 919-962-4760 or via email at khattak@email.unc.edu.

CENTER Projects continued

Completed research

for information

The following research projects are now complete. Please visit our website for reports that are available as downloadable pdf files at www.unc.edu/depts/curs.

You may also order our publications from The Center for Urban & Regional Studies, Campus Box 3410, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3410. The cost of the publication includes postage and handling. Please make payment by check or money order to The Center for Urban & Regional Studies. For orders to be mailed outside the United States remittance must be in U.S. dollars payable on a United States bank.

To place an order, please call 919-843-9708 or email urbanstudies@unc.edu.

Juvenile Structured Day and Alternative Learning Programs: Impact and Process Study

JAMES C. FRASER—PI. See page 4 for a summary of this study. For more information contact Dr. James Fraser at 919-962-6835 or via email at pavement@unc.edu.

Geographic Accessibility of Health Care in Rural Areas

WIL GESLER—PI. See page 1 for a summary of this study. For more information contact Dr. Gesler at wgesler@aol.com or you may contact the Center at 919-843-9708 or via email at urbanstudies@unc.edu.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2003 Economic Development Policy Internship Program

ED FESER—PI. Working under a dual employment arrangement between the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Dr. Feser utilized his appoint-

ment as an associate professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning to recruit talented graduate students to work as interns in the NC DOC Policy Internship Program. One of his major objectives as Executive Director of the DOC's Division of Policy, Research and Strategic Planning was to help the agency utilize the expertise of the University in the areas of statistical research and economic development policy. The internship program benefited both organizations: NC DOC through access to talented graduate students with the latest training and UNC-CH through real-world experience for its students. Working directly under Dr. Feser, student interns were involved in bi-weekly seminar discussions that provided students with an opportunity to discuss their experiences and the theories and concepts of economic development generally. For more information on this project please contact Emil Malizia at 962-4759 or via email at malizia@email.unc.edu.

Comparative Regional Policy and Development in an Era of Territorial Integration

HARVEY GOLDSTEIN—PI. This project established a joint, year-long program of study in comparative U.S. and E.C. regional development policy for undergraduate and graduate students at six U.S. and European universities. The Core Certificate Module bundles direct exchange, on-site courses and specialized seminars, a continental integrative seminar, case study projects, distance learning courses, and intern-work opportunities to provide a unique curriculum for content- and cost-effective comparative learning experiences. For more information contact Dr. Goldstein at 919-962-4767 or via email at hgold@email.unc.edu.

Studies to Improve Statewide Employment Projections

HARVEY GOLDSTEIN—PI. This research supplies analyses that can be of direct assistance to states projection efforts. Supported by the ALMIS Employment Projections Consortium, Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor, it consists of three parts: 1) analysis of the variation in demographic composition of occupational employment across states, from the 2000 decennial Census; 2) evalua-

tion of the accuracy of state 2000 industry employment projections; and 3) analysis of alternative strategies for how states might develop long-term industry employment projections with changes in time-series data from the conversion to NAICS coding. Contact Dr. Goldstein at 919-962-4767 or via email at hgold@email.unc.edu.

When Technology Spillovers Are Localized: Importance of Technological and Regional Attributes

HARVEY GOLDSTEIN AND KYOJUN KOO—CO-PIs. This research examined technological and regional attributes that carry significant influence on geographical technology spillovers. Given the fact that one of the most important factors affecting regional growth is geographically transferred technology spillovers, the study mainly focuses on what kinds of technological and regional attributes affect the degree to which technology spillovers associated with new innovations are localized and how much. The study utilized the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office patent citation data and N.C. County Business Patterns file. The researchers applied the simultaneous equation modeling technique in an attempt to explain the relative importance of technological and regional attributes to the localization of technology spillovers and the importance of the degree to which externalities created by innovative activities are localized within geographical boundaries and how that is important to regional economies. For more information contact Dr. Goldstein at 919-962-4767 or via email at hgold@email.unc.edu.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Historic Preservation Training Model/Smart Growth Training Program

DAVID SALVESEN—PI. Dr. Salvesen has created a Historic Preservation Training Model as a component of the Smart Growth Training Program with a grant from the Marion Stedman Covington Foundation. The Historic Preservation module is designed to help communities better understand the importance of historic preservation by using tools necessary to convert knowledge into action. Working closely with

Preservation NC and the NC Smart Growth Alliance to identify projects and programs to include in the training module, this facet of the Smart Growth Training Program features numerous examples of successful projects and innovative programs throughout North Carolina and describes the steps communities have taken to stimulate the redevelopment of historic properties. Contact Dr. Salvesen at 919-962-7045 or via email at dsalv@email.unc.edu.

The Impact of Rehabilitation Codes on Building Rehabilitation in New Jersey and Maryland

DAVID SALVESEN—PI. See page 5 for a summary article on this study. For more information contact Dr. Salvesen at 919-962-7045 or you may email him at dsalv@email.unc.edu.

A Study of the Impact of Homeownership on Opportunity for Low- and Moderate-Income Households

WILLIAM ROHE AND SHANNON VAN ZANDT—CO-PIs. Urban and social policies based on the purported benefits of homeownership have assumed that the benefits of homeownership are available to all households, regardless of income. In fact, many of these policies use the promotion of homeownership as a tool for revitalizing distressed communities and helping households build wealth and improve living conditions. In addition, an analysis of the previous literature on the benefits and costs of homeownership suggests that homeownership leads to desirable outcomes only under specific conditions for specific socio-demographic groups. Previous research on the benefits of homeownership does not test to see whether any of the benefits found apply to the relatively small group of low- and moderate-income homeowner. By targeting low- and moderate-income households interested in homeownership, this study examined and identified the mechanisms by which homeownership and neighborhood characteristics impact both objective and subjective measures of opportunity for this group. For more information contact Shannon Van Zandt at vanzandt@email.unc.edu.

Type 2 Diabetes: Ethnic Variation in Knowledge and Beliefs

ANNE SKELLY—PI. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, this research shows what people who have not been diagnosed with diabetes, but who are at relatively high risk of developing the disease, know about it and where they might be willing to go to receive information about prevention. The target population of the research included working poor Latinos, African-Americans, and European Americans between the ages of 18 and 50 residing in Siler City, North Carolina, a small, rural town. Investigators found that for many Latinos strong emotions were thought to be a cause of diabetes and that older women were more likely to suggest that being overweight is not a cause for diabetes than were younger women and men. A common belief among African-Americans was that an increased consumption of sugar caused diabetes. Data on the characteristics of participants was used to create a set of potential diabetes prevention intervention sites for each ethnic-gender group. For more information contact Dr. Anne Skelly at 966-3612 or via email at askelly@email.unc.edu.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Water Quality and Quantity Impacts of Urban Form: A Comparative Analysis of Compact and Low-density Development

PHILIP BERKE—PI. Funded by the North Carolina Water Resource Research Institute, the objectives of this research are three-fold: 1) to provide guidance to state and local planners and public officials on how land-use planning and urban design can be used to maintain or restore watershed storage capacity for storm water runoff. Protection of key open spaces in watersheds is needed for water storage, filtration, and groundwater recharge; 2) to provide guidance to state and local planners and public officials on how land-use planning and urban design can be used as part of a comprehensive approach to reduce non-point pollution from storm water runoff; and 3) to identify how land-use planning and urban design techniques can be used to implement more environmentally sustainable development designs in ways that mitigate storm water run-off impacts. For

additional information contact Dr. Berke at 919-967-4765 or via email at pberke@email.unc.edu.

TRANSPORTATION

Evaluation of the Accessibility Effects and Noise-related Externalities of an Exclusive Bus Way

DANIEL RODRIGUEZ—PI. By estimating spatial hedonic price functions, this study determines the extent to which accessibility benefits and proximity-related lack of amenities of a bus rapid transit (BRT) in Bogota, Colombia are capitalized into land values. Based on a comprehensive literature review, this is the first empirical study in recent decades that consistently estimates evidence regarding the nature and magnitude of accessibility and proximity-related impacts of BRTs. Such evidence has a wide range of practical applications, from determining the usefulness of innovative land-based tax instruments that hinge on the capitalization of positive bus way effects, to informing policymakers about the land development consequences of transportation infrastructure alternatives. Contact Dr. Rodriguez at 919-962-4763 or via email at danrod@email.unc.edu.

A Proposal to Develop Case-based Reasoning and Expert Systems for ITS Decision-making

ASAD KHATTAK—PI. Funded by the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California at Berkeley, this study is composed of two parts: the enhancement of ITS decision quality by the addition of new topics and an update of the existing content, and the addition of decision support tools—case-based reasoning and expert systems. The report describes the ways in which ITS Decision has been enhanced. It includes methods used in user surveys and the results; development of the ITS case base; development of the expert system and case-based reasoning and how these were linked to the ITS Decision website. The report also analyzes the value of developing such systems for other ITS actions and makes recommendations and prioritizes other ITS actions to which methods are applied. Dr. Khattak may be reached at 919-962-4760 or via email at khattak@email.unc.edu.

AbouttheCenter

The Center for Urban & Regional Studies (The Center) in the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is a multi-disciplinary research center focusing on issues and problems faced by our nation's cities and regions. Created in 1957, it is one of the oldest university-based research centers of its kind in the country. The Center supports research activity across campus through its Faculty Fellows program, supporting and drawing on the expertise of 72 faculty members from 23 schools, departments and curricula across the campus. The Center's mission is to promote and support high-quality basic and applied research on planning and policy issues. It is uniquely situated to support the interdisciplinary research required to tackle the complex challenges faced in urban, regional and rural settings alike.

STUDENTS AT CURS

Erik Apinis

Master's Degree Candidate
City & Regional Planning

Lisa Bates

PhD Candidate
City & Regional Planning

Austin Brown

Master's Degree Candidate
City & Regional Planning

Zewdi Demissie

PhD Candidate
Epidemiology

Katherine Henderson

Master's Degree Candidate
City & Regional Planning

Adena Messinger

Master's Degree Candidate
City & Regional Planning

Allen Serkin

Master's Degree Candidate
City & Regional Planning

Bynum Walter

Master's Degree Candidate
City & Regional Planning

Christopher Warren

Master's Degree Candidate
City & Regional Planning

Lindsey Withrow

Master's Degree Candidate
City & Regional Planning



Phone: (919) 962-3074

Fax: (919) 962-2518

Website: www.unc.edu/depts/curs

Email: urbanstudies@unc.edu



Printed on recycled paper

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 177
Chapel Hill, NC

The Center for Urban and Regional Studies
Hickerson House, Campus Box 3410
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3410

STAFF

Director

Bill Rohe

Associate Director

Mary Beth Powell

Smart Growth / New Economy Program

Director

David Salvesen

Senior Research Associate

James Fraser

Senior Research Associate

Spencer Cowan

Senior Research Associate

Brian Morton

Senior Research Associate

Shannon Van Zandt

Research Associate

Danny de Vries

Grants Manager

Holly McPherson

Newsletter Editor/Publications

Debra Hill

Accounting Technician

Natasha Rude

Processing Assistant

Linda Comer

CURS UPDATE is published bi-annually by The Center for Urban and Regional Studies at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. We welcome your ideas and comments. Please contact the Editor, Debra Hill at urbanstudies@email.unc.edu or by phone at (919) 843-9708.