

**The Ohio State University
Committee on Urban Affairs**

***Faculty Focus Group Series:
The Urban Center Concept***

**Cumulative Results
December 15, 1999**

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The Urban and Regional Analysis Initiative

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I. THE URBAN AND REGIONAL ANALYSIS INITIATIVE PLANNING THE URBAN CENTER AND THE ROLE OF FOCUS GROUPS

The Ohio Urban University Program (UUP) provides funding for collaborative urban research and outreach among Ohio's eight urban universities. For the past twenty years, the Committee on Urban Affairs (CUA) at Ohio State has utilized UUP dollars to fund faculty research which address urban issues.

More recently, the Committee established the goal of making a greater impact in the area of applied social and public policy. A major step toward this goal is the creation of the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis ("Urban Center") on the Ohio State campus. The Urban Center will serve as a 'hub' for cutting-edge research of urban issues and trends shaping central Ohio. Ohio State has funded the Urban and Regional Analysis Initiative (URAI) to begin the process of defining and establishing the Urban Center. The URAI project leaders, Morton O'Kelly and Hazel Morrow-Jones, have prepared a proposal outlining the Urban Center's four primary functions:

1. To provide a forum for collaborative research and discussion among the university's 'urbanists'.
2. To identify topical areas that will 'make a mark' in urban research.
3. To provide a research facility for the warehousing of data sets and to employ a data manager and staff to operate this facility. University faculty will provide expertise to the staff on a consulting basis, and the staff will be responsible for data collection, evaluation and outreach.
4. To provide a local community outreach component.

According to Committee on Urban Affairs Chairman W. Randy Smith, the Urban Center would build upon the 'faculty research model' already in place – focussing on strong areas of *basic* research. The other seven UUP universities have urban centers that focus on outreach efforts. Ohio State hopes to develop a premier research institution whose peer institutions might include Rutgers University, the University of Toronto, and the University of California at Berkeley. However, he emphasized that as a research institution, the Urban Center should still include, importantly, outreach in its agenda. The URAI has established office space for the Urban Center in Derby Hall and recently hired a data manager. In addition, several academic departments have committed graduate research assistants to the Center.

Over the 1999 Summer Quarter, the URAI arranged a series of faculty focus groups aimed at obtaining input concerning the mission of the proposed Urban Center. Specifically, the URAI staff asked the participants to identify major issues for the Center's initial research and outreach agenda. The URAI selected faculty from throughout the university community to participate in these focus groups. Although

they represented a wide variety of disciplines, all participants share a common interest and involvement in urban research.

The six focus groups were held between July and September 1999 on The Ohio State University campus. Sponsors of the event were Morton O'Kelly and Hazel Morrow-Jones from the Urban and Regional Analysis Initiative and Randy Smith from the Committee on Urban Affairs. Dale Bertsch and Jean Griffith served as moderators. The participants are profiled in Section IV.

II. IDENTIFYING RESEARCH AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE URBAN CENTER

A. The Process – Individual Sessions

The primary goal of the focus group was to identify research and outreach opportunities for the Urban Center. To facilitate this outcome, the moderators conducted a Nominal Group Technique (NGT) process addressing the following question:

In your opinion, what are the most critical urban issues that the proposed Urban Center should address through research and/or outreach efforts?

NGT is a group facilitation process that affords all participants an equal opportunity to express their opinions and provide feedback about a selected topic. During an NGT process, each participant takes turns expressing her or his ideas. Normally, discussion is not permitted. However, in this case the process was modified to allow participants to build upon one another's ideas. Once discussion is complete, the participants have a chance to ask questions, clarify items, and then vote for their priority items. The process consists of four steps:

1. Silent Writing. The facilitator presents a question for consideration and participants take five minutes to silently record their ideas.
2. Round Robin Recording. The facilitator goes around the table, asking each participant for one of their ideas. Each response is recorded on large sheets that are displayed around the room. The facilitator continues until every participant has given all of his or her responses.
3. Clarification and Consolidation. If time permits, the facilitator goes through each item on the large sheets, allowing opportunity for questions and clarification. Items may be combined if the group agrees that they convey essentially the same idea.
4. Voting. The participants have the opportunity to vote for the item or items they think represent the highest priorities. All items are retained in the record, including those that did not receive votes. No votes or few votes do not indicate lack of importance or consideration.

The focus group participants generated lists of approximately 27 responses in each session. After much discussion, several of the individual responses were grouped into categories prior to voting. Participants were then asked to choose the top five issues of importance and prioritize them in order of importance based on overall session criteria: What contributions can best be made by Ohio State researchers? and/or What issues are most important for the central Ohio area?

B. The Process – Cumulative Results

The participants' final job was to cast votes for the top five item(s) they thought should receive highest priority for the center's initial research agenda. Each participant recorded his or her votes on index cards distributed by the moderators. The moderators instructed the participants to vote for individual items. They explained that if an item were part of a larger category, the vote would imply the entire category. For the purpose of establishing priorities, the following point values were assigned to each vote:

1 st Priority	5	points
2 nd Priority	4	points
3 rd Priority	3	points
4 th Priority	2	points
5 th Priority	1	point

While some participants voted for individual items within larger categories, others voted for entire categories.

Each session's results were then tabulated using a weighted scale. All results were combined at the conclusion of the six sessions. Dale Bertsch then summarized these prioritized results.

III. ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES – CUMULATIVE RESULTS

On the basis of the six sessions, four major priority research areas were identified. The issues listed below have had repeated expressions of interest from the session participants. Within each broad heading are more detailed topic suggestions. These foci are cross-disciplinary, and are listed topically rather than methodologically. Diverse approaches to these problems are expected.

1. Urban Regions: Growth and Governance

- Strategies for effective growth management
- Issues of urban sprawl
- Developing connections between urban, suburban, and exurban areas
- Impacts of tax and infrastructure policy on urban structure
- Deregulation issues
- The urban environment

2. Urban Inequalities

- Health status indicators: community sustainability
- Poverty and inequality across space
- Causes and consequences of economic and social distress
- Reducing negative effects of poverty on children and families
- Relationships between economic opportunity and urban crime patterns
- Locational injustices (retail, environmental, etc.)

3. Issues of Race in Urban Areas

- Housing
- Job accessibility
- Environmental issues
- Cultural barriers

4. Education and Employment

- Workforce development (training and facilities)
- Welfare reform
- Spatial mismatch between jobs and people – transportation needs
- School-to-work issues
- Connecting schools to the labor force
- Strengthening parental and community involvement in schools

Data and Research Needs. In addition to topical issues, a fifth major concern of participants was *researcher needs*. The initiative intends to address those needs, and to encourage a collaborative methodology.

1. Data and Funding Needs. Work will be directed to data and funding needs to encourage collaboration and provide access to data.
 - Develop shared databases
 - Connect urban research and management
 - Encourage multi-method research
 - Explore avenues for external funding of these activities

2. Collaborative Approach. Funds will be directed to shared infrastructure and collaborative approaches.
 - Hold 'best practices' workshops to train and inform initiative affiliates about methodologies and results from allied disciplines
 - Create an Urban Atlas of the region (and possibly the US) including inter-urban and intra-urban research looking at cities in selected size classes
 - create a "State of the Region Report" with regular updates as a follow-up to the ongoing UUP study "The State of Ohio's Urban Regions"

IV. PARTICIPANT PROFILES

A. Organizers

- Dale F. Bertsch, AICP

Focus Group Facilitator
 Urban and Regional Analysis Initiative
 Professor, City & Regional Planning Program
 Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture

Research Interests: housing policy, urban policy, regional and strategic planning, dispute resolution, and planning administration

Professor Bertsch is a professor of City and Regional Planning and a professor of Public Policy and Management. His teaching interests include administration, management, public policy, leisure and open space planning, housing, and dispute resolution. He is past executive director of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and a member of the National Academy of Public Administration.

- W. Randy Smith

Vice Provost, Office of Academic Affairs
 Chair, Committee on Urban Affairs

Research Interests: urban hierarchies

W. Randy Smith is Vice Provost for Curriculum and Institutional Relations at The Ohio State University. Before assuming this position in 1998, he served as the University's first Provost's Faculty Fellow and then as Associate Provost. He represents the University in numerous ways with the Ohio Board of Regents; he currently is Co-Chair of the University's Steering Committee on Outreach and Engagement; and he is Chair of the Committee on Urban Affairs.

Dr. Smith received his BA, MA, and Ph.D. from York University in Toronto, Canada. He joined the Ohio State faculty in the Department of Geography in 1978. His research and teaching interests are in urban geography, particularly the relationship between urban and economic development. He also has a strong interest and active record in promoting geographic education in the K-12 sector. He received the University's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1990 and in 1997 was honored as one of the initial recipients of the distinguished University Service Award.

- Morton O’Kelly Project Leader
Urban and Regional Analysis Initiative
Professor, Department of Geography

Research Interests: transportation, hub and network design, the urban fringe

Professor O’Kelly’s major interest is in transportation issues. He is also interested in ‘edge’ cities and the growth of the urban fringe. His funded research includes a focus on hub and spoke network design. Currently he is engaged in an efficiency study on a dial-a-ride bus system in Lake County. He is also involved in research on mobility problems in ‘edge’ cities, particularly for youth, the elderly, and during rush hours. Transportation is a major issue for ‘edge’ cities and the urban fringe, where there is a large import/export of traffic due to workers who do not live in the city and/or residents who do not work in the city.

- Hazel A. Morrow-Jones Associate Project Leader
Urban and Regional Analysis Initiative
Professor, City & Regional Planning Program
Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture

Research Interests: home ownership patterns, movement of repeat homebuyers

Professor Morrow-Jones’ primary research interest lies in neighborhood and community change. She is concerned with the impacts of continued suburbanization on inner neighborhoods, both urban and suburban. Much of her recent research has examined household moving decisions – including where people move and why, as well as how public policy affects moving decisions. In 1995 she received a Committee on Urban Affairs grant to survey repeat homebuyers in central Ohio. The survey addressed where they bought and sold homes and the factors that influenced their moving decisions. She has received funding to repeat this survey with 1998 data for the entire seven-county region of central Ohio.

Professor Morrow-Jones also organizes an annual student exchange between City and Regional Planning students from Ohio State and Dresden, Germany. The students study sustainable urban and regional development and the development issues affecting both countries.

B. Participants

B1. Participants - July 9, 1999

- Kevin R. Cox Department of Geography
Research Interests: jurisdictional fragmentation, growth coalitions, governance

Professor Cox has been extensively involved in three major areas of urban research.

1. Social stratification: Examining the 'exclusionary strategies' that produce jurisdictional fragmentation, and the geographic aspects of this fragmentation.
2. The politics of local economic development: Examining growth coalitions and raw property as a form of capital. Professor Cox is currently completing a book on this subject.
3. Governance: Examining how the public and private sectors work together to produce economic development.

- Anand Desai School of Public Policy and Management
Research Interests: best practices in service measurement and evaluation

Professor Desai is currently studying the provision of public services in eight Ohio communities with the goals of adding substance to the concept of benchmarking and finding better ways to measure and evaluate service provision. He is also working with the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) to examine how contractual relationships play out among ODMH, local mental health boards, and community providers.

- Jean-Michel Guldmann Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture
Research Interests: impacts of telecommunication industry changes

Professor Guldmann's research has focussed on infrastructure, specifically the energy and telecommunications industries, and on environmental planning, including issues of population density and urban structure. Currently he is studying the telecommunications 'explosion,' including pricing and demand factors, as well as the impact of telecommunications on land use, rural development, location of industry, and the ability to work at home. He is also studying the relationship between air quality and urban indicators such as land use, employment, and transportation.

- Lauren J. Krivo Department of Sociology
Research Interests: the consequences of inequality

Professor Krivo has studied the consequences of inequality in cities nationwide. Recently she has examined the relationship between racial segregation and homicide patterns, as well as the impact of poverty in predominantly black (versus predominantly white) urban neighborhoods in Columbus. She is currently examining the role of institutions such as recreation centers in urban neighborhoods and how these institutions affect crime patterns and other social indicators.

- John D. Rohrer OSU Extension, Community Resource Development
Research Interests: land use, economic development, youth/family issues

John Rohrer serves as assistant director of the Ohio State University Extension. The Extension operates programs in every urban area of the state. Many of these programs can be enhanced by the proposed Urban Center's research. His interests include land use issues, economic development, public policy and finance, and youth/family issues.

- Pamela J. Salsberry Department of Community, Parent-Child and
Psychiatric Nursing
Research Interests: poverty effects on individual health, Medicaid policy

Professor Salsberry's research focusses on the health consequences of poverty. She is currently working with the Children's Defense Fund and the Department of Human Services to examine barriers to Medicaid resulting from welfare reform, and why some former welfare recipients are not re-enrolling for Medicaid. She is also studying the health status of Medicaid recipients and uninsured persons in central Ohio.

- Sharon L. Seiling OSU Extension
Department of Consumer and Textile Sciences
Research Interests: family resources

Professor Seiling's work centers around families' acquisition and use of resources. She is currently involved in a three-year, multi-state study of mothers with children under twelve living in poverty that are participating in the Welfare-to-Work Program. The study is examining the impacts of the program on these families and their communities.

- Graylyn Swilley-Woods Director, Community Extension Center
Department of African-American and African Studies
Research Interests: African-American populations in Columbus

Professor Swilley-Woods is director of the Community Extension Center and a member of the Department of African-American and African Studies. The Extension Center provides courses and community services in Columbus' federally-designated Empowerment Zones. The Center works closely with Trevitt Elementary School, providing literacy and tutoring. The organization also sponsors an honors program at South High School. Professor Swilley-Woods has been involved with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) in a series of focus groups examining urban issues and trends in central Ohio. A research committee is currently studying three issues identified through these focus groups:

1. The increasing number of Somali immigrants to Columbus and how they are becoming accustomed to the community.
2. The lack of new housing in the inner-city.
3. The welfare-to-work population: People are working, but wages are low.

B2. Participants - July 23, 1999

- A. Celeste Burke College of Social Work
Research Interests: ideologies of care, evaluation methods

Professor Burke is currently conducting a National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) study of severely mentally ill patients in the public care system. She is interested in ideologies of care in terms of policy, practice, and service delivery. She is also working with the United Way to prepare non-profits and other service providers to shift to outcome-based evaluation methods.

- Caroline T. Clark School of Teaching and Learning
Research Interests: community and youth

Professor Clark is studying urban students' perspectives on their communities. She is working with 6th- through 12th-grade students to involve them in inquiries into their own communities. Specifically, she is interested in how students perceive their communities, whether these communities limit their sense of possibility, and what happens to classroom engagement when students' sense of possibility is expanded. She is very interested in literacy issues in urban schools, especially among linguistically and culturally diverse students. Professor Clark is also involved in 'service learning' research in the East of High neighborhood in Columbus. She is working with neighborhood students, involving them in research as a form of service to determine how this community defines its own needs.

- Timothy J. Curry Department of Sociology
Research Interests: publicly funded sports stadiums and arenas

Professor Curry is a social psychologist, and his research centers around sports 'society' in urban areas. He is interested in the processes involved in building sports stadiums and arenas. Specifically, how do power elites come together and make decisions to give birth to these facilities, and what happens when local taxpayers resist supporting them? He recently studied the central Ohio Issue 1 controversy surrounding the funding and construction of a downtown arena.

- Nancy Ettlinger Department of Geography
Research Interests: local economic development

Professor Ettlinger studies the effects of economic and social change on local development at the neighborhood, urban, and regional levels. Specifically, she is interested in economic restructuring and changing corporate strategies, and how these affect productivity, effectiveness, and community well being. She recently received funding for a case study of Columbus firms to develop a methodology to measure local competitiveness. She is also studying the social construction of labor shortages and unemployment, asking whether the current shortage is genuine, or symptomatic of wider social problems. This includes an examination of the spatial

B3. Participants - August 6, 1999

- Don DeVere Executive Director
Columbus Neighborhood Design Assistance Center
Research Interests: neighborhood revitalization

Don DeVere is executive director of the Columbus Neighborhood Design Assistance Center, a private non-profit organization located in Old Towne East specializing in central city revitalization services. The Center contracts with the City of Columbus and the Ohio State Research Foundation to provide land use planning, neighborhood planning and design assistance to a variety of clients. It also serves as a resource center for central city revitalization materials. The organization employs students from all three programs in the Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture: Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and City and Region Planning. The Center recently drafted legislation for the City of Columbus aimed at controlling the proliferation of poorly designed drug stores in central city neighborhoods. Mr. DeVere's research focus is on older, traditional central city neighborhoods, specifically commercial districts adjacent to residential neighborhoods.

- Donald R. Haurin College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Research Interests: housing and economic demography

Professor Haurin is associate dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. He holds faculty appointments in the Economics, Finance and Public Policy units. His primary research interests are in housing and economic demography. He has studied the down payment constraints affecting homebuyers, as well as the effect of lowering purchase transaction costs on the ability to purchase a home. He has also examined the impact of homeownership on indicators of good citizenship such as voting behavior and the outcomes of children.

In the field of economic demography, Professor Haurin has studied the effects of local unemployment on individual wage demands. He has also examined movement patterns and living arrangements among grown children leaving home for the first time. He has an additional interest in local public finance, specifically the mechanisms for funding schools (income tax versus property tax) and reasons behind various funding choices.

- Mei-Po Kwan Department of Geography
Research Interests: urban transportation issues

Professor Kwan's research centers on urban transportation issues. She has two primary areas of interest.

1. Utilizing city- and county-level Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data to study gender and ethnic differences in urban transportation patterns, and how this affects opportunities for various groups.
2. The development of 'intelligent transportation systems' utilizing real time communications technology.

- Mary K. Marvel School of Public Policy and Management
Research Interests: policy evaluation

Professor Marvel's research focusses on the evaluation of public policies. She has prepared cost-benefit analyses of major economic development deals, such as the Honda plant in Marysville, Ohio. She is also interested in tax abatement policy, specifically the variations among municipalities in the percentages and terms of abatement. She has also studied the effects of local economic development on school spending patterns.

- Kenneth T. Pearlman City and Regional Planning Program
Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture
Research Interests: legal aspects of land use regulation

Professor Pearlman is a professor of City and Regional Planning and an attorney. His research interest lies in the legal and constitutional issues in land use regulation. Along with Stuart Meck, he is the author of Ohio Planning and Zoning Law, a comprehensive review of land-use regulation in Ohio. The book was first published four years ago and is revised and updated by the authors annually.

- Theresa Rogers School of Teaching and Learning
Research Interests: 'service learning' and preparing future teachers

For the past decade, Professor Rogers has focussed on preparing teaching students for urban settings and understanding the complexities of different teaching environments. One of her recently funded research projects involved 'service learning.' Student teachers were placed at three sites: the Godwin Guild, the Family Resource Center, and Children's Hospital, to provide literacy training to local families. Professor Rogers examined the influence of these experiences on the students' teaching success after graduation.

- Patricia M. Schwirian Department of Adult Health and Illness
Research Interests: aging

Professor Patricia Schwirian is professor emerita of the Department of Gerontology in the College of Nursing. She is interested in 'aging in place' in aging urban areas. This phenomenon involves persons choosing to remain at home and in their home communities as they age. She has examined how living environments help or harm physical health, mortality rates, and psychological well being. She is also studying the policy implications of this phenomenon. She is currently working with the City of Upper Arlington, an aging community that does not have an adequate supply of housing suitable for seniors.

B4. Participants - August 20, 1999

- Earl F. Epstein School of Natural Resources
Research Interests: how land and its resources are used

Professor Epstein is interested in the institutions that determine how data is selected and gathered, and how it is disseminated and used in land use and public policy decision-making. He argues that Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data is often disconnected from those affected by land use decisions. He also feels that this data is often pushed beyond the limits of its usefulness. Professor Epstein has developed a model to identify how data is used to determine land use and resource use decisions.

- Elena Irwin Department of Agricultural, Environmental,
and Development Economics
Research Interests: what drives fragmented land-use patterns

Professor Irwin has developed an economic model of changes in land use and development in exurban areas. Her model challenges the 'concentric ring model' of how urban areas develop, suggesting that the process is much more fragmented and more complex. She is interested in the endogenous and exogenous factors behind land use fragmentation and urban sprawl. She is working with Professor Hazel Morrow-Jones to document the forces driving continual outward migration of households within metropolitan regions. She is also preparing a comprehensive data set for Ohio land use change.

- David S. Kraybill Director, Ohio Business Retention and Expansion Center
Professor, Department of Agricultural, Environmental,
and Development Economics
Research Interests: the growth of regional communities

Professor Kraybill is a regional economist who studies both urban and rural regions. His three primary areas of research are:

1. Factors affecting the growth of regions, communities and firms: During the past several years he has focussed on the tax, environmental and entrepreneurial factors affecting the growth of firms.
2. Welfare reform: Professor Kraybill is currently surveying all Ohio county governments to determine the effects of childcare and transportation availability on workforce participation.
3. State and local economic development policy: He just completed a major study of the effects of tax abatement on local economic development patterns.

Professor Kraybill also directs the Ohio Business Retention and Expansion Program. Over the past 20 years this program has surveyed 120 Ohio communities to assess current efforts and develop strategies for business retention and expansion.

- Barbara M. Newman Department of Human Development and Family Science
Research Interests: effects of adolescent/parent relationships on school success

Professor Newman's research centers on the quality of adolescent-parent relationships. She has worked extensively with participants in the Young Scholar Program, examining how family support can help low and moderate-income urban youth excel in academics. She received a CUA grant to complete a case study of 29 Young Scholars. The goal of the study is to determine what these young people face in the transition from 8th to 9th grade that may affect their eligibility for the Young Scholar Program. She is also conducting workshops with parents of middle and high school students to foster seamless interaction among families, middle schools, and high schools. She hopes to build a model of interaction that can be used to help students maintain academic excellence as they enter high school.

- Kent P. Schwirian Department of Sociology
Research Interests: the individual's ability to effect the urban environment

Professor Kent Schwirian has been working on three long-term research projects over the past several years.

1. Sports initiatives and urban redevelopment: He is completing case studies of Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati to document the growing opposition to sports arena and stadium initiatives. He has studied the success of over 200 neighborhood organizations in blocking these initiatives.
2. Older urbanites: Professor Schwirian is examining the neighborhood dynamics that affect the physical and psychological health of older persons in urban areas.
3. Economic and social distress in cities: He is examining data from the 1950s through the 1990s to determine the effects of economic restructuring on the well being of cities.

More recently, Professor Schwirian has been involved in "The State of Ohio's Urban Regions," an inter-university study of the State's metropolitan areas. He is responsible for documenting changes in growth, densities, and social and economic factors.

- Cynthia Tyson College of Education
Research Interests: building a social justice framework

Professor Tyson's work is centered on building a framework for social justice. She is concerned with voter apathy and the lack of participation in democracy. She recently received a Committee on Urban Affairs grant to complete a longitudinal study of students from middle school through high school. The study will examine the use of literature as a catalyst for the students' participation in democracy. Professor Tyson has also worked with the Family Resource Center and Children's Hospital on family literacy training. She is interested in duplicating this effort in schools. She is also concerned about teachers in urban school districts living outside the urban area, especially how to bridge the gap between their experience and the students' own experiences.

B5. Participants - September 3, 1999

- Charles F. Adams, Jr. School of Public Policy and Management
Research Interests: migration patterns, funding institutions

Professor Adams began his career studying migration, specifically the economic and social factors influencing migration patterns and the policy ramifications for urban areas. More recently, his focus has been on funding institutions and how they can empower local citizens to solve community problems and improve their quality of life. He has studied the role of such institutions in Central and Eastern Europe, and is currently working with two South African communities. Professor Adams is a member of the Committee on Urban Affairs

- Linda M. Lobao Department of Human and Community Resource Development
Research Interests: issues of inequality across space

Professor Lobao is a regional sociologist whose urban research centers on the factors that create inequality across space. She recently received funding to study county-level inequalities, specifically in terms of their capacity to handle welfare reform and the state of their economic development strategies. She is working closely with the National Association of Counties (NACO) on this project. She is also completing case studies of the effects of globalization on 222 Ohio River Valley counties.

- Eugene McCann Department of Geography
Research Interests: urban geography, the urban planning process

Professor McCann is an urban geographer beginning his career at Ohio State this year. He is interested in the economic and social aspects of urban development as well as the role of urban planning. He is also interested in community activism and the politics of local economic development. He has submitted a seed grant proposal to compare growth and development patterns in three mid-sized cities: Lexington, Austin, and Columbus. He also plans to study 'gentrification frontiers' in Columbus, including the High Street corridor.

- Toby L. Parcel College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Research Interests: children's test scores

Professor Parcel is associate dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. She began her research career studying the effects of local labor markets on race and sex differences in earnings. More recently, her research has focussed on trying to identify factors behind regional differences in children's test scores.

- James D. Peck Department of Economics
Research Interests: how competition is affected by the Internet

Although Professor Peck is not an urban economist, he has ties to urban interests through his participation in the Public Policy Initiative Planning Committee. He was recently funded by the National Science Foundation to analyze what happens to competition when, because of the Internet, there are zero search costs for market information: Will this have an effect on demand?

- Ruth D. Peterson Director, Criminal Justice Research Center
Professor, School of Public Policy and Management
Research Interests: urban crime patterns, the criminal justice system

Professor Peterson is a criminologist focussing on urban crime patterns and the inter-linkages among race, residential segregation, urban disadvantage, and crime at both the city and neighborhood levels. In recent years she has studied black/white differences in crime patterns in disadvantaged Columbus neighborhoods. She has received both CUA and National Science Foundation support for her research. Professor Peterson is also interested in the criminal justice system. Specifically, she has studied how different racial, ethnic, age, and gender groups are treated in urban court systems. She was recently appointed director of the Criminal Justice Research Center and hopes to shape its research agenda in the coming months.

- Townsend Price-Spratlen Department of Sociology
Research Interests: the African-American community

Professor Price-Spratlen holds two primary research interests:

1. The development of the African-American community over time, including the community development activities that shaped African-American migration patterns.
2. Community viability: What characteristics of communities serve as 'anchors to place,' i.e. what social ties anchor people to their communities? How can community members maintain their sense of community well being and safety in the face of social and physical neighborhood disorder?

- John W. Roberts Department of African-American and African Studies
Research Interests: technological support for the African-American community

Professor Roberts chairs the Department of African-American and African Studies. He also oversees the department's Community Extension Center. This center serves the African-American community in the Mt. Vernon area of Columbus. The Community Extension Center provides a variety of outreach services to its clients, including technical support and grant writing for community groups, and after-school programs for students. The Center recently received a grant from the Columbus Foundation for computer literacy programs that has become a major outreach focus. The Center houses 25 computer stations and offers computer-based GED programs, Proficiency Exam assistance and job skills enhancement. The Center also works in cooperation with the Youth-Build and Young Scholars programs. Professor Roberts is conducting a major study of African-American families with Professor Stephen

Gavazzi. The goal of the study is to determine what factors constitute 'successful' adulthood in the community.

- Amy E. Shuman Director, Center for Folklore Studies
Professor, Department of English

Research Interests: literacy

Professor Shuman is an urban ethnographer and serves as the director of the Center for Folklore Studies. She developed the Interaction Analysis Lab to document cultural practices and how ethnic groups teach culture to their own members. She is also involved in the Heritage Learning Project, which studies citizen-based initiatives to preserve ethnic heritage. She is interested in how ethnic groups in this country conceptualize their 'American-ness' and 'foreignness'. She has worked with the Somali, Greek, African-American, Korean-American, Native American, and Indian-American communities in Columbus. She hopes to soon begin working with Croatian communities in Cleveland.

B6. Participants - September 17, 1999

- Stephen M. Gavazzi Department of Human Development and Family Science
Research Interests: adolescent development and well being

Professor Gavazzi's research centers on the impacts of family factors on adolescent development and well being. He has been instrumental in the development of the Growing up FAST (Families and Adolescents Surviving and Thriving) Program which helps urban families and adolescents set and achieve personal goals. He received his first Committee on Urban Affairs grant to assist the Ohio Department of Human Services in developing a culturally-specific job training program for urban African-American males. He received a second grant to develop the African-American Family Strengthening Program, another version of Growing up FAST. He is working with the Department of African-American and African Studies Community Extension Center to implement this program.

- Rob Greenbaum School of Public Policy and Management
Research Interests: spatial econometrics and business location

Professor Greenbaum is beginning his career at Ohio State this year, having recently received his doctoral degree from Carnegie Mellon University. For his dissertation he analyzed state Enterprise Zones using longitudinal data (LRD data set). He hopes to address new questions with this and other new data sets. He has worked extensively with spatial econometrics and is interested in how public policy affects business location decisions.

This summer Professor Greenbaum was involved with a program at Carnegie Mellon for at-risk high school students – teaching them computer skills such as GIS, CAD, Microsoft Office and the Internet.

- Masanori Hashimoto Department of Economics
Research Interests: family leave policy

Professor Hashimoto serves as chair of the Department of Economics. His research centers on the effects of the Family Leave Act of 1992 on workers' well being. He has studied how males and females are differently affected by being fired within three years of entering the labor force, or by leaving a job for personal reasons. He is interested in the ramifications for Family Leave policy. Professor Hashimoto is also interested in collaborating with the Columbus Compact in their effects to address urban workforce development.

- Randall W. Jackson Department of Geography
Research Interests: regional economic development

Professor Jackson is interested in regional economic development, specifically the use of regional economic models and how they can be adapted to new issues. The Committee on Urban Affairs has funded much of his research. He currently has a CUA grant to study methods of allocating growth from macro models to sub-regional areas. One goal of this research is to develop a methodology for preparing economic forecasts for sub-regional areas. Another major research interest is the relationship between capital investment and economic growth.

- Stephen L. Mangum Department of Management and Human Resources
Fisher College of Business
Research Interests: labor market analysis and employment needs

Professor Mangum holds an appointment with the Department of Management and Human Resources and has served for four years as senior associate dean of the Fisher College of Business. His primary research interests are labor market analyses and employment needs, especially among disadvantaged groups and dislocated workers. Currently he is working with a group headed by Marion Pines to prepare a series of monographs addressing the educational needs of at-risk urban youth who did not complete school. He has been involved with a successful lobbying effort resulting in increased Department of Labor allocations for at-risk youth.

- Helen M. Marks School of Educational Policy and Leadership
Research Interests: school and community relations

Professor Marks teaches school and community relations. Her research has focussed on school restructuring efforts. She is interested in student outcomes, achievement, and community engagement among those attending restructure schools. She has worked with Campus Collaborative to heighten the identity of the thirteen public schools in the University district. Their efforts include the development of a World Wide Web site and promotional booklets for the schools. She is currently involved in three research projects related to these thirteen schools:

1. She has received Committee on Urban Affairs funding to benchmark these schools against a national sample of restructured schools.

2. She has received Campus Collaborative funding to assess the schools' needs and their relationship to the community, and to explore how to strengthen partnerships between the schools and Ohio State.
3. She is studying how community service policy intersects with the schools' organization and policies.

➤ Hazel A. Morrow-Jones

Associate Project Leader
Urban and Regional Analysis Initiative
Professor, City and Regional Planning Program
Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture

Research Interests: home ownership patterns, movement of repeat homebuyers

Professor Morrow-Jones' primary research interest lies in neighborhood and community change. She is concerned with the impacts of continued suburbanization on inner neighborhoods, both urban and suburban. Much of her recent research has examined household moving decisions – including where people move and why, as well as how public policy affects moving decisions. In 1995 she received a Committee on Urban Affairs grant to survey repeat homebuyers in central Ohio. The survey addressed where they bought and sold homes and the factors that influenced their moving decisions. She has received funding to repeat this survey with 1998 data for the entire seven-county region of central Ohio.

Professor Morrow-Jones also organizes an annual student exchange between City and Regional Planning students from Ohio State and Dresden, Germany. The students study sustainable urban and regional development and the development issues affecting both countries.

➤ Alan J. Randall

Chair, Environmental Policy Initiative
Professor, Department of Agricultural, Environmental,
and Development Economics

Research Interests: environmental economics

Professor Randall chairs the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics. His primary interest lies in environmental economics. In 1981 he was part of a landmark study of willingness-to-pay for air quality in Chicago. He has also studied the Exxon-Valdez oil spill. He recently received funding from the Committee on Urban Affairs to research environmental justice issues stemming from development on top of urban landfills in Columbus. Professor Randall also serves as chair of the Executive Committee for the Environmental Policy Initiative. This initiative has received funding for training workshops and to award seed grants for environmental research. A conference is planned for October 2000, to address the shift from a national to a regional and local environmental policy base, as well as a shift from command-control policies to other environmental policy frameworks.

APPENDIX A CRITICAL NEEDS FOR RESEARCH AND OUTREACH – BY INDIVIDUAL SESSION

All of the 199 responses generated during the NGT process represent important urban issues. The following list demonstrates the top five results from each session with the exception of July 9, where four top issues were identified.

July 9

1. Neighborhood Leadership Category
 - Public housing: consequences of the transformation in public housing design on neighborhoods and residents
 - Role of benchmarking, visioning, and neighborhood goal setting: Does it work? How do you measure success?
 - Strategies for neighborhood development and leadership
2. Social and Spatial Impacts of Inequality Category
 - Locational injustices: retail, environmental
 - Primary and secondary education
 - Race and inequality
 - Socio-spatial exclusion: impacts on the urban labor market, neighborhoods, education, health care, social networks
 - Spatial impacts of inequality and/or racism: separate concentrations of wealth and poverty
3. Diversity Category
 - Assimilation and identity formation among Somali immigrants and African-Americans
 - Celebration of diversity in urban areas
4. Health Care Category
 - Access to health care, especially among those uninsured or in managed-care programs
 - Health care
 - Mental health and homelessness (the exclusion concept)

July 23

1. Data Needs Category
 - Good baseline data for urban areas: schools, housing, etc. (and *how* urban areas are defined)
 - Shared databases for urban areas
 - Sharing data and information with the public (providing access)

2. Education and Employment Issues Category
 - Barriers to employment
 - Mass transit
 - Problems of employment and unemployment
 - Quality child care and coordinated work schedules
 - School-to-work issues
 - Training and retraining facilities
3. Urban Growth Issues Category
 - Impact of sprawl on outside counties
 - Policy design for growth management
 - Unintended impacts of tax reform and infrastructure policy on land use
4. Diversity Issues Category
 - Conditions of different minority groups
 - Implementing principles of diversity
 - Segregation and the impact of immigrant populations
5. Models for Regional Governance

August 6

1. Growth Management
2. Evaluating Government Economic Development Strategies
3. Issues of Race: Housing, Environmental Impacts, Job Accessibility, Etc.
4. Fragmentation of Regional Government
5. Central City and Suburban Jobs and Housing

August 20

1. Connecting Urban Research and Management Category
 - Disseminating knowledge to the community
 - Development of interdisciplinary classes (both for outreach and for 'credit')
 - Data gathering and data management to support urban and regional land-use change
 - Data dissemination
 - Connect Geographical Information Systems (GIS) research to active decision making
 - Applied policy analysis for Ohio governance
2. Regional Governance and Growth Management Category
 - Sustainable development of regions and communities
 - Regional governance: land use, etc.
 - Growth management
 - Fragmented home rule versus regional cooperation
 - Connections among urban, suburban, ex-urban, and rural areas
3. Reducing the Negative Affects of Poverty on Children and Families
4. Causes and Consequences of Economic and Social Distress
5. Equity In Educational Outcomes

September 3

1. Macro/Micro Issues Category
 - Neighborhood affects on individual outcomes
 - Macro/micro relationships
2. Poverty and inequality across place
3. Research Methods and Outreach Opportunities Category
 - Citizen-based initiatives ('bottom-up' approach)
 - Comparative and historical research
 - Interdisciplinary research
 - Leveraging external funding
 - Oral history and multi-method research
 - Sharing data
 - Showcasing/marketing faculty/student research
4. Issues of Race and Ethnicity in Communities
5. Welfare Reform, Especially Spatial Issues Relating To

September 17

1. Youth and Family Outreach Category
 - Connecting schools to the labor force
 - Empowering parents and communities as school stakeholders
 - Encouraging urban youth to complete school
 - Evaluating programs targeting urban youth and families
 - Improving the school-to-work transition of urban youth
 - Involving kids with their communities
2. Workforce Development Category
 - Encouraging and managing skill development
 - Workforce development and training the low-income urban workforce in 'the world of work'
3. Spatial Mismatch Between Jobs and People: Transportation and Workforce Development Issues
4. Economic Opportunities and Urban Crime
5. Needs Assessment of Urban Youth, Families, and Community Groups