



CURL NEWSLETTER

CENTER FOR URBAN RESEARCH & LEARNING

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HOMELESS OVER 50: THE GRAYING OF CHICAGO'S HOMELESS POPULATION



Starting in January of 2007, *Homeless Over 50* was a 2-year collaborative study of homeless people aged 50 to 64 in Chicago between Loyola University Chicago's Center for Urban Research and Learning and the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness. The study had three goals: To obtain a demographic profile of people who are homeless in Chicago and are between the ages of 50 and 64; to understand how the various systems designed to serve this population do and do not meet their needs; and to begin to suggest a range of policy and programmatic responses to meet the needs of this population. Information for this research was gathered from a variety of sources: archival survey data from the 2001 Illinois Regional

Roundtable study; homeless agencies administrative data; focus groups with individuals who were homeless; life histories of homeless individuals; and interviews with providers. The broad range of data, both quantitative and qualitative, and from differing perspectives, allowed the researchers to explore the complexity of experiences facing older homeless individuals.

One of the most surprising findings from the study is that a majority of people aged 50-64 in the Roundtable study became homeless for the first time in middle age. The median age for first homelessness was 47. A second key finding is that the number of people who are homeless in Chicago between the ages of 50 and 65 increased between 2001 and 2006. A broad range of homeless service agencies saw, in total, a 26% increase in the older individuals they were serving. The study found that a sizable portion (possibly 40%) of this population have the will, ability, and work history to become employed, but are hampered from obtaining employment. Conversely, the employment prospects for the remaining 60% of individuals are very limited. We found that many have one or more factors, such as chronic illness, that limit their ability to hold employment. Finally, safety net social welfare programs fail this population. The meager safety net programs in place for single adults such as Earnfare target individuals younger than 48, and most programs for seniors cannot be accessed until 62 (housing) and 65 (SSI).

To date, the findings from this study have been disseminated through a large press conference in Chicago, a Chicago Public Radio interview with the Director of the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness, a journal article in *Research in the Sociology of Health Care*, and presentations at three professional conferences. The study has also been featured in articles in a number of local newspapers.

The complete report is available on CURL's website publication page: http://luc.edu/curl/pdfs/final_report_aging_homeless.pdf

-Dennis Watson

Now starting its fourteenth year, the Center for Urban Research and Learning has become one of the more prominent community-engaged research centers in the United States. This is the outcome of the collective work of more than 300 faculty, graduate fellows, undergraduate fellows, CURL staff, and community partners. Last year alone, CURL completed 65,000 hours of research work on more than 15 projects around the city and suburbs.

The impact of CURL's research on public policy and the development of more effective community organization initiatives has been matched by the education "outside of the box" that we provide to undergraduate and graduate students. As the importance of civic engagement is highlighted in higher education, CURL is proud of its contributions at Loyola and, more broadly, to national and international networks.

The current issues facing our nation, our city, and our communities are not abstractions to CURL researchers and our community partners. While the crisis of home foreclosures has hit the headlines in recent months, the issue has been a familiar one to CURL researchers for a number of years. With the Center's focus on low-income communities, disinvested neighborhoods, and other communities excluded from the prosperity enjoyed in some sectors of our society, we saw the human impacts of these crises in communities seeking equitable and sustainable development.

Our work focuses on *solutions* to these problems. As noted in this newsletter, our collaborative university-community projects have made positive contributions to the broader community around our university. At the 2000 Conference on the Commitment to Justice in American Jesuit Higher Education, Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., then Superior General of the Society of Jesus, outlined his vision of a Jesuit research university:

To make sure that the real concerns of the poor find their place in research, faculty members need an organic collaborating with those in the Church and in society who work among and for the poor and actively seek justice. They should be involved together in all aspects: presence among the poor, designing the research, gathering the data, thinking through problems, planning and action, doing evaluation and theological reflection. In each Jesuit Province where our universities are found, the faculty's privileged working relationships should be with the projects of the Jesuit social apostolate—on issues such as poverty and exclusion, housing, [and] AIDS.¹

CURL continues to work in the spirit of Father Kolvenbach's vision.

-Phil Nyden

¹Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., "The Service of Faith and the Promotion of Justice in American Jesuit Higher Education," speech presented at the Conference on Commitment to Social Justice in Jesuit Higher Education, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California, October 2000 (p. 8).

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CHICAGO'S CHANGING HOUSING LANDSCAPE

A CURL report published two years ago, *One and a Half Decades of Apartment Loss and Condominium Growth*, suggested that the condominium conversion boom was eroding the supply of more affordable rental housing stock in the city of Chicago. Now that the housing boom has collapsed and new attention is being paid to the need for more rental housing, the concerns underscored by the May 2007 report are as important as ever. The excessive focus on homeownership was a significant factor contributing to the loss of rental units and the increase of condominium units for sale.

In some cases these trends were the result of direct conversion of rental buildings to condominium properties. The report found that between 1989 and 2004 the number of condominium units increased by 142 percent, adding 102,408 units in 5,000 new or converted condo buildings. At the same time, an estimated 97,000 rental units were lost in the city.

Partners on the 2007 report were the Logan Square Neighborhood Organization (LSNA) and the Organization of the NorthEast (ONE), community-based organizations concerned about the decline in affordable housing in the city. LSNA and ONE were among the organizations successfully lobbying for 2007 Affordable Requirements Ordinance passed by Chicago City Council. The law requires that affordable housing units (or payments to the city for support of off-site affordable housing) be included in most new condominium developments receiving city subsidies or zoning variances.

Although the report was not suggesting a housing collapse was imminent, it did underscore the dangers of a lopsided housing landscape where high-priced units are built and affordable housing is lost. Two years later the importance of a balanced housing stock and the dangers of speculation are more apparent than ever.

The report, co-authored by CURL staff researcher Julie Davis and Business School professor David Merriman (now at the University of Illinois Chicago), is available on CURL's website publication page: www.luc.edu/curl/pubs/pdf/buildingstock.pdf.

-Phil Nyden & Julie Davis



Urban Studies Seminar students listening to Teresa Neuman, Organization of the Northeast organizer, during a tour of Uptown in Fall 2008.



Concerns with the loss of affordable housing have prompted tensions between current and new residents in Humboldt Park.

CONNECTING FRACTURED LIVES TO A FRAGMENTED SYSTEM: A PROCESS EVALUATION OF THE CHICAGO HOUSING FOR HEALTH PARTNERSHIP (CHHP)

The homeless in Chicago often have to manage many complicated systems to secure housing and to address their health care needs. The Chicago Housing for Health Partnership (CHHP) is a collaborative of health care, respite, and housing providers working to provide a seamless transition from 1) identification of homeless status and 2) hospital discharge planning to 3) transitional housing and then 4) permanent housing for its service population. This is done through the coordination of intensive case management and provider resources under the leadership of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC), CHHP's lead agency. CHHP funnels its funds and its clients through a centralized structure managed by its lead agency, and then redistributes those funds and refers their clients to partnering agencies, forming what they refer to as a Systems Integration Team (SIT).

CHHP designed a demonstration project with an experimental design to 1) test the project's impact on its clients and 2) perform a cost-benefit analysis of health care usage. The Center for Urban Research and Learning at Loyola University Chicago (CURL) was commissioned by The AIDS Foundation of Chicago to conduct a process evaluation, analyzing the strengths and challenges of the CHHP system. CURL's year-long examination of the CHHP system examined its participants, and stake holders—agency heads, program directors, case managers, CHHP/lead agency staff.

The evaluation revealed CHHP's success on various levels, reported by clients and service providers alike. The key strength of this project is its strong lead agency's coordination of resources, expertise, planning, and communication. CHHP's flexible system allowed efficient resource allocation, expedient administrative problem solving and efficacious client service. Given the breadth of skills and experience from the diverse partnering agencies, CHHP was able to creatively approach service provision. Also, their commitment to the housing first model anchored its activities in the course of their mission. CHHP's successes, coupled with Chicago's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and the recent findings in homelessness interventions, promise strong homelessness reduction and city planning implications in Chicago and beyond.

The report, co-authored by CURL faculty researcher Christine George, Loyola University Department of Sociology Faculty Anne Figert, and CURL staff members Jennifer Nargang Chernega and Sarah Stawiski, is available on CURL's web site publication page: The full report is available at <http://luc.edu/curl/pdfs/cchp2.pdf>

-Christine George



OTHER ONGOING OR RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

EVALUATION OF CHICAGO'S PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

CURL is the lead research organization working with the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness to conduct a multi-year study to include a longitudinal study of homeless individuals as they navigate the homelessness system. Research methodologies will include a review of the organizational level use of administrative data, interviews, and focus groups. Project outcomes would hopefully be used as tool to inform policy. \$700,000 in funding from more than five foundations has been received to support this two-year study. Researchers from University of Chicago also participate in the project.

-Christine George



THE IMPACT OF WAL-MART ON LOCAL BUSINESSES

Much social science research, applied or otherwise, has focused on the economic impact of big box retail stores on local economies and the social organization of the communities in which they are situated. Wal-Mart, America's largest big box retailer, has been studied extensively, and its influence on local economies has been hotly contested in the media and among community activists and academics. Its impact, however, has to date been understood as a suburban/small town phenomenon. In September of 2006, however, Wal-Mart opened its doors in the Austin neighborhood on Chicago's West side. This Wal-Mart store is one of two stores to operate within the limits of a large city, the other is in Los Angeles. Accordingly, its impact on the local urban economy and neighborhood social networks is uncertain.

The Center for Urban Research and Learning, in collaboration with researchers at University Illinois at Chicago, is currently conducting a three-year study of the economic impact of Wal-Mart on small businesses on the west side of Chicago and its nearby western suburbs. Assessments will be based on retail surveys and available employment, revenue, property tax and sales data. This study will be the first empirical evaluation of a big box retailer operating within a large urban area.

An interim report, released April 2008 after the second year of the project, can be found on our website at: http://www.luc.edu/curl/pdfs/Wal-Mart_Final_Report.pdf. The project has been generously funded by a grant from The Woods Foundation of Chicago. For more information, please contact Julie Davis, University: Community Research Coordinator at jdavi14@luc.edu or 312.915.7529.

-Julie Davis

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FOOTPRINTS: WOMEN IN PROSTITUTION

The Center for Urban Research and Learning and Footprints, an HIV/AIDS and substance abuse prevention program operated by the Christian Community Health Centers (CCHC), have partnered to evaluate the Women in Prostitution Project. Footprints provides outreach and social services to women arrested with misdemeanor charges for prostitution in Cook County, Illinois in an effort to reduce the rate of infectious disease, drug use, relapse and recidivism. The CURL research team conducted an evaluation of the program's outreach and social services, examining the women's pre- and post-intervention knowledge of sexual and drug abuse behavior and HIV/AIDS prevention.

This project was generously funded by the Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

For more information, contact Julie Hilvers, University:Community Research Coordinator at jhilver@luc.edu or 312.915.8622

-Julie Hilvers

EFFECTS OF GENTRIFICATION ON THE LATE-STAGE DIAGNOSIS OF BREAST CANCER

CURL recently completed a series of focus groups as part of an ongoing project with researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). A study done at UIC uncovered a relationship between gentrification and breast cancer, finding that low-income women of color living in gentrifying communities between 1990 and 2000 had significantly higher rates of late-stage breast cancer diagnosis than women living in communities that remained poor or had experienced decline.

UIC expressed particular interest in working with CURL to complete the focus groups for this project due to CURL's past work on gentrification in Chicago and our strong connections with relevant community organizations. The focus groups were generously funded through a grant from the Chicago Center of Excellence in Health Promotion Economics.

For more information contact Julie Davis, University: Community Research Coordinator: jdavi14@luc.edu or 312.915.7529.

-Julie Davis

EVALUATION OF NEW HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION CALL CENTER

CURL and Catholic Charities have developed a research partnership to evaluate Catholic Charities Homelessness Prevention Call Center. The Call Center is a homelessness prevention initiative of Chicago's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Launched in January 2007, the Call Center directs individuals identified as being at risk for homelessness to appropriate short-term funding agencies and other social services as deemed appropriate. CURL and Catholic Charities will conduct a process evaluation of the Call Center's daily operations, the experience of callers through the Call Center system, the efficiency level of Call Center policies, and system best practices. This evaluation will inform future Call Center planning and programming.

-Julie Hilvers

For a complete list of current and on-going projects, please visit <http://www.luc.edu/curl>

GATEWAYS: CURL'S NEW INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

CURL and UTS Shopfront at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) Australia have launched a jointly managed and edited online peer-reviewed journal, *Gateways*. The e-journal focuses on the practice and processes of community engagement and collaborative community-based participatory research. The number of subscribers is already approaching 1000. The journal provides a publishing outlet and forum for scholars and policy makers from around the globe focusing on community-engaged research and its impact and local-level issues.

Gateways is among the first international journals to use the internet as a way of linking local initiatives with each other as a way of sharing findings and encouraging more international collaboration among community-based researchers. As the world of scholarly publishing undergoes changes in the next few years, this electronic format allows for the use of photographs, video-clips, and other web-based media in scholarly work.

There are both peer-reviewed and non-peer reviewed sections in the journal. Academics and community-based activists alike are encouraged to submit journal articles. The first issue is available on-line at: <http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/ojs/index.php/ijcre/index>. The same site provides options to register as a subscriber. Subscriptions are available at no cost. The Loyola University Graduate School as well as UTS Press provided support to get this journal up and running.

-Reuben Miller

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Rhodes, J., Wilk, E., Wien, C. & Wood, L. (2009, April). The Effects of Structural Change on Older Homeless People: Forty Years of Social Change and Public Policy in Chicago. Poster session presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Des Moines, IA.

In a study conducted by Loyola University's Center for Urban Research and Learning, they found that the population aged 50- 65 is having much more difficulties finding and keeping housing than those in other age brackets. Contributing to these findings, students analyzed forty years of public policy in Chicago and it's relation to the aging homeless population.

They found six major categories of policies that had an effect on the homeless population: criminal policy, safety net policy, job movement, housing, transportation, and mental health. The combination of these policies maintains a structure in which it is difficult for the aging population to combat homelessness. The students compiled this information to a timeline to show the progression of policies and the structural change within our political system over time.

George, Christine, Susan Grossman, Marta Lundy. Analysis of Shelter Utilization by Victims of Domestic Violence. Presentation at the Center for Urban Research & Learning for the Domestic Violence Board of The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Chicago, Illinois. August, 2009.

Funded by the Illinois Criminal Justice Authority Loyola researchers in collaboration with the City of Chicago Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence (MODV) are studying the dynamics of shelter utilization and how it relates to the process of and readiness for change among women who are victims of domestic violence.

This study will also be featured in a presentation at an upcoming city wide conference in the Fall. Details are to come.

George, Christine. *Connecting Fractured Lives to a Fragmented System: Chicago Housing for Health Partnership* (co authored with Anne Figert, Jennifer Nargang Chernega, Sarah Stawiski, & Arturo Valdivia Bendixen.) 2008. *Research Opportunities International*. 27:2, 161-180.

George, Christine and Dennis P. Watson. "The Aging of the Homeless Population." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Baltimore, Maryland, May, 2008.

George, Christine. "Identity of the Older Homelessness." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, New York, New York. August, 2008.

Watson, Dennis P., Christine George, and Christopher Walker. (2008). "Falling Through the Cracks: Health Care Needs of the Older Homeless Population and Their Implications." In J.J. Kronenfeld (ed.), *Care for Major Health Problems and Population Health Concerns: Impacts on Patients, Providers and Policy. Research in the Sociology of Health Care*, Volume 26: 187-204. JAI Press: Bingley, UK.

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PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

George, Christine. *Connecting Fractured Lives to a Fragmented System: Chicago Housing for Health Partnership* (co authored with Anne Figert, Jennifer Nargang Chernega, Sarah Stawiski, & Arturo Valdivia Bendixen.) 2008. *Research Opportunities International*. 27:2, 161-180.

George, Christine and Dennis P. Watson. "The Aging of the Homeless Population." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Baltimore, Maryland, May, 2008.

George, Christine. "Identity of the Older Homelessness." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, New York, New York. August, 2008.

This is a report of a 2-year collaborative study of homeless people aged 50 to 64 in Chicago between Loyola University Center for Urban Research and Learning and the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness. This study had three goals: To obtain a demographic profile of people who are homeless in Chicago and are between the ages of 50 and 64; to understand how the various systems designed to serve this population do and do not meet their needs; and to begin to suggest a range of policy and programmatic responses to meet the needs of this population. Information for this research was gathered using a broad range of data, both quantitative and qualitative, that allowed the researchers to explore the complexity of experiences facing older homeless individuals.

One of the most surprising findings from the study is that a majority of people aged 50-64 in the Roundtable study became homeless for the first time in middle age. The median age for first homelessness was 47. A second key finding is that the number of people who are homeless in Chicago between the ages of 50 and 65 increased between 2001 and 2006. A broad range of homeless service agencies saw, in total, a 26% increase in the older individuals they were serving. The study found that a sizable portion (possibly 40%) of this population have the will, ability, and work history to become employed, but are hampered from obtaining employment. There are three likely reasons for this: 1) a mismatch of their skills to the job market; 2) the decrease of jobs paying a living wage and 3) ageism in the employment market. Conversely, the employment prospects for the remaining 60% of individuals are very limited. We found that many have one or more factors, such as chronic illness, that limit their ability to hold employment. Finally, safety net social welfare programs fail this population. The meager safety net programs in place for single adults such as Earnfare target individuals younger than 48, and most programs for seniors cannot be accessed until 62 (housing) and 65 (SSI).

Nyden, Philip. "Documenting Impacts: Engaged Research Centers and Community Change," in Fitzgerald, H.E., Burack, C., and Seifer, S., eds. *Handbook of Engaged Scholarship: The Contemporary Landscape*. Vol 2., *Community Campus Partnerships*. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, Forthcoming.

Nyden, Philip. "Resident Voice in Housing Policy Decisions," Presentation at the University of Western Sydney, Bankstown, Australia, October 1, 2008

Nyden, Philip, Eileen Rollerson, Jennifer Nargang Chernega, and Dennericka Brooks, "Who Do We Serve? Non-profit Responses to Gentrification," Paper presented at annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association (UAA), April 2008, Baltimore.

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PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

Watson, Dennis P. 2008. "Changing Beliefs and Attitudes Towards Recovery: Evaluation of a Harm Reduction Training Assistance Program." (Work in Progress Presentation). Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Annual Meeting.

The Midwest Harm Reduction Institute of Heartland Alliance received a three year grant from the Prince Charitable Trust provide technical assistance for interested community based organizations that provide housing and are seeking to move from an abstinence only to a harm reduction based service model. Heartland has asked CURL to conduct an evaluation of their training efforts to date in order to help them: (1) develop a training and implementation manual that can be used by other agencies seeking to make similar transitions; (2) understand the impact of harm reduction training and implementation on two agencies they are providing assistance to; (3) understand how harm reduction works within the agencies; (4) develop policy suggestions related to harm reduction at organizational, local, and national levels.

Davis, J.L., Merriman, D., Samayoa, L. (2008, April). An Interim Report on the Empirical Evaluation of the Economic Development Impact of Chicago's West Side Wal-Mart. Paper presented at the Urban Affairs Association 38th Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MA.

Wal-Mart has more employees than any other private US firm and is the largest retailer in the country. Wal-Mart has had a significant effect on productivity in the retail sector which has seen a rapid decline in small stores. We study some of the economic impacts of a new Wal-Mart store that opened in a lower income neighborhood on Chicago's west side in September 2006. This is the first Wal-Mart in Chicago and one of the few in a dense urban area anywhere in the U.S. While the impact of Wal-Mart on the local business community has been documented in rural areas, there is little empirical evidence about the impact an urban Wal-Mart will have on surrounding businesses. We conducted a first round of phone surveys of approximately 200 retail businesses within a three mile radius of the new Wal-Mart store prior to its opening and conducted a second round of phone surveys of the same business approximately one year after the store opened. A third round of surveys will be done after the store has been open approximately two years. We supplement our survey data with information about state sales tax collections, demographic information etc. We geocode all of our data and measure the effect of the Wal-Mart store on the employment, wages, and prices of competing local stores. We will estimate the extent to which the Wal-Mart store has caused competitors to go out-of-business or altered their level of employment, wages, and prices.

Hilvers, Julie and Bhoomi Thakore. 2009. "I can make better decisions with my life and future: An Evaluation of the Unhooked Women in Prostitution Program." March 5, 2009. Urban Affairs Association (annual meeting). Chicago, IL.

This project is an outcome and process evaluation of the "Unhooked" Women in Prostitution program conducted by the Christian Community Health Center's (CCHC) Footprints Division. This project was funded through a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA). "Unhooked" is a diversionary program for women arrested on misdemeanor prostitution charges in Cook County, Illinois, and the curriculum includes education on HIV/AIDS, substance use, and other topics related to prostitution. The evaluation measured pre- and post-intervention alcohol and drug use attitudes and behaviors, and knowledge and attitudes about HIV/AIDS.

Overall, the evaluation findings suggest that participants have benefited from the Unhooked Program. Participants demonstrated improved knowledge of risk factors, symptoms and the progression of HIV to AIDS after the curriculum, decreased substance use from before and after the program, and self-reported to "learning a lot" about the negative aspects of prostitution and drug use. In addition, some women indicated that the "Unhooked" course facilitated a positive change in life perspective and may cause them to re-evaluate their future behavior.

CCHC and CURL are discussing new directions for research and policy implications in the area of prostitution in Chicago.

RECIPIENTS OF 2009 KALE WILLIAMS AWARD

Ashley Hernandez and Micah Uetricht received the 2009 *Kale Williams Award for Exceptional Work in Promoting Human Rights and Social Justice*. This is the inaugural year for this award, which each year will be given to two CURL undergraduate or graduate fellows who exemplify the work and ideals of Kale Williams.

Kale Williams served as the senior scholar in residence at CURL for ten years. Through his volunteer work at CURL, as well as through his human rights advocacy throughout his life, Kale has served as model for everyone around him. Following service in the Navy in World War II he became a pacifist and worked with the American Friends Service Committee organizing projects to address injustice including interventions in Chicago's low-income communities, assistance to Native Americans in the Southwest, famine relief in the Nigeria-Biafra civil war, and opposition to the Vietnam War.

In Chicago he worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to bring about fair housing opportunities for all citizens regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or income. After the 1966 Open Housing marches, Kale helped to found the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities, an organization for which he served as executive director for over 20 years. After service there, he was invited to Loyola University Chicago as Visiting Professor of Applied Ethics. It was after this visiting professorship that he became the Senior Scholar in Residence at the Center for Urban Research and Learning.

Kale's steadfast work in promoting human rights and social justice motivated students, staff, and faculty who had the privilege of working with him at CURL. This award is a reminder that this spirit and commitment continues at CURL through the work of all faculty, staff, student, and community colleagues in CURL research projects.

-Phil Nyden

From Left to Right:
Kale Williams, Micah Uetricht (CURL undergraduate fellow), and Ashley Hernandez (CURL undergraduate fellow).



MEET THE FACULTY FELLOWS

Dr. Phillip Young P. Hong is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work and a current CURL Faculty Fellow. He earned an MA in political science from University of Missouri - St. Louis and both his MSW and PhD in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis. His main research interests are in poverty, community development, social policy and comparative social welfare.

His work examines the models of self sufficiency employed by social service agencies and the subsequent programmatic expectations they hold of their clientele in comparison to how social service clients view the term self-sufficiency. He is currently conducting a comparative study of workforce development agencies in Chicago and St. Louis.

Findings from his study suggest that the standard agency models of self sufficiency do not often reflect clients' more psychologically-based definitions of self sufficiency and programmatic goals. He is in the process of developing an employment hope scale which promises to improve social service efficacy and inform social policy development.

For more information, Dr. Hong can be contacted at phong@luc.edu.



Dr. Scott Leon is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and a CURL Faculty Fellow. He earned a B.A. in Psychology at the University of California, San Diego and his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Northwestern University. His area of research explores the mental health needs of youth in the child welfare system and the policies that best meet their needs. Dr. Leon is currently working on several projects. His community resource project is attempting to create a database of positive youth development (e.g., tutoring, mentoring, etc.) activities available to youth in Chicago. The database will be used to help connect youth to local resources in their communities.

Dr. Leon is also now working on a project to study the effects of a pay for performance financing strategy in a children's residential treatment center setting. Pay for performance has received a great deal of attention in the private sector health care market, but has received little attention in the public sector health care market. Dr. Leon seeks to determine if pay for performance leads to beneficial outcomes for youth and if so, seeks to determine the organizational correlates of providers who produce positive outcomes under the pay for performance initiative.

For more information, Dr. Leon can be contacted at sleon@luc.edu.

To find out more about current fellows or undergraduate, graduate, faculty, or community fellowship opportunities go to <http://luc.edu/curl/Fellows.shtml>

FRIDAY MORNINGS AT CURL

Informal seminars are held regularly on Friday mornings during the Fall and Spring semesters from 10:30am until noon in the CURL Classroom, Lewis-Towers-Room 1030. Loyola University Chicago faculty and students, as well as community activists and guests are welcome. The schedule for the upcoming Fall 2009 semester can be found online in the coming months at: <http://luc.edu/curl/seminars.shtml>

The following are some highlights from the Spring 2009 semester:

Working with Homeless Women,

Patricia Crowley, O.S.B., Prioress, St. Scholastica Monastery. Chicago, IL

Asset Based Community Development for the 21st Century: Directions, Contexts, Discoveries

Deborah Puntteney, Associate Director, Asset-Based Community Development Institute, Northwestern University

The Chicago Collection: Independent Video Footprints of Community History

Tom Weinberg and Sara Chapman, Media Burn Independent Video Archive, Chicago, IL

The AIDS Foundation Approach to Research

Tomas Soto and Arturo Bendixen, AIDS Foundation of Chicago

Analysis of Shelter Utilization by Victims of Domestic Violence

Christine George, Susan Grossman, and Marta Lundy, Loyola University Chicago

STAFF UPDATES

**MARIA GUZMAN
SENIOR RESEARCHER**



Maria D. Guzman is obtaining her Doctoral degree in Developmental Psychology from Loyola University Chicago. In her graduate career, she has presented at several conferences, including the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois conference, the Society for Research on Adolescence conference, and the Cognitive Development Society conference. She worked with adolescents for seven years at Erie Neighborhood House since obtaining her Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Loyola University Chicago in May of 2001.

Maria's research interests include adolescent extracurricular activity participation and its effects on all aspects of well-being, ethnic identity development in minority adolescents, and bilingual education. She has participated in several research projects ranging from children's acquisition of language, in particular, bilingual children's acquisition of the shape bias, to assessing the motives and mechanisms behind adolescent's participation in extracurricular activities. She has lead several evaluation projects, including an evaluation of participant satisfaction among youth participants at Erie Neighborhood House. Using the training she received from High/Scope, she has also evaluated the quality of certain youth programs in Chicago in an effort to try to account for the mechanism of the impact of youth program quality on positive psychological outcomes.

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STAFF UPDATES (CONTINUED)

DENNIS WATSON

UNIVERSITY:COMMUNITY RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Dennis Watson is an advanced PhD student in the Sociology Department at Loyola University Chicago. He worked in the clinical field prior to CURL, where he gained experience as a mental health and substance abuse practitioner. Dennis holds professional certifications as a substance abuse counselor (CADC, MISA I) and a sociological practitioner (CSP). His current interests include mental health, social psychology, policy, and program evaluation. Dennis just finished work on a large CURL project entitled *Homeless Over 50: The Graying of Chicago's Homeless Population*, and is currently working on a variety of projects looking at health care and social service systems in Chicago.



REUBEN MILLER

UNIVERSITY:COMMUNITY RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Reuben Jonathan Miller is a Doctoral Student in Sociology at Loyola University Chicago and a pre-doctoral fellow at the Center for Urban Research and Learning. At CURL he has worked on projects aimed at increasing youth civic engagement through policy research and the provision of homelessness services. Reuben received a master's degree from the University of Chicago School Of Social Service Administration and has worked with community based organizations providing therapeutic services, project development and research support. His research focuses on the intersections of race,

religion and social welfare policy within the macro social, economic and political realities of prisoner reentry work.



JULIE HILVERS

UNIVERSITY:COMMUNITY RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Julie Hilvers is a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at Loyola University Chicago. Her master's thesis research examined community response to racial and economic change in two urban neighborhoods in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her current research interests are urban sociology, especially related to urban neighborhood change, intersectionality of race, class, and gender, and sociology of place. Since working at CURL, she has been involved in several research projects including evaluations of Catholic Charities' Homeless Prevention Call Center, Rebuilding Together - Metro Chicago's National Rebuilding Day Program, and Christian Community Health Centers' Footprints "Women in Prostitution" Project.



JONNA GATTUSO

UNIVERSITY:COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH APPRENTICE

Jonna Gattuso graduated from Loyola University Chicago in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, minoring in Sociology and Spanish. She began working at CURL as an Undergraduate Fellow in the fall of 2006. Since then, Jonna has been involved in several research projects including programmatic evaluations of the Chicago Freedom School's 2007 Summer Leadership Institute and the Rogers Park Young Women's Action Team's Girl Leadership U. Currently, she is involved in the Status of Young Women & Girls Project, consisting of a secondary data analysis to examine how young women and girls are fairing in Illinois. Jonna hopes to earn a doctoral degree in

Clinical Psychology, specializing in children and adolescents. Primarily, her research interests include home, school, and community-based interventions for children, adolescents, and families.



CURL ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Ling Ling Ang (Undergraduate Fellow) is hard at work on her PhD at Princeton and is still hoping to complete everything in 2010.

Dennericka Brooks (Graduate Fellow) is currently a staff attorney at Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago.

Betsy Benito (Undergraduate Fellow) works for the City of Chicago at the Department of Family and Support Services, specializing in homeless policy. She is currently coordinating the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, of which CURL will be evaluating in an upcoming multi-year study.

Richard Block (Faculty Fellow) is happily retired, but we last heard that he was traveling in Australia and New Zealand, but couldn't resist a little "work," making presentations to government officials in Canberra.

Bruce Collett (Graduate Fellow) is an Assistant Professor at Bowling Green State University.

Nate Benefield (Graduate Fellow) continues his work on policy issues as Director of Policy Research at the Commonwealth Foundation in Harrisburg, PA

Amy Crowther (Undergraduate Fellow) after working as Community Investment Specialist at the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago is now Director of Chamber Services for the Berwyn Development Corporation.

Len D'Silva (CURL IT Coordinator) is doing well in his work as Consultant at JP Morgan Compensation and Benefit Strategies.

Emily Edlynn (Pre-doc Fellow) is working as a Licensed Clinical Psychologist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Kim Fox (Service Learning Coordinator when CURL helped to start up Loyola's initiative) was seen among a couple of million friends at Barack Obama's inauguration. She just received her PhD in Sociology at Loyola and will be a Research Associate for the University of Minnesota, Flexible Work and Well-Being Project, coordinating research at the Denver site.

Michelle Fugate (Graduate Fellow) is Director of Research and Data Management for the United Methodist Church offices in Nashville. Prior to her move and in her role as Coordinator of Research and Evaluation at the City of Chicago Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence, she worked with CURL on its two-year evaluation of the City of Chicago's Domestic Violence Helpline.

Wendy Garrard (Graduate Fellow) is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the Aggression Research Group within the Research Center for Group Dynamics, at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

Rob Gutierrez (Undergraduate Fellow) has his new consulting firm, Community Based Solutions, up and running.

Diane Grams (Community Fellow) has done a few things since her days as Executive Director of the Peace Museum. After receiving her PhD in Sociology from Loyola, she is now an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Tulane University in New Orleans. She recently co-authored a book, *Entering Cultural Communities: Diversity and Change in the Nonprofit Arts*.

Jim Gilsinan (Visiting Faculty) is back at St. Louis University, but continues to work with CURL on its three-city (St. Louis, Detroit, Evanston) youth participatory action research project.

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CURL ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW? (CONTINUED)

Priyanka Khardbanda (Graduate Fellow) is Audit Senior Assistant at Deloitte & Touche.

Rene Luna (Community Fellow) continues his community economic development work at Access Living.

Mike Leachman (Graduate Fellow) is working as a Policy Analyst at the Oregon Center for Public Policy and most recently has been doing work on the inequity between low corporate taxes and the comparably higher burden on families and small businesses.

Mike Maly (Graduate Fellow) is Associate Professor and Chair of the Sociology Department at Roosevelt University.

Liz Nyden (Undergraduate Fellow) is moving from her position as a Social Studies teacher at Innovation Academy Charter School in Lowell, MA and is starting as a History teacher at St. Ignatius College Prep (Chicago) in the Fall.

Anis Parsa (IT Coordinator) continues to be one of CURL's more "global" alums. He has been consultant to CARE in Rwanda and is currently a volunteer at the Collections Care and Operational Support unit of the Baha'i World Center in Israel.

Rita Padawangi (Graduate Fellow) is a Research Fellow at the National University of Singapore.

Emily Ruggles (Undergraduate Fellow) currently serves as a Paralegal at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago.

Chiara Sabina (Graduate Fellow) completed a Post-doctoral Research Fellowship at the Family Research Laboratory at the University of New Hampshire and is now an Assistant Professor of Social Sciences at Penn State Harrisburg.

Aparna Sharma (Senior Researcher) is a Program Officer at the Chicago Foundation for Women. She has been seen at CURL from time to time as she continues to work with CURL research staff on continuing projects.

Sarah Stawiski (Graduate Fellow) is a Research Associate at Press Ganey in South Bend, IN, but has also been seen at CURL as she continues to work with CURL research staff on continuing projects.

Marco Tavanti (Graduate Fellow) is now Chair of the International Public Service Graduate Program at DePaul University.

Madeline Troche Rodriguez (Graduate Fellow) just received tenure from Truman College.

Sarah Veele-Brice (Undergraduate Fellow) was back in town for Richard Block's retirement celebration last year and is currently finishing up her PhD in Public Health at the University of Washington.

Tom Walsh (Community Fellow) is Director of Advocacy and Public Policy at the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs in Chicago.

Janine Weiss (Graduate Fellow) has been a Research Specialist at Learning Point Associates since 2006.

Lisa Whelan (Undergraduate Fellow) after working for the National Training and Information Center in Chicago has been Rural Project director at Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement for six years.

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Left to Right: Philip Young P. Hong (School of Social Work faculty), Christine George (CURL Research Faculty), and Pam Andresen (School of Nursing faculty) center during the CURL Advisory Board Strategic Planning Retreat in September 2008.



Left to Right: Madeline Troche-Rodriguez (Truman College Faculty) and Rene Luna (Access Living), CURL Advisory Board members.