

# News from CURA

Center for Urban and Regional Analysis • The Ohio State University • Spring 2004  
On the Web at [cura.osu.edu](http://cura.osu.edu)

**Welcome to CURA's Spring newsletter! In this issue you will find the latest roundtable assignments, 2004 CURA Grant Recipients, project updates, the latest on CURA Graduate Students, and 2003 CURA Grant Recipient Project updates.**

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## **Congratulations to the 2004 CURA Grant Recipients**

Five Grant proposals were received from a variety of faculty this past April in hopes of receiving a grant to fund research relating to issues and problems that apply to Ohio's urban, rural areas, and related regional issues. Three proposals were chosen to receive the grants and they are as follows:

- **Alan T. Murray (Geography)**, "Emergency Warning Siren Coverage in Franklin County: Analysis and Modeling"
- **Jeff S. Sharp (Human & Community Resource Development)**, "Characterizing Agricultural Change at the Rural-Urban Interface, 1987 to 2002"
- **Ningchuan Xiao (Geography)**, "Mapping Census Undercount in Franklin County, Ohio"

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## **UPCOMING CURA ROUNDTABLES**

**May 21, 2004** – Elizabeth Cooksey, Department of Sociology, OSU, "Movement Among the Ohio Amish" 1116 Derby Hall, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

### **YOU HAVE ALREADY MISSED**

**April 21, 2004** – David Morf, Economic Consultant, Regional Economics Models, Inc. (REMI) "Modeling Policy Choices: Policy Insight, TranSight and Dev Sight"

**April 23, 2004** – Issac Bayoh, Brian Roe, Elena Irwin, Agriculture, Environment & Developmental Economics, OSU "Assessing the Impact of Animal Agriculture on Exurban Property Values Using a Spatially Explicit Hedonic Analysis"

**May 7, 2004** – Mei-Po Kwan, Department of Geography, OSU, "A Study on the Impact of 9/11 on the Muslim Population in Columbus, Ohio"

If interested in past roundtables, our website, [cura.osu.edu](http://cura.osu.edu), has a complete listing. Would you like to do a CURA presentation? Don't wait to be asked! E-mail Ed Malecki at [malecki.4@osu.edu](mailto:malecki.4@osu.edu).

Don't forget to visit the University District Database website at [universitydistrict.osu.edu](http://universitydistrict.osu.edu)  
Lots of 2000 Census maps and data for Franklin County and the University District can be found under  
Data & Maps.

## **CURA Grant Competition Recipients from 2003 Project Updates**

### **Hazel Morrow-Jones and Katrin Anacker, "Analyzing Mature Suburbs through Property Values: Excessive Sprawl, Scarce Reinvestments and Racial Disparities"**

The majority of Americans and American homeowners are located in suburban areas. However, relatively little work has examined the variability among suburbs and the viability of mature suburbs as alternatives to sprawling new suburbs.

One of the objectives of this research is to develop a conceptual model of suburban areas that allows for a more refined distinction between different types of suburbs with respect to house prices and house price change. We differentiate mature suburbs from developing suburbs by suggesting a definition of mature suburbs involving the location relative to the central city and the amount of buildable land available. The study areas of this research project are Cuyahoga County (Cleveland area), Franklin County (Columbus area), and Hamilton County (Cincinnati area), all in Ohio. Preliminary results indicate that house price change between 1985 and 2000 has been quite inconsistent in inner cities, mature suburbs, and developing suburbs.

Another objective of this research is to examine the influence of property characteristics, public services and community amenities on property values in different types of suburbs. Preliminary results suggest that school quality, the proportion of non-Hispanic Whites in the neighborhood, median household income in the neighborhood and square footage of the housing unit have a positive influence on house prices in mature suburbs. The quality and price of housing in different parts of the metropolis and the ability of local governments to provide public services and amenities are major components of the well being of mature suburbs and must play a role in future urban/suburban policy.

## **COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **AEDE 680: The Economics of Growth and Sprawl in America's Countryside**

**Fall Quarter 2004 Tu&Th 3-5pm**

What are the current land use and urbanization trends in the U.S.? What are the exurbs? What is sprawl? What are the causes of growth and land use change at the rural-urban fringe? What are the costs and benefits of sprawl? What are the economics of farmland preservation and other smart growth policies?

If these are burning (or even just simmering) questions in your mind, then consider taking this course!

AEDE 680 is a 4-credit course that examines current urbanization patterns in the U.S. with a focus on land use and population changes in exurban areas. The course considers the economic, demographic, and institutional factors that underlie land use and population changes at the rural-urban fringe; the consequences of these changes for rural and urban areas; and the economic rationale for farmland preservation, urban growth boundaries, and other smart growth policies.

The course is taught by Elena Irwin, Assistant Professor, Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics Department, OSU. Both graduate and upper-level undergraduate students are encouraged to enroll. Some understanding of basic economics is required. If you want to enroll, but do not meet the pre-requisites, please contact the instructor, Elena Irwin. For more information, contact Elena Irwin at [irwin.78@osu.edu](mailto:irwin.78@osu.edu). More information about the course is on-line at: <http://www.aede.osu.edu/class/aede680/irwin/>.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### *Community Indicators Database Report*

Community Research Partners is pleased to announce the update of the *Community Indicators Database Report: a Picture of Trends and Conditions in Central Ohio*. The updated report can be found in PDF on the CRP website at <http://communityresearchpartners.org>. Click on the Community Indicators link.

Over 75% of the pages in the report, which was initially released in November 2001, have been updated with new data. CRP has also established a process to update the indicators on an ongoing basis with the newest data available.

With the help of The Columbus Foundation, the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis at OSU and other funders, we are continuously improving our ability to provide this service to the community. If you have comments, corrections or suggestions for future improvements or new indicators, please contact Michael Banish, Director of Community Data Services, at [mbanish@communityresearchpartners.org](mailto:mbanish@communityresearchpartners.org) or 614/224-5917, ext. 102.

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#### **CURA Staff:**

**Edward J. Malecki:** *Director, CURA and Professor, Department of Geography.*

**Hazel A. Morrow-Jones:** *Associate Director, CURA and Associate Professor, City and Regional Planning, Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture.*

**Wenqin Chen:** *Data Manager, CURA.*

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