



CURL Newsletter

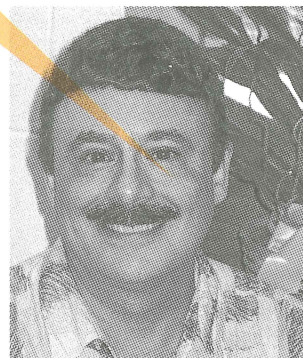
CENTER FOR URBAN RESEARCH AND LEARNING

Spring 2006, Volume 9, No. 1

The CURL Experience: Community and Academy Reflections

On the occasion of CURL's 10th anniversary, David Van Zytveld, CURL's Assistant Director, sat down with two of CURL's long-time partners - Dr. Art Lurigio of Loyola's Criminal Justice department and Mr. Carlos DeJesus, a leader and activist in the Latino community in Chicago - to talk about their experiences of community-based collaborative research and its continued importance for the university and community.

Can you give us some examples of community-based collaborative research either that you worked on or with which you were affiliated.



Dr. Art Lurigio

AL: My entire academic career has involved research in the interest of community constituency and my primary constituencies have been the mental health system, the drug abuse treatment system, and the criminal justice system. My earliest work involved advocacy on behalf of crime victims, researching programmatic and services needs of crime victims. I participated in studies of the psychological consequences of sexual criminal victimization that led to changes in the way that victim services were developed and implemented. Early in my career I had an influence in the changing practices in victim programming and have come back to it most recently in updating Victims of Crime, in its third edition. I also have worked since early in my career in educating people who work in the criminal justice system about HIV/AIDS, helping them develop policies and practices that were informed by our current knowledge of HIV/AIDS and that were nondiscriminatory and protected the confidentiality of persons afflicted with HIV/AIDS. My current passion is using research to develop special programs in the criminal justice system for people with mental illness. What I most proud of is changing the criminal justice system to be more responsive to the problems of the mentally ill. It is my belief, as a social scientist, that I am supposed to work on behalf of the common will, and I have been doing that for 20 years.

What about the benefits? Why did you get involved, what would you say would be benefits for faculty in particular, both in terms of research and in terms of teaching?

AL: The greatest fulfillments I have had in my career involved changing the way in which systems operate on the basis of what I have done in the laboratory. I use laboratory in a sense

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CURL's 10th Anniversary is here.

Watch for events and announcements at www.luc.edu/curl.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

CURL is ten years as of January 2006. As the various project descriptions, faculty fellowship activities, student reflections, and community fellow perspectives contained in this newsletter document, we have grown into a successful center. We have worked with over 150 organizations over our ten years and have completed nearly 100 research projects.

I emphasize the "we," because these projects have had an impact on Chicago communities not because of any one person, but because of the contribution of members of our research teams, which include faculty, students, community leaders, and staff. Over the years our projects have influenced state legislation, helped community organizations to fine-tune their delivery of services to residents, and created a better understanding of emerging issues in Chicago metropolitan-area communities.

We are grateful for the generosity of the McCormick Tribune Foundation and the support of the University in building our almost \$9-million endowment. Other foundation support

ranging from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to the Woods Fund has also been critical to our success.

Our collaborative research model has linked university based knowledge with the knowledge and experience of community leaders. In challenging times for many non profit organizations, we have helped to stretch the capacity of agencies to better serve residents in the city and suburbs. CURL research and our collaborative university community approach has gained attention locally, nationally, and internationally. For example, in addition to serving as host to over 350 attendees at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Outreach Partnership Center conference in April (see related story), we are actively engaged in connecting grassroots policy research projects in cities in the U.S., Europe, and Australia.

In the coming months you will be hearing more from CURL about upcoming symposia and gatherings celebrating our 10th anniversary.

Phil Nyden, Director

Worker Rights Project On Track



For the past year, Dr. Patricia Simpson, Associate Professor, Institute of Human Resources and Industrial Relations, School of Business Administration and CURL Faculty Fellow, and Grace Scrimgeour, Graduate Student Fellow, have been working to establish a Worker Rights Curriculum Development Project (WRCDP). This project is an outgrowth of collaboration among representatives from the Chicago

Federation of Labor, the Labor Education Program, University of Illinois, and the Illinois Anti-Sweatshop Task Force, as well as Jose Oliva, Director, Worker Centers Network, which clarified the need to develop curricular and related materials for the Worker Centers Network (WCN).

As currently described in a draft proposal that is being marketed to foundations and private donors, the purposes of the Worker Rights Curriculum Development Project (WRCDP) are threefold: 1) to identify the staff development and curricular needs of the Worker Centers Network through a participatory evaluation process; 2) to address the identified needs by offering training in popular education techniques and by producing curricular and related materials for workshops offered in association with the Chicago-based Interfaith Worker Rights Center (IWRC); and 3) to field test and evaluate the curricular materials

throughout the Worker Centers Network. The first goal represents Phase One of WRCDP and we estimate that it should have a timeline of approximately five months. The second goal represents Phase Two of the Project and it should have a timeline of approximately twelve months. The third goal constitutes Phase Three of the Project with a projected timeline of seven months.

The WCN is affiliated with the National Interfaith Committee on Worker Justice (NICWJ) which is an organization of people of faith that draws upon religious values in order to educate, organize, and mobilize the religious community in the U. S. on issues and campaigns that will improve wages and working conditions, especially for low-wage workers. NICWJ engages in multiple activities including: conducting living wage campaigns at the municipal and state level; brokering partnerships between government and industry to improve conditions in select industries such as poultry processing and restaurants; offering assistance to organizing and contract campaigns among hotel and newspaper employees; mobilizing religious support for minimum wage increases; and participating in immigration policy reform efforts, including mobilizing for the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride (2003). Its Worker Centers Network now comprises seven worker centers in Chicago, Madison, Northwest Arkansas, Western North Carolina, Eastern North Carolina, Miami, and the Twin Cities. Its Chicago-based Interfaith Worker Rights Center (IWRC) is the oldest center in the network and it has served as a model for other centers, both inside and outside the network.

Undergrad Experiences at CURL



When I first interviewed for the Undergraduate Fellowship at CURL, I distinctly remember David asking me, "Clearly, you've had a lot of experience with math. What does this have to do with CURL?" I'll admit, upon first inspection, it appears that the interdisciplinary scope of CURL seems to reach only to the social sciences and possibly to social work, but I

think that my two years here have demonstrated that it really draws from subjects much further afield.

I have worked on several aspects of the McCormick Tribune Early Childcare Professional Development Plan, which works with nine childcare agencies in Chicago. While it involved plenty of policy research, one of the offshoots of this project involved me creating a comprehensive electronic health care data management system for an agency in order to help keep them in compliance with HeadStart legislation.

I feel that CURL has given me a reason not only to utilize the skills that I developed in class (yes, even real analysis), but also helped me develop the insight and ability to ask interesting questions and to never forget that research, in its best form, should be able to be used in the service of others.

I was part of a team that worked on a housing and demographic survey of the Brighton Park neighborhood on the Southwest Side. This project was very data intensive, drawing from HMDA, MLS, CPS, foreclosure and Census data. In the process of digging through this mountain of quantitative information, we found evidence of the transformation of the area from an Eastern European working class neighborhood to a predominantly Hispanic working class neighborhood, and the growing pains associated with this evolution.

I created a database to account for all CURL projects and staff that automatically generates reports. I also built databases for various projects including the McCormick Tribune Childcare project and the Native American Philanthropy project. Additionally, I led a database design seminar for the graduate and undergraduate fellows, which included a short, comprehensive guide to database design that is slated for distribution to various agencies with whom we work.

Finally, I analyzed the data and wrote a report on the Police Survey portion of the evaluation of the Mayor's Office Domestic Violence Helpline, sponsored by the National Institute of Justice. Also, I assisted in the analysis of the data from an evaluation of the collaboration between physical and mental

health providers for the homeless, which is sponsored by the National Institute of Health.

Throughout my academic career, a large proportion of my coursework has been very theoretical. My experience at CURL has encouraged me to view math as not only an intriguing subject of great beauty, but also an invaluable resource that may be harnessed in the service of human kind. At CURL, I was faced with interesting problems that allowed me to apply my knowledge of mathematics to interesting problems that did not involve boats, physics, or widget production.

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Xiaoling Ang, graduated in May 2005 with a B.S. in Mathematics, a minor in Economics, and an M.S. in Mathematics. She entered the Ph.D. program in Economics at Princeton University this Fall. She was an undergrad fellow for four semesters.

My first experience with CURL was during the Urban Seminar class in spring 2005. I was assigned to a project that would be evaluating the Chicago Industrial League's adult male program. The Chicago Industrial League provides a residential program for homeless individuals. During the couple months that I was assigned to the project I did a lot of research on homelessness. The bulk of my work focused in on the North Lawndale community and the types of services provided to its residents such as employment opportunities, housing, and accessibility to transportation.

CURL truly has had a significant impact on my life. Working in an environment where you see individuals that care about the greater community in addition to a desire to learn how to better that community has been the most inspiring.

Currently I am working on the Fulfilling the Dream project that will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Chicago Freedom Movement. This project explores the history of the civil rights movement in Chicago in the 1960s, impact of work over the past forty years, and future directions in human rights in Chicago. This multi-organizational and multi-university effort will result in a number of outcomes, including a conference in summer 2006.

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Graduate Fellows

New Graduate Fellows

We welcome to CURL the following new graduate fellows:



Julie Davis,
Sociology



Rita Padawangi,
Sociology



Sarah Stawiski,
Social Psychology

Returning Graduate Fellows

We are happy to welcome back the following graduate fellows:

- Anis Parsa, Sociology, is returning for his second and third semesters.
- Natalie Haber, Sociology, is returning for her fourth and fifth semesters.
- Lenore Johnson, Sociology, is returning for her fourth and fifth semesters.
- Amy Kerr, Social Psychology, is returning for her fourth and fifth semesters.
- Grace Scrimgeour, Sociology, is returning for her fourth and fifth semesters.

Undergraduate Fellows

New Undergraduate Fellows

We welcome to CURL the following new undergraduate fellows:

- Anthony Vasquez, Political Science
- Bristol Huffman, Theology
- Erin O'Sullivan, Theology/Sociology
- Nichole Hymes, Psychology
- Robert Guitierrez, Psychology
- Stephen Werner, History
- Timothy Johnston, Philosophy/International Studies

Returning Undergraduate Fellows

We are happy to welcome back the following undergraduate fellows:

- Jessica Sherman, Political Science
- Lauren Breithaupt, Political Science
- Reena Patel, Political Science
- Tess Paige, Political Science

Welcome to Emily Edlynn

She hit the ground running! Emily Edlynn joined us on July 5th as a University:Community Research Coordinator and is already involved in three projects.

Emily is the third graduate student to join the CURL staff as a full-time employee in the Coordinator position that was created as a one-year pre/post-doc fellowship opportunity. Aparna Sharma and Chiara Sabina preceded her.

As a doctoral student in Loyola's clinical psychology program, Emily brings to CURL clinical wisdom, along with community research and teaching experience. She has worked in various clinical settings in San Diego, Denver, and Chicago. She has also held research positions in the university as a graduate student and in non-profit organizations as a staff member. Recently she taught undergraduate psychology courses in both Tests and Measurements and Research Methods.

Emily, a native Californian, knew at an early age that she wanted to work as a Clinical Psychologist. However, as she pursued an undergraduate degree in English with a Psychology minor at Smith College, she found "that the quantitative nature of the work did not capture the complete picture. Science is at its best when it combines both quantitative and qualitative. I have always had an interest in public policy and I am excited that at CURL, I have found a way to include the quantitative and qualitative aspects of research, within a setting that focuses on public policy." Indeed, Emily has found a home.



Goodbye to Chiara

Chiara Sabina started and ended her Loyola University Chicago life as a CURL fellow. She joined us in September 2000 as a graduate fellow fresh from a psychology undergraduate program at the University of Delaware. Over the course of the next 4 years she worked on more than 10 projects as she also completed her PhD in Social Psychology. In June 2003 she became CURL's second pre/post-doc fellow and she worked as a staff member until November 2004. She defended her dissertation and graduated in May 2005.

In June 2005 Chiara began a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of New Hampshire where she is working at the Family Research Laboratory. She has settled in New Hampshire.

Undergrad Experiences at CURL

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my time is done at CURL I will be able to walk away with greater knowledge on issues faced in urban settings as well as a better understanding how things could be done more effectively. In many ways CURL has prepared me to be a leader.

Jessica Sherman is a junior, majoring in Political Science.

She is an undergrad fellow for Fall 2005 and Spring 2006.



I work on a project involving domestic violence. The very intricate research process has allowed me to go out into the field and meet police officers, community leaders, and look over the stories of real victims. I can't think of any other program that lets undergraduates play such an important part in the research process.

I can't think of any other program that lets undergraduates play such an important part in the research process.

In my time at CURL, I assisted with two technology-focused projects—one concerning the Illinois Community Technology Fund (ICTF) and the other the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT). The former deals with providing a technology center within a community to see how it affects the lives of its residents. The latter has to do with studying the effects of providing free wireless broadband internet access to communities who cannot afford today's outrageously priced corporate-based broadband services.

I believe that this improved my overall college experience by localizing my education. It gave me a chance to encounter a real-world problem and not just read about it in some book.

I believe that this improved my overall college experience by localizing my education. It gave me a chance to encounter a real-world problem and not just read about it in some book. The time spent at CURL introduced me to people who are working to actually make a difference in the City of Chicago as well as in the State of Illinois. I am deeply grateful for what I have learned, and I hope to utilize it effectively in whatever path my future holds for me.



I hope I can inspire others to learn about the nationwide issues that CURL researches, and that in doing so, maybe one of us can have a real impact and make the world a little better.

Allan graduated with a B.A. in History in May 2005. He is considering various career options within the non-profit sector in Chicago.

CURL gave me a better appreciation of what goes into research and knowledge. Many say "that's just common sense," but fail to realize how much effort went into the research for it to be classified as common knowledge. CURL has made me a better researcher, which comes in handy when typing papers for any subject. It has also improved my critical thinking skills. Professors really like it when students think outside the box and CURL has equipped me to do just that!

Tess Paige is a senior, majoring in Political Science, with a Sociology minor. She has been an undergradate fellow for three semesters, plus two summers, working exclusively on a 2-year project funded by the City of Chicago Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence through the National Institute of Justice.



New Project

AIDS Foundation of Chicago

CURL and Dr. Anne Figert (Sociology) will be working to provide training and related technical assistance to the organization in order for Chicago Housing for Health Partnership case managers to implement a psycho-social data tracking system, which will better assess psycho-social bench marks and outcomes for clients. Also, a process evaluation will be conducted to both assess the implementation process of a demonstration project and to inform policy makers as to the operations of this model in addressing and preventing homelessness.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Creating an Equitable Urban Development Curriculum: An International Project

CURL is working with universities and community organizations in Chicago, Washington, D.C., Liverpool (UK), and Seville (Spain) on a project funded by the European Commission and the U.S. Department of Education. In addition to emphasizing knowledge-sharing between university and community partners in each city, we are developing a curriculum that compares local experiences among the four cities.

In addition to site visits to partners' cities, we have experimented with different classroom approaches in presenting a solutions oriented curriculum aimed at highlighting inequities in community development and sharing solutions that have been developed in the respective cities to address these equities. Our hope is that this curriculum will be of use in both college classrooms and in community-based training. More information on the project is available at <http://www.luc.edu/curl/projects/present/index.shtml#ecus>. A final report including curriculum materials will be available early in 2006.

ICTF

We are working in collaboration with the Illinois Community Technology Fund (ICTF) to evaluate multiple grants disseminated to community technology projects. The Illinois Community Technology Fund came about through the SBC/Ameritech merger that set aside \$1.5 million in 2000 to provide advanced telecommunications services and training necessary to improve the quality of lives for low-income and rural Illinois populations. These funds were distributed in 2001 and 2002 to prepare citizens to live and work in a growing technological society. A wide variety of organizations including community based organizations and schools were given grants (a maximum of \$50,000) to support programs dedicated to the ICTF goal. Seventy-seven programs statewide were funded with 35 of those in the Chicagoland area.

After the close of the grant period, the Center for Urban Research and Learning of Loyola University Chicago was asked to evaluate the ICTF grant program. The goals of the evaluation were as follows:

- Organize and summarize the types and levels of services provided.
- Assess the impact of the grants on the lives of the service users, particularly concerning the employment and educational impacts.
- Develop a model technology program by integrating key successful aspects of the organizations funded through the ICTF grant,

Of the original 77 organizations that received ICTF funding, 62 were contacted for the evaluation, in the form of site visits, focus groups, phone interviews, and written surveys.

The goal of the current project is to move beyond summarizing the evaluation of the Illinois Community Technology Fund to produce a report for policymakers, philanthropic organizations, and technology service providers that articulates the greater technology needs in Illinois. While ideally affordable, technology should be affordable and accessible for all Illinois residents. The ICTF evaluation focused primarily on low income, unemployed, and underrepresented populations who are the least likely to have access to technology. The report will continue this focus on the need for flexible, consistent funding for technology services and resources for underrepresented individuals in Illinois.

MTF Professional Development Initiative for Early Childhood Educators

Over the last two and a half years, with funding from the McCormick Tribune Foundation, CURL has worked intensively with nine agency-sponsored childcare programs to develop nine separate comprehensive, five-year professional development plans. Professional development, in this case, included teacher education, director education and training, board and administrative development, fundraising capacity building, and infrastructure support.

The goals for this professional development initiative are three-fold: (1) The nine participating childcare programs will continue to develop and implement their five-year professional development plans; (2) The nine participating childcare programs will have intentional collaborations with other MTF-funded partners to facilitate each agency's implementation of their professional development plan; and (3) The Center will increase the capacity of the 9 participating agencies to be informed of changes in childcare policy and standards that occur at the local, state and national levels.

This initiative allows the nine agencies to increase their cadre of high-quality childcare staff and further their critical work of providing much needed community-based childcare services. Furthermore, sustained support of this collaborative will allow these agencies to educate themselves about policy issues as well as have a collective voice in such matters.

Impact of Gentrification and Displacement on Communities of Color

At the request of the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations, we are completing a project examining the impact that the "gentrification and displacement" cycle has on

different Chicago communities. Chicago and other cities have long experienced community reinvestment patterns that displace existing residents, particularly low-income residents. Increased rents, housing costs, and real estate taxes often force low-income residents out of the community, even though these longstanding residents could benefit from the opportunities represented by the improvements, such as safer streets, better stores, better schools, and better quality housing.

A team of three graduate students, four undergraduates, and a community fellow are gathering citywide data and completing interviews with leaders in two communities—Grand Boulevard and West Humboldt Park—which are experiencing gentrification right now. A report was released and was a focus of a front-page *Chicago Tribune* Metro section article on January 2, 2006.

HUD, COPC Attendees visit CURL

When HUD comes to town you know it. On April 21-23, 2005 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office of University Partnerships descended upon the Westin Hotel and attracted over 400 people to its national conference. Attendees included people who are engaged in university-community partnerships addressing a broad range of issues such as business development, early childhood education, community-based arts programs, public education, and community organization capacity building.

CURL received a Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) grant in 1999 and has been a mentor to other universities seeking COPC funding. HUD welcomed the chance to showcase

CURL at a reception on the evening of April 21 held on at our Water Tower Campus. Over 350 people joined us on the 10th and 13th floors of Lewis Towers for hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and conversation about university-community projects.

CURL graduate and undergraduate fellows engaged the visitors with Power Point presentations of current projects that were running at workstations.

NIJ

The centerpiece of the research effort has been the interviews with 400 victims of domestic violence who have called the Help Line. Interviews are conducted in English and Spanish by the research team, as appropriate. In addition, a translation service has been utilized to translate interviews into a host of other languages, when needed. Data collection has included:

- Three focus groups, along with Help Line staff, provided input that was used to develop the victim's interview research instrument and protocol. Data consists of:
- Phone interviews of 400 women;
- Surveys of 1,200 Chicago Police officers;
- Surveys of 380 community leaders who are members of the 25 Police District Advisory Councils; and
- Interviews with more than 75 directors of domestic violence prevention programs and agencies in the city that are part of the Help Line referral system.

A series of public and media events are being planned for early 2006 once the final report is completed.



David Van Zytveld, CURL Assistant Director, explains the details of a CURL technology project to guests attending the HUD national conference.

Finding Stability: An Evaluation of Chicago Christian Industrial League's Single Adult Program

The *Chicago Christian Industrial League* has provided housing and supportive services to homeless men, women, and children living in the Chicago area since 1909. The League, in collaboration with the CURL, is conducting a participatory program evaluation to examine the long-term stability or "success" of their clients (in this case, single adult men) after they have completed the 18-month program at The League.

Key questions for the evaluation are: How do graduates of the League's single adult program obtain and employ the self-sufficiency skills needed to maintain stability (e.g. mental; physical; income; housing; sobriety) upon leaving the program? What do the skills needed for self-sufficiency look like? What were some of the barriers (institutional and individual) that graduates encountered when attempting to maintain stability?

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The CURL Experience: Community and Academy Reflections

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that I am able to collect scientifically meaningful data in different kinds of settings and present them in a way that can be translated into changes in the way people operate with regards to services and changes in the quality of their everyday life. The benefit is science coming to fruition in practice. What I do improves peoples' lives, so I regard it as my role as a faculty at a Jesuit institution doing services thru scholarship. As a faculty member, this kind of work enhances the visibility of the university and markets our intellectual strengths in very persuasive ways to people. It is *heartening* to people outside of academe getting respect from academics. The CURL model provides for that because it isn't one direction, it's bi-directional with regard to designing research and using research that practitioners really appreciate. They are smarter than us in lots of ways and have different knowledge than we do. When you bring together those two worlds, there is a synergy that benefits both in unexpected ways. When I do research now, I feel like it's more in line with what I do in my service and advocacy role to the university rather than my scholarship role.

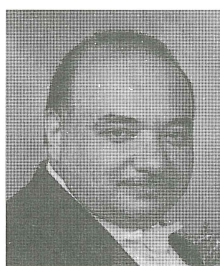
In terms of working with undergraduate and graduate students, how has your experience in this collaborative community based research informed that?

AL: It brings to life the learning that goes on in the classroom. I have had favorable experiences with students who have worked with me. Graduates and undergraduates who go out in the real world to collect actual data, learn research methods and the power of research. It's both a personally and professionally transforming experience for students to be involved in hands-on research experience that involves experts on the university side and experts on the community side. I think that they get an appreciation for the power of collaborative research that is much greater than the power of doing research solely in the laboratory.

From the community/university side what do you think the future is—trends of university community collaborative? Are there going to be more of them, the same, less? What have we done to promote this kind of research?

AL: We need to get the message out that we are doing this kind of collaborative work and that it is producing results that are satisfying to both the university community and the larger community. I believe these university/community opportunities will increase because our leadership understands the importance of these partnerships. In the mental health and substance abuse field in which I work, collaboration is increasingly encouraged. We realize the work that we do in the laboratory has to be tested in the community, and that we have to generalize the work that we do into practice. At the federal level, there has been lots of money thrown in this notion, "research practice," "from science

to services," from "bench to trench," whatever you want to call it. I think universities need to understand that they should become part of the community. In Chicago, it seems that the higher the prestige of the university the more it wants to separate itself from the surrounding community. Walls have been built around universities, literally and figuratively. I don't think that we have been guilty of that, and I don't think we have to sacrifice our academic standing or credibility when we recognize the importance of reaching out to our neighbors. It benefits us. Instead of just being credible among academic institutions, we are credible among other institutions. We are not separate from the community; we are part of the community. We should be.



Carlos DeJesus

Can you give us some examples of things you have done in the past in terms of community based collaborative research, either that you worked on or were sort of affiliated with.

CD: I have been the community partner on two research projects—both related to housing. One was a class action lawsuit against the Chicago Housing Authority. There was data on affordable housing, particularly public housing section 8 overall. We looked at data in terms of the participation of Latinos within those programs.

Why get involved in a collaborative research experience or partnership with universities from the community's perspective? Why would a community leader want to go about doing this sort of thing?

CD: It was a "no brain-er." The organization that I worked with, Latinos United, is an advocacy organization and it's impossible to do good advocacy if you don't have good numbers to support the work that you do. You are not going to convince anybody simply by anecdotal data. You are not going to convince anybody by appealing to their humanity on certain issues. Policy makers need numbers—numbers that are verifiable, numbers that can't be refuted. We were a fledgling organization, and we didn't have the funding to be able to bring somebody on board that would help us with the research. It was a fortuitous situation that I met Phil Nyden, and we talked about the possibility of CURL looking at our numbers.

The net result of the data—the net result of the work that we did—was a class action lawsuit that was settled in two years. The data was that persuasive. We anticipated it would be a 20-year law suit. In fact, that was the history of these law suits in other cities. They ended up going to the Supreme Court because they were fought every step of the way. Our data was so compelling, we settled with HUD within a year. It took two

The CURL Experience

years to settle with CHA, but the benefit was a settlement that is conservatively valued at \$700 million in housing resources over the first ten years of implementation. It simply started with these numbers that I didn't know quite what to do with. So I think for advocacy organizations, as I said a no brain-er, you really need good data. But I think there is data that is necessary for the service providers as well. You really need to come to terms with your community and know your community. It is important to get a more holistic picture in terms of demographics. Compare your community to the city, to similar communities, to what's going on in New York or LA versus Chicago. You are a much better provider if you have a fuller understanding of your clientele.

From the community side what do you think the future trends are in university community collaboration? Are there going to be more of them, the same, less? What have we done to promote this kind of research?

CD: Universities will find community-based organizations and their staff to be more sophisticated in terms of data. Where community organizations have been almost passive partners, you will be getting more active partners. I think it will strengthen the concept of participatory action research when you are able to work with partners that already have a certain level of sophistication. The quality of work and partnerships can only get better. It is certainly a way to go for universities.

Current Project Updates

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Wireless Community Networks

While the availability of online information, resources and services increasingly becomes a normal aspect of our everyday lives, access to this technology still remains a challenge for some individuals and communities. The continuing prevalence of the "digital divide" is the driving force behind a recent initiative of The Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) – the Wireless Community Networks. In 2002, CNT began developing the idea of building wireless networks in underserved communities to provide low-cost, high-speed broadband access to homes, local businesses and organizations. Today, the WCN is becoming a reality as it is built and tested in four pilot communities throughout Illinois - Chicago's Pilsen and North Lawndale neighborhoods, suburban Elgin, and West Frankfort, a former coal mining town in Southern Illinois.

CNT is partnering with organizations in four communities to create a new technology resource and community asset using wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi) technology that will serve 250 to 300 households in each pilot area. The primary organizations include the Gads Hill Center in Pilsen, North Lawndale's Homan Square Community Center Foundation, and John A. Logan College in West Frankfort. Working collaboratively, CNT and its partners hope the WCN project will foster economic opportunities in these communities and provide resources for positive change by engaging individuals, local services and community-based organizations with technology and with each other. Additionally, as this is a pilot project, CNT is stepping beyond the local community impact and using the WCN project to develop a replicable, sustainable business model to be used by other communities wishing to follow suit.

The Center for Urban Research and Learning is partnering with CNT and the community organizations as the WCN project evaluator. Using a participatory evaluation model,

the evaluation focuses on the key projected outcomes – technology, community engagement and business model development. CURL began working with CNT and the WCN partners at the beginning stages and therefore has been documenting the process of developing relationships in the community and building the network.

As the WCN continues to reach more households in each area, CURL is working with the partners to establish more detailed project outcomes to be assessed at the project's completion. Through survey research, focus groups and interviews with end-users and partners, the collaborative evaluation effort will assess both successes and lessons learned from the WCN project in order to provide useful information for other communities wishing to develop their own wireless technology assets and further bridge the digital divide.

Evaluation of Job Creation Program at a Southside Health Center

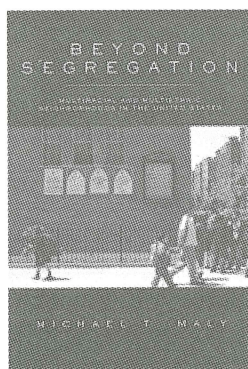
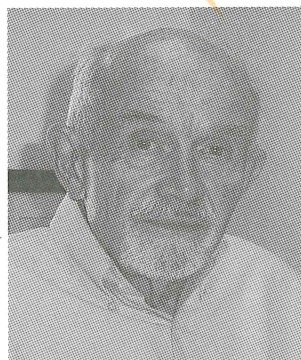
Roseland Christian Health Ministries (RCHM) is a faith-based organization that runs Christian Community Health Center (CCHC), which provides primary health care services to the residents of the Greater Roseland community on Chicago's far south side. In 2005, RCHM opened a new community health center in Calumet City (a south suburb of Chicago), an area designated by the Bureau of Primary Health Care as a "Health Professional Shortage Area." This new health center will also create 64 new jobs within five years, including 47 entry-level positions.

As evaluators, CURL will seek to assess if RCHM was successful in opening this new health center, whether the planned range of medical services were offered, and whether target patient numbers were met. CURL will also assess whether new jobs were provided for low-income local residents, and whether the opening of the health center had a broader positive effect on the overall economic and social situation of the locality.

Kale Williams Celebrates 80 years

In honor of Kale Williams' 80th birthday on August 7th, Alderman Toni Preckwinkle, Mayor Richard Daley, and the City Council of Chicago issued a proclamation recognizing the CURL Senior Scholar.

The proclamation acknowledged that Kale has dedicated his life to creating equality and justice everywhere. The full text of the proclamation is available at www.luc.edu/curl/kale/proclamation.



CURL Alum Returns as an Author

“At a time when cities appear to be fragmenting mosaics of ethnic enclaves, it is reassuring to know there are still stable multicultural neighborhoods. *Beyond Segregation*

offers a tour of some of America's best known multiethnic neighborhoods: Uptown in Chicago; Jackson Heights (Queens); and San Antonio-Fruitvale in Oakland.”

This is the introduction to the book that was previewed and signed by the author, Michael T. Maly, at CURL on June 13, 2005. Dr. Maly's book grew out of a HUD-funded research project completed by CURL and PRAG. Dr. Maly is currently a sociology professor at Roosevelt University and received his PhD from Loyola University Chicago.

Friday Mornings at CURL

Informal seminars are held regularly on Friday mornings during the fall and spring semesters from 10:30 until noon in the CURL classroom, Lewis Towers-Room 1030. Loyola faculty, students, community activists, and guests are welcome. For topic details see: <http://www.luc.edu/curl/programs/seminars/>

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