

## 2012-13 Annual Report

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# A Message from the Director, Paul A. Jargowsky



Rutgers-Camden is a university on the move, growing in size and developing new programs at a tremendous pace. Yet Camden, our host city, exemplifies the problems that plague many urban areas in the United States, including extreme poverty, vacant buildings, dilapidated housing, drug abuse, crime, and a troubled educational system. The University has therefore made a commitment to be engaged with the City of Camden and the South Jersey region and to contribute to the rebirth and redevelopment of the area.

As part of that commitment, Rutgers-Camden Chancellor Wendell Pritchett and former Executive Dean Margaret Marsh created the Center for Urban Research and Education (CURE) to support and encourage the study of urban issues by Rutgers faculty and to enhance opportunities for graduate students to become involved in urban research. CURE's focus on urban research compliments many other university activities. For example, the Office of Civic Engagement deploys faculty and students to work with schools and community organizations, the Walter Rand Institute provides evaluation research and technical assistance to

local organizations, and the Future Scholars program encourages and supports Camden youth to stay in school and eventually attend Rutgers. The Center's focus on Education -- the E in CURE -- refers to the Center's role in cultivating the next generation of urban scholars. We provide opportunities for doctoral candidates to participate in research projects, academic conferences, and professional development opportunities.

As this report documents, CURE has engaged in a wide variety of activities in support of its mission. The academic world is structured around methodological and disciplinary boundaries, yet urban issues span many fields -- economics, planning, political science, and public health, just to name a few. To help break down these boundaries and create a community of urban scholars on Campus, CURE has brought students, faculty, and interested community members together for research and policy seminars, collegial lunches, and a major research conference. CURE also supports the next generation of urban researchers by funding graduate students to attend conferences and present their research in progress.

CURE has also worked to strengthen the links between our campus and faculty with urban research interests at other universities, including Penn, Temple, Rutgers-New Brunswick, and Rutgers-Newark. We have reached out to and formed alliances with urban research centers and a number of area universities and will be joining forces with them on future activities.

We are looking forward to another year of interesting research, collaboration, and dialogue. On behalf of CURE's growing staff -- including associate director Natasha Tursi and data center director Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn -- I invite you to contact us if you are interested in being involved in the Center's upcoming activities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Jargowsky". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Paul A. Jargowsky, Ph.D.  
Professor of Public Policy  
Director, Center for Urban Research  
and Education  
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# The Challenge of Camden, The Challenge for America – Inaugural Conference

Harvard Professor William Julius Wilson delivered the keynote address at the first inaugural CURE conference The Challenge of Camden, The Challenge for America held on April 22, 2013. The conference addressed the poverty of Camden in the context of its region. Camden, New Jersey, is one of the poorest cities in the United States. Devastated by deindustrialization and undermined by suburban sprawl, the city's population has declined by nearly 40 percent since the 1950s. The city is littered with vacant dilapidated buildings and empty trash-filled lots. The city's murder rate has escalated to an all-time high, and the poverty rate has increased to 42.5 percent – the highest of any city in the United States with over 65,000 inhabitants.

Camden is an exemplar of the ills that plague many American cities from Baltimore to Los Angeles and from Chicago to San Antonio. Given the advanced state of disinvestment and urban blight in Camden, it provides an object lesson in the cost to the larger society of ignoring the plight of the inner city. At the same time, the successful redevelopment of Camden would provide a stunning counterexample to the usual pessimism over urban problems and a roadmap to the nation as it strives to confront endemic issues of inner-city poverty. The two panels *How Did We Get Here?* and *Achieving Regional Equity* featured a host of scholarly experts in the field:

## *Panel I: How Did We Get Here?*

Howard Gillette, Rutgers-Camden. "The Historical Roots of Contemporary Poverty in Camden."

Paul Jargowsky, Rutgers-Camden. "Inequality, Segregation, and Concentration of Poverty in the Camden Region."

Robin Stevens, Rutgers University. "Third Places: the influence of physical, social and digital environments on risk taking among youth in Camden."

## *Panel II: Achieving Regional Equity*

Douglas Massey, Princeton University. "Forty Years after Mount Laurel: New Findings on the Effects of Affordable Housing."

Alan Mallach, Senior Fellow, the Metropolitan Policy Program of the Brookings Institution, "Restoring Vitality to America's Distressed Cities and Neighborhoods."

Myron Orfield, Professor of Law and Director, University of Minnesota, Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity.

Here is what Howard Gillette, Emeritus Professor of History at Rutgers-Camden, had to say about the event:

Earlier this week Rutgers-Camden hosted a landmark conference on urban poverty focused on the city of Camden. The convergence of Harvard's William Julius Wilson (*The Truly Disadvantaged*), Princeton's Douglas Massey (*American Apartheid*), and the University of Minnesota's Myron Orfield (*American Metropolitcs*), to say nothing of Rutgers convener Paul Jargowsky (*Poverty and Place*) was unprecedented for the amount of academic firepower brought to bear on the intractable issues that continue to make Camden the poster child for post-industrial decline. Time and again, the speakers emphasized that Camden's problem was central to patterns of metropolitan areas nationwide: regional inequities leave historically central urban places far behind neighboring communities. A recurring theme was the need to open up greater housing opportunities for poor minorities in suburbs, which have been historically hostile to greater integration, either by race or class. The mantra for each of New Jersey's communities has been to maximize ratables while keeping costs associated with social services down. As Myron Orfield noted, these are the communities that have the best chance of convincing new businesses and middle class residents to locate in their towns, and in its current condition, with four times its share of affordable housing and a consequent burden of high social costs, Camden can't compete effectively in the regional marketplace.



Of course, speakers also noted the landmark Mt. Laurel decisions rendered by the New Jersey Supreme Court overruling forms of exclusionary zoning that had prevented the location of affordable housing in many suburban areas. The decision that mandated each of New Jersey's towns to accommodate its "fair share" of affordable housing units has been the law for more than a quarter century. For Camden residents, that might seem like good news in offering alternative housing accommodations where crime is lower, schools are stronger, and jobs are more accessible. The fact, is, however, that the pace of assuring affordable housing alternatives in the suburbs and its availability to the truly poor has been too slow to make any appreciable difference in advancing the deconcentration of big-city poverty. When the Corzine administration eliminated the loophole that allowed communities to sell off a good part of their affordable housing obligation, towns, which had never been enthusiastic about meeting that obligation, heightened their objections to the Mt. Laurel doctrine. Now, Governor Christie has threatened to make matters worse in an effort to please these communities, by trying to eliminate the Council on Affordable Housing and changing the makeup of the Supreme Court.

Professor Massey recounted the objections raised when the Ethel Lawrence Homes complex was located in Mount Laurel: that taxes and crime would rise and property values would fall. Massey's rigorous statistical evaluation showed that these fears were misplaced. Such consequences did not follow Ethel Lawrence. Rather, the fortunes of those who moved to the new complex improved significantly. Among the results they reported were lowered levels of anxiety, improved school performance of children, and rising incomes. A full report of Massey's work will be available in July with the publication, by Princeton University Press, of *Climbing Mount Laurel*.



No one suggested that all other efforts in Camden be dropped in favor of moving out all the working poor. Of course, the danger would be that those left behind would be even poorer. As the Kerner Commission made clear as far back as 1968, however, urban policy should involve both greater investment in the cities and a greater range of opportunities for those of lower income in surrounding communities. Many older suburbs, Myron Orfield reported, are becoming more diverse, but they are also subject to the same patterns of disinvestment and segregation that has devastated Camden for more than a generation. Racially charged steering of minorities, he asserted, are weakening some suburban areas while not making things any better for core cities.

One of those attending the conference was Sandra Ross Johnson, the head of Camden's redevelopment agency. She regretted that the initiatives she is working on, which include a potential increase of 500 new jobs in the city, were not discussed. These efforts deserve attention, and one has to applaud their effect. Not everyone who lives in Camden seeks to live elsewhere. Hopefully new jobs will open up for these residents, especially in light of the fact cited at the conference that 7 of 8 current jobs in the city are held by commuters to the city. But Orfield's warning should be remembered too: a metropolitan system that is sharply divided by race and by class is critically at risk. Our policies for reinvestment need to be metropolitan wide, and to reverse Camden's decline, the opportunity structure which is now so



heavily weighed against Camden residents who live in the city because it is the only place they can afford, has to be rebalanced to open up greater alternatives. Unless that larger perspective is embraced and acted upon, other initiatives, including regionalizing the police and turning control of city schools to the state, will likely prove to be mere palliatives. (<http://gillette.rutgers.edu/2013/04/24/in-addressing-poverty-region-matters/>)

"Great event yesterday. I am truly enjoying the renewed energy that CURE is bringing back to community and redevelopment in Camden. Thank you very much for including us and I look forward to the next event"

Donna Helmes, Camden Redevelopment Agency

"Thank you for bringing Wilson to campus yesterday. He's undoubtedly the most distinguished social scientist we've had on this campus in my 30 years as a faculty member, and his work is really appropriate for our context. Well done!"

Dan Hart, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, Rutgers Camden



Chancellor Wendell E. Pritchett invites you to a special conference:

## The Challenge of Camden, The Challenge for America

presented by the  
Center for Urban Research and Education  
at Rutgers-Camden

**Monday, April 22, 2013  
1 to 5 p.m.**

For more information, contact Natasha Tursi at (856) 225-6797 or [ntursi@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:ntursi@camden.rutgers.edu).  
More information is available at:  
[camden.rutgers.edu/challenge-camden-challenge-america](http://camden.rutgers.edu/challenge-camden-challenge-america)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY:  
**William Julius Wilson**  
Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor and  
Director of the Joblessness and Urban Poverty  
Research Program, Harvard University

*Speakers include:*  
**Howard Gillette**, Professor Emeritus of History,  
Rutgers-Camden  
**Paul Jargowsky**, Professor of Public Policy and Director of  
the Center for Urban Research and Education,  
Rutgers-Camden  
**Douglas Massey**, Henry G. Bryant Professor of Sociology  
and Public Affairs, Princeton University

# CURE Research – Camden Neighborhood Change Study

## *Introduction*

With generous funding provided by the Rutgers Camden Chancellor's Office, CURE has initiated a project to assess the social and economic impacts of changing real estate markets in Camden neighborhoods in collaboration with neighborhood-based organizations in Camden. The findings will be used to propose strategies for maximizing community benefits and reducing or eliminating community disadvantages associated with disinvestment and reinvestment in Camden's neighborhoods.

## *Goals*

This project will produce the following outcomes:

- Document changes in neighborhood real estate markets, by conducting annual property inventories accompanied by an analysis of significant trends
- Disseminate inventory data, including photographic images of individual properties, mapped data, and trend analyses in a readily accessible online format
- Identify outcomes associated with housing, education, and employment associated with members of selected households that moved into subsidized and market-rate housing in these neighborhoods
- Produce an annually updated report proposing public, institutional, and/or private investment strategies for promoting housing affordability, preventing displacement, and advancing human capital development in order to produce positive economic and social outcomes benefitting all residents of these neighborhoods

## *Anticipated Impacts*

- Reduce the threat of displacement through use of trend data (by local community organizations and residents) to provide early warnings about increasing absentee-investor purchases, increasing rent levels, and a declining supply of rental-assisted housing units.
- Improve the strategic use of public-sector, institutional, and charitable resources, guided by better information about the impact of neighborhood change on a block level in areas at the "tipping point."
- Achieve better integration and coordination of affordable housing and human capital-building initiatives, based on a more complete assessment of combined housing/human service interventions.

## Study Area



We selected three neighborhoods in the City of Camden: Cramer Hill, Cooper Lanning, and North Camden's Waterfront, all of which have received or are about to receive significant resource allocations. We piloted phase 1 of our study (the real estate and neighborhood asset data collection) in a select area within the Cramer Hill neighborhood [appendix 2] and will subsequently expand phase 1 into the entire Cramer Hill neighborhood as well as the Cooper Lanning and North Waterfront neighborhoods.



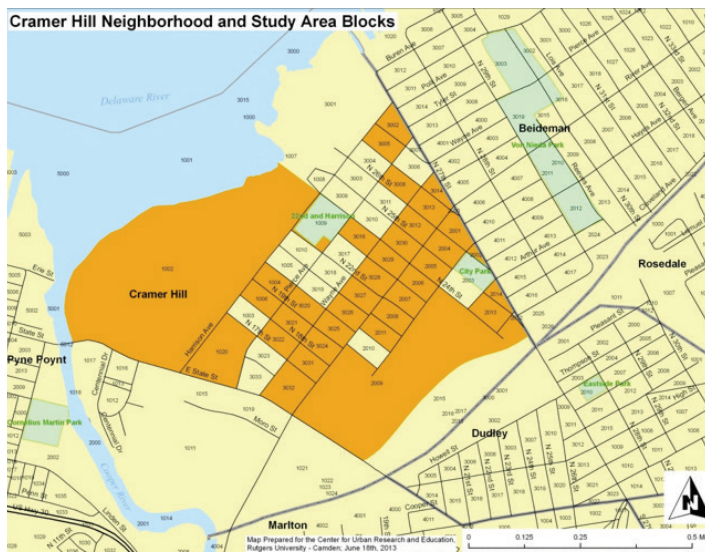
## Methodology

We collected primary data for the sample study area in Cramer Hill to test the feasibility of our methodology. The next step is to collect and analyze primary and secondary data for all 3 study areas to produce.

- a) a baseline report
- b) subsequent annual reports
- c) a longitudinal data set that will be updated annually

Primary data encompasses neighborhood surveys on housing, street, and infrastructure conditions, digital photographs, and in-depth interviews with a sample of residents. The interactive map is an effective way of displaying our data (harnessing the technological developments in GEO tagging, Google Maps APIs, Fusion tables, and GIS applications) and a tool that is easily accessible for anyone interested in this study.

The CURE project team has established collaborative working relationships with neighborhood-based, non-governmental, public, private, and public/private organizations that are associated with Camden City, including CamConnect, the Cooper Foundation, Cramer Hill CDC, the Center for Family Services, Coopers Ferry Partnership, Save Our Waterfront, the Reinvestment Fund, and Metis Associates. We will collect primary and secondary data in collaboration with these organizations.

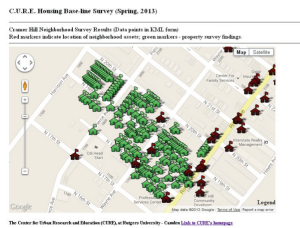


We tested the feasibility of our methodology in the sample study area in the Cramer Hill neighborhood and believe that the survey instrument and digital photographs capture the current status of real estate and general neighborhood attributes and conditions sufficiently. As such, we produced a cross-sectional, descriptive indicator for this particular section of a neighborhood in Camden that is anticipated to change over the next several years due to a sizeable resource, the Kroc Community Center. Our data tell us that the property type in proximity to the Kroc Center is overwhelmingly residential (66%) and in decent, well-maintained condition in terms of clear address signs (81%), structural soundness (100%), low abandonment (<4%), no visible fire or window damage, few boarded-up windows (<6%), almost no graffiti (<5%), and very little litter overall (<8%). In addition, most buildings are owner occupied (87%), and the neighborhood encompasses a whole host of neighborhood assets such as churches, retail, service industry. By all accounts, one can describe this area as a stable, working- or lower middle-class neighborhood.

Once the baseline data collection for all 3 target areas has been completed and the interactive map has been established, we will update the data each year to:

- Present initial findings at a community briefing session in each neighborhood and solicit community views on strategies to increase benefits and reduce disadvantages associated with changing real estate markets.
- Conduct an information exchange session in each neighborhood in order to engage more community members in the project and learn from their experiences and perspectives.
- Review initial findings with city and county planning and development agencies and solicit agency representative views on current and proposed public-sector strategies to increase benefits and reduce disadvantages associated with changing real estate markets.





- Using the Lanning-Cooper Lanning Human Capital Plan as a point of reference, communicate with institutions and service organizations, including those with both a neighborhood-based and citywide orientation, in order to obtain information and insights about human capital-building activities that have proven most effective in each community where a neighborhood target area is located and to gain an understanding of the housing preservation, development, and/or service activities that have complemented human capital-building activities in recent years.
- Review community change strategies in other cities that have produced positive outcomes, in terms of an appropriate blend of housing and human capital supports, in urban neighborhoods with characteristics similar to those included in this project, in order to assess possible replication opportunities that appear to be most appropriate. This review will be completed based on the assumption that public resources that may have supported successful initiatives in past years may not be available—or available at the same level—to support replications of these initiatives in the present day.
- With building industry and real estate professionals, including nonprofit and for-profit developers active in the city and region, discuss mixed-housing strategies and their potential applicability to the neighborhoods in which this project is being conducted.
- Based on the overall project goals described above and on what has been learned through the completion of the five above tasks, draft a summary of proposed housing/human capital development strategies for each neighborhood target area. Review and obtain comments from community members, institution/service organization representatives, and public-sector representatives who had been consulted in connection with the first three tasks above, and revise the draft based on responses received.
- Again using the Lanning-Cooper Lanning Human Capital Plan complete a final draft of proposed housing/human capital development strategies for each neighborhood target area, including a scope, budget with funding sources and uses, and implementation timetable for each strategy.
- Prepare a presentation of community change strategies, to be delivered at a community meeting in each neighborhood and followed by a discussion of the relative merits of the strategies presented.
- Publish a final report containing documentation of Phase Two activities, along with a final version of recommended community change strategies for each of the three neighborhood target areas.

For the complete CNCS interim report, please visit our website at:  
<http://cure.camden.rutgers.edu/camden-neighborhood-change-study/>

# CURE/Office of Civic Engagement Joint Seminar Series

The purpose of the monthly seminar series is to provide members and affiliates of the Rutgers Camden community with opportunities to hear about interesting, cutting-edge research and initiatives by scholars, community activists and others engaged in urban research and/or urban change. These seminars are typically held on Fridays at lunch (lunch is served). Past seminars featured a variety of speakers, including renowned urban scholars, a Rutgers Camden Ph.D. candidate in Public Affairs, a representative of an investment firm active in helping to rebuild Camden, a Fair Share Housing advocate who was instrumental in the Mt. Laurel decision, and others.



Patrick Sharkey, Ph. D., Associate Professor Dept. of Sociology and Wagner School of Public Service, NYU, March 21

“Thinking in Generations: The Persistence of Neighborhood Inequality and the Implications for Urban Policy.”

Sharkey is the author of the forthcoming book from the University of Chicago Press, *Stuck in Place: Urban Neighborhoods and the End of Progress Toward Racial Equality*. His research interests are neighborhoods and communities; stratification and mobility; urban sociology; crime and violence; social policy. Sharkey’s talk explored how political decisions and social policies have led to severe disinvestment from black neighborhoods, persistent segregation, declining economic opportunities, and a growing link between African American communities and the criminal justice system.

As a result, neighborhood inequality that existed in the 1970s has been passed down to the current generation of African Americans requiring urban policies that have the potential to create transformative and sustained changes in urban communities and families.





**Patricia Ciorici, Doctoral Candidate in Public Affairs,  
Rutgers-Camden, September 21**

**“Determinants of Neighborhood Satisfaction: Evidence from the North Camden Resident Satisfaction Survey.”**

Patricia Ciorici presented the results of her research on neighborhood satisfaction among residents in North Camden. The study focused on neighborhood-level attributes to identify the determinants of neighborhood satisfaction. Specifically, the study analyzed the relationships between neighborhood satisfaction, on one hand, and resident perceptions of social and physical neighborhood characteristics, including perceptions of safety, neighborhood physical conditions, quality of social interactions, access to transportation, and quality of public services in the neighborhood, on the other. The extent of social networks served as an additional measure of neighborhood social interactions. The study used the data from the North Camden Resident Satisfaction Survey conducted in 2011 and employed a binary logistic regression model for analysis.



**Alicia Glen, Managing Director, Head of the Urban Investment Group  
Goldman Sachs, October 26**

**“Investing in Urban Change”**

Alicia Glen is responsible for implementing Goldman Sachs’ Community Reinvestment Act business strategy. Under her leadership, the Urban Investment Group at Goldman Sachs has become the industry leader in structuring complex public-private partnerships, catalyzing more than \$4 billion of development across dozens of residential, mixed-use, and commercial projects, as well as financing job creation and neighborhood revitalization strategies like the \$40 million New York Healthy Food and Healthy Communities Fund. Her talk discussed the importance of investment in communities like Camden, and she elucidates how and why Goldman Sachs has invested in Camden’s rebirth.



## Peter J. O'Connor Founder and Executive Director Fair Share Housing Development, November 16

Peter O'Connor is a longtime civil rights activist and co-counsel in the historic Mount Laurel litigation, in which the New Jersey Supreme Court, in 1975 (Mount Laurel I) and 1983 (Mount Laurel II) ruled that every municipality in New Jersey must plan, zone and take affirmative measures to provide its "fair share" of the region's need for affordable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income families.

Mr. O'Connor founded Fair Share Housing Development (FSDH), Inc., a nonprofit corporation, in 1986 to fully implement the settlement agreement in the Mount Laurel Township litigation with housing that would reach very low-income households. Peter's talk addressed the relationship between regional housing opportunities, crime, education, and other social indicators. Specifically, he discussed the positive impact of moving people from high-poverty neighborhoods into low-poverty neighborhoods as elucidated by the affordable housing development "Ethel Lawrence" in Mt. Laurel.



*Peter O'Connor, Founder and Executive Director of Fair Share Housing Center NJ, discusses the importance of fair share housing legislation in the State of New Jersey at a CURE monthly seminar.*

Stefanie DeLuca, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University, January 24

“Why Poor People Move (and Where They Go): Residential Mobility, Selection, and Racial Segregation”

In her talk Dr. DeLuca discussed her research on the process of relocation for the urban poor and how families engage in the process of neighborhood selection throughout their residential biographies. Her research was based on in-depth interviews with low-income African-American families residing in Mobile, AL and Baltimore, MD and aimed to elucidate the reproduction of segregation and unequal neighborhood attainment, which has been a long standing concern in urban research.





Anne B. Shlay, Ph. D., Professor of Sociology, Temple University, February 26

“The Social and Political Exclusion of Renters: Preliminary Ideas”

Professor Shlay noted that in the wake of the recent housing crisis, many Americans will be renters for longer periods of time than previously anticipated. Homeownership will eventually make its return as the quintessential goal of housing policy. But until then, people will rent. In light of this, there may be a window through which it becomes possible to analyze and advocacy for changes in ideas about renting and rental housing policy.

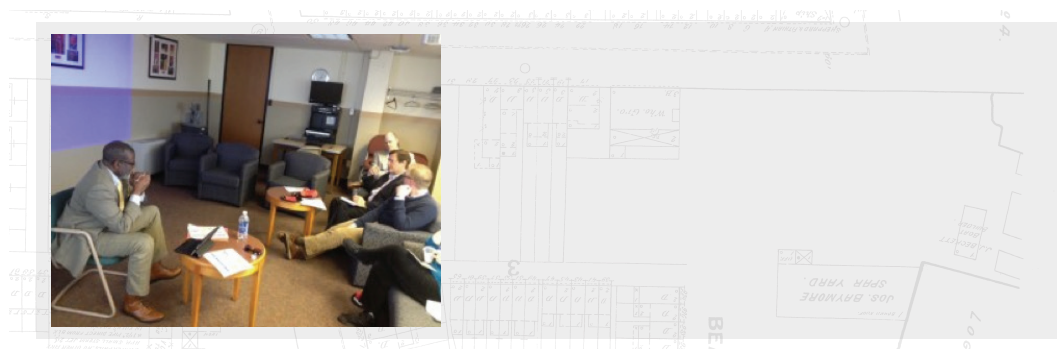


Currently, renting is viewed as undesirable form of land use. Renters are not considered to be community members. Renters are virtual housing and community pariahs in American society. The only apparent cure for this alleged renting malady is homeownership. To this end, policy has focused on low income homeowner, ultimately trapping poor families within the grip of the predatory housing market. For the typical middle class homeowner, the last several years of crisis have been a trial. But for low income families, Professor Shlay argued, the housing crisis has been a complete disaster.

Roland V. Anglin, Ph.D., Director and Associate Research Professor, The Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies, Rutgers University Newark, March 29

“Looking to the Future: Collaboration as Innovation in People and Place Development”

Metropolitan development patterns that developed in force after World War II encouraged significant population shifts away from central cities, leaving reduced tax bases in core cities to support public services and redevelopment. Many cities and communities have found ways, however, to improve key policies and enhance both the local economy and the quality of life. Increasingly, significant policy outcomes are the result of an innovative amalgam of efforts by federal, state, and local government, community development corporations, education reformers, juvenile justice reformers and other all working to promote evidence based solutions. Dr. Anglin’s talk explored some empirical evidence to place the impact of what some have called networked governance and puts forth a guarded judgment on the meaning for urban and metropolitan development.





## Lucy Vandenberg, Executive Director, PlanSmart NJ, April 17

“State Planning, Open Space Preservation, and Urban Revitalization”



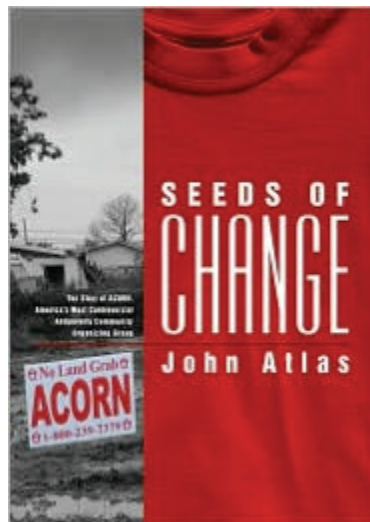
Lucy Vandenberg discussed her work at PlanSmart NJ, her knowledge of planning and redevelopment, urban revitalization, affordable housing, and land use issues in NJ. Lucy I. Vandenberg joined PlanSmart NJ as its Executive Director in the Spring of 2011. She has a broad background in land use planning, community development, housing, and urban revitalization. She is a licensed professional planner.

Lucy Vandenberg most recently served as Planning and Redevelopment Aide for Mayor Dana L. Redd in the City of Camden. Her focus included creating new energy-efficiency programs for the City and developing a strategy to revitalize abandoned properties.

## John Atlas of ACORN, March 27

“Seeds of Change: The ACORN Story and the Future of Community Organizing,” a Talk With John Atlas

In his talk, John Atlas, author of *Seeds of Change: The Story of ACORN, America's Most Controversial Antipoverty Community Organizing Group*, hailed by Robert Kuttner as “the definitive book on one of the most effective grass roots organizations of low income Americans”, discussed the role of ACORN in the Atlantic Yards controversy. He described how the structure and strategy of ACORN, as exemplified by their role in the Atlantic Yards controversy, helped to explain why ACORN had so few allies. This contributed to the demise of the organization when it became embroiled in controversy.



# Student Activities

An important part of our center's mission is to facilitate research opportunities for our graduate students, as well as support their progress in pursuit of scholarly career trajectories. One of the results from our networking with the regional community of urban scholars was that students were invited to participate in an annual doctoral conference hosted by the E.J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers New Brunswick.

## Our Public Affairs Ph.D. students Patricia Ciorici and Prentiss Dantzler participated in the Fifth Annual Krueckeberg Doctoral Conference in Urban Planning and Public Policy in March, 2013

What is the Krueckeberg Doctoral Conference?

This year's Conference convened doctoral students engaged in urban-, planning-, and policy-related research across disciplines and campuses at Rutgers University and neighboring institutions in the tri-state metropolitan area. Named after Professor Donald A. Krueckeberg, the conference commemorates Don Krueckeberg's long-running commitment to doctoral education by providing a forum highlighting doctoral student research at the cutting edge of urban studies, planning, and public policy.

Doctoral students at any stage of dissertation research were invited to present their work at the conference, whether they are first year and trying out a topic, they have just defended a finished dissertation, or they are somewhere in between. Presentations can outline a tentative research topic, survey the literature, report interim findings, or overview a completed dissertation. Each presenter had 15 minutes, followed by a 15-minute period for Q&A at the end of each session.

## CURE supported DPPA students through conference travel funding

CURE supplemented the travel funding for several of our Ph.D. candidates whose papers were accepted at the annual Urban Affairs Association conference in San Francisco in April of 2013. Patricia Ciorici presented her research on neighborhood satisfaction among residents in North Camden, Danny Tarng presented "Deconstructing Food Access and the Food Desert: Exploring Deeper Contexts in Urban Community Food Environments", and Straso Jovanovski and Spencer Clayton presented on "Women of Faith and Hope: A Case Study Approach to Community Healthcare Education, Outreach, and Social Change".



### Student involvement in CURE research

MPPA student Dennis Williams and DPPA Ph.D. candidate Straso Jovanovski provided invaluable support for our Camden Neighborhood Change Study (CNCS). CURE hired Dennis in January to assist with the project, and he has assumed a leading role in organizing our data collection and management, while Straso was instrumental in developing our interactive, online map for the project.



### Other student involvement

Graduate students frequently attended the CURE monthly seminars, providing them with an opportunity to learn about current research and to make connections with faculty outside the university.

Graduate students also supported the Challenge of Camden conference by helping with registration and other event-related logistics. CURE is grateful for the support and ongoing engagement of masters and doctoral students in the Center's activities.

# Affiliated Research Centers

This year, the center established a network of urban research centers in our region and beyond with the aim of information exchange and potential future collaborations on regional initiatives. As such, it serves to link the urban research community in our region. CURE-affiliated research centers include centers at Rutgers New Brunswick and Newark campuses, as well as at the University of Pennsylvania which is geographically very close to our center.

## Ralph W. Voorhees Center for Civic Engagement (Rutgers New Brunswick)

The Center for Civic Engagement is a collaborative effort of university faculty, students and community development actors that seeks to enhance educational opportunities, facilitate innovative research, and build community development capacity. The center builds on the strength of existing relationships between faculty and students at the Bloustein School and community development networks and organizations in New Jersey and beyond. The Center hosts the Ralph W. Voorhees Public Service fellowship program for undergraduate and graduate students who work collaboratively with community organizations on group projects each Fall. The Center seeks to:

- enhance dialogue and discussion among communities, government, students, and scholars
- increase community development capacity
- conduct research in partnership with communities
- enhance educational opportunities in and outside of the classroom
- support the development of innovative responsive public policy, and
- encourage innovation and entrepreneurship

## Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies (Rutgers Newark)

Established in July 2000, the Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies is an important part of the Rutgers-Newark campus. The Cornwall Center facilitates research and learning exchanges among scholars and other stakeholders in the public, private and non-profit sectors to address urban and metropolitan challenges. The center is named after the late Joseph C. Cornwall, the founding chair of The Fund for New Jersey and a widely respected civic leader.

## Penn Institute for Urban Research (University of Pennsylvania)

The Penn Institute for Urban Research (Penn IUR) is dedicated to an increased understanding of cities through cross-disciplinary research, instruction, and civic engagement. As the global human population becomes increasingly urban, understanding cities is vital to informed decision-making and public policy at the local, national, and international levels. Penn IUR develops knowledge in three critical areas: innovative urban development strategies; building the sustainable and inclusive 21st-century city; and the role of anchor institutions in urban places. By providing a university-wide forum for collaborative scholarship and instruction, Penn IUR stimulates research and engages with the world of urban practitioners and policymakers.



# The Data Center



Affiliated scholar Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn has led the effort to develop the CURE Data Center. The purpose of the Data Center is to provide a robust computing platform that is ideal for data-intensive projects requiring advanced processing power. The central feature of the data center is a Linux computer with a high-speed solid state disk drive. Users can log on to the computer from anywhere and collaborate on projects through shared folders on the server. A full suite of statistical and GIS software is available on the computer, and new packages can be added upon request.

Users can also share large data sets, such as the American Communities Survey, via the Data Center. Currently, every data table for every summary label is available in a separate Stata file for the 2005-2009, 2006-2010, and 2007-2011 five-year summary files. More datasets will be added as they become available.

## Affiliated Scholars

CURE affiliated scholars include academics at Rutgers Camden from various disciplines whose research interests involve urban issues. We have ongoing relationships with these scholars through affiliated scholar lunch meetings where we discuss our current research projects and possibilities for future collaborations, as well as through email listserve and our website. Our scholar colleagues are always encouraged to participate in our events, provide feedback, and share their ideas for center activities.



**Robert Atkins**

*Director, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's NJ Health Initiatives Program*



**Gloria Bonilla-Santiago**

*Board of Governors Service Professor of Public Policy and Administration*

*Director, Center for Strategic Urban Community Leadership*



**Gail Caputo**

*Associate Professor, Sociology*

*Director, Graduate Program in Criminal Justice*



**Maureen M. Donaghy**

*Assistant Professor, Political Science & Public Policy and Administration*



**Michael Javen Fortner**

*Assistant Professor, Political Science & Public Policy and Administration*



**Howard F. Gillette**

*Professor Emeritus, History*



**Christopher Goodman**

*Assistant Professor, Public Policy and Administration*



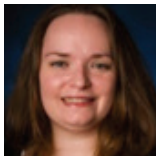
**Daniel Hart**  
*Professor II, Psychology and Childhood Studies*



**Gwendolyn L. Harris**  
*Executive Director, The Walter Rand Institute of Public Affairs*



**Andrew Lees**  
*Professor II, History*



**Joan Maya Mazelis**  
*Assistant Professor, Sociology*



**Lorraine C. Minnite**  
*Associate Professor, Public Policy and Administration*



**Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn**  
*Assistant Professor, Public Policy and Administration*



**Wendell E. Pritchett**  
*Chancellor, Rutgers University Camden*



**Robin Stevens**  
*Assistant Professor, Childhood Studies*



**Louis Tuthill**  
*Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice*

**Stacia Gilliard-Matthews**  
*Assistant Professor, Sociology*

# Building the Research Community

One of the center's goals for the AY 2012/2013 was to build the research community and expand the network of those interested and involved in urban research and urban activities across the region. To that end, CURE hosted aroundtable session at the annual Urban Affairs Association research meeting, expanded its affiliated scholar community, and networked with scholars and experts inside and outside of Rutgers.

*The following individuals joined the CURE affiliated scholar community:*

## Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn joins the Center for Urban Research and Education – August 21, 2012

Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn joins Rutgers-Camden as an Assistant Professor of Public Policy and the latest CURE Affiliated Scholar. Adam's interests are varied, including cross-national studies of happiness, inequality, and social welfare. He is an expert in statistical methodology and the use of complex data in social science research.



## Christopher Goodman joins CURE as an Affiliated Scholar – November 16, 2012

Christopher B. Goodman is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Policy and Administration at Rutgers University at Camden where he teaches public budgeting and finance, financial management and research methods courses. Christopher's research interests include local public finance, public financial management, urban policy, and economic development. Christopher earned his PhD from the University of Georgia in Public Administration with a fields in public management, public policy and public budgeting and finance in 2012.



## Dr. Louis Tuthill

Dr. Louis Tuthill, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, earned his Ph.D. from the University of California-Riverside. His research interests include sociology/criminology and political economy/firearm trafficking, juvenile delinquency, gangs, drug markets, neighborhoods and crime, evaluation research, and terrorism. Dr. Tuthill previously served as a Social Science Analyst for the United States Department of Justice. He is continuing to work with federal and local law enforcements to improve efforts in reducing violent, gang, and drug-related crime and improving community partnerships.





In addition, CURE actively networked with individuals interested in urban research within the Rutgers community, as well as outside of the Rutgers community. Within Rutgers, CURE hosted several CURE-affiliated scholar lunch meetings at Rutgers-Camden, all of which were well attended and fruitful in exchanging ideas and forging collaborations. In addition, CURE connected with scholars from our other Rutgers campuses (i.e. the EJ Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and the JC Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies) and had a productive meeting to discuss our individual research endeavors, potential collaboration, student conferences and engagement, and so on. Resulting from this meeting, CURE inceptioned an “urban” listserve where scholars, students, and others interested in urban research can post relevant announcement, learn of events, jobs, etc. Another outcome was an agreement that Public Affairs Ph.D. students at Camden were encouraged to participate in the annual Krueckeberg doctoral conference held at the Bloustein School.

#### CURE organized a roundtable session at UAA’s annual research meeting in Pittsburgh:



##### *“Can Camden Come Back?,” Roundtable Session*

The Urban Affairs Association will hold its annual research meeting in Pittsburgh from April 18-21. There will be a roundtable session organized by CURE on April 20th at 2:05pm, “Can Camden Come Back.” Paul Jargowsky will be the moderator, and the panel will feature Howard F. Gillette, Professor Emeritus at Rutgers-Camden; Anthony Perno, President, Cooper’s Ferry Development Association; and Gwendolyn Harris, Executive Director, Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs. UAA is the premier interdisciplinary organization of urban scholars in the US.

CURE also met with other constituencies interested in networking with the Center. For example, CURE had several lunch meetings with representatives of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia’s division of Community Development Research to discuss mutually relevant regional research and opportunities to work together on projects and initiatives.



#### Scholars Discuss Interdisciplinary Initiatives on Poverty

The study of poverty is often dominated by sociologists and economists. Yet poverty and inequality are such a fundamental aspects of the human experience that many other disciplines have valuable contributions to make to our understanding of this phenomenon. How has poverty been portrayed in literature,

and how has that changed over time? What are the moral and ethical dimensions of poverty in an affluent? How does the experience of poverty shape individual and group identities? Generally, what insights into the causes and consequences of poverty can be contributed by the Humanities, particularly English, history, philosophy, and religion?

To gauge the interest on campus in a broadly interdisciplinary program of activities concerning poverty, CURE sponsored a lunch with scholars from across the University. Those attending the lunch, shown below from left to right, are Lorraine C. Minnite (Public Policy), Joan Maya Mazelis (Sociology), Carol J. Singley (English), Christopher Fitter (English), Paul Jargowsky (Public Policy), Keith Green (English), John Wall (Childhood Studies, Philosophy and Religion), and Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn (Public Policy). Also attending was Natasha Tursi, Associate Director of CURE. Proposals for follow up activities are under development.

# CURE Affiliated Scholar Community

CURE- affiliated scholars had a very productive and exciting year in terms of research, grants, and other news as elucidated through the following posts to our website, in chronological order. While this list is not exhaustive, it illustrates the variety of research projects and activities taking place among the urban scholars at Rutgers-Camden.

## New Urban Research Project Funded – February 24, 2012

Congratulations to Affiliated Scholar Maureen Donaghy, who has received a grant from the Rutgers Faculty Research Grants Program, which is administered by the Office for Research and Economic Development for her project, “*Confronting Dislocations: Civil Society Impact on Urban Policy*.”

## Lori Minnite addresses PA Voter ID Law – August 15, 2012

Affiliated Scholar Lori Minnite appeared on Radio Times with Marty Moss-Coane to discuss Voter Fraud and the State of Pennsylvania’s new voter ID requirements. You can listen to the discussion at <http://why.org/cms/radiotimes/2012/08/14/voter-id-laws-and-voter-fraud/>

## Affiliated CURE scholar Joan Maya Mazelis, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor of Sociology) received RU FAIR ADVANCE Mini-Grant of \$7,500 to support research assistance for her forthcoming book – October 11, 2012

Congratulations to Professor Joan Maya Mazelis for receiving the RU FAIR mini-grant to support work on her forthcoming book: *Our Strength Is in Our Unity: The Limits of Human Capital and the Rewards of Social Capital for the Poor*. Her work explores the tradeoff between mobility and survival strategies among the poor by considering two groups of poor people with whom she conducted in-depth ethnographic interviews: some she met through the Kensington Welfare Rights Union (KWRU), an organization in Philadelphia providing day-to-day support for poor people and dedicating itself to structural change to end poverty, and some she met through social service agencies. A notable difference between the two groups is that KWRU members invested in social capital as a survival strategy and respondents she found through social service agencies invested in human capital by engaging in education or job training, or gaining work experience.

It is generally difficult for poor people to invest heavily in both social capital and human capital, compounding their struggles. People who invest in social capital have no choice but to embrace this survival strategy, but they have to abandon mobility strategies. People able to focus on human capital and mobility see little return on their efforts. Mazelis’s book proposes that poor people would benefit from policies and agencies designed to promote the development of both.

### Affiliated Scholar Lori Minnite quoted in the New Yorker – October 25, 2012

Affiliated Scholar Lori Minnite was quoted in a recent New Yorker article, “The Voter-Fraud Myth”. Lorraine Minnite, a public-policy professor at Rutgers, collated decades of electoral data for her 2010 book, *The Myth of Voter Fraud*, and came up with some striking statistics. In 2005, for example, the federal government charged many more Americans with violating migratory-bird statutes than with perpetrating election fraud, which has long been a felony. She told me, “It makes no sense for individual voters to impersonate someone. It’s like committing a felony at the police station, with virtually no chance of affecting the election outcome.”

### Congratulations to CURE affiliated scholar Bob Atkins! – May 22, 2013

Bob Atkins Ph.D., RN, Associate Professor of Childhood Studies and Nursing, has been appointed the new director for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s New Jersey Health Initiatives (NJHI) program. New Jersey Health Initiatives supports advancement in health services delivery, improvement in health and the expansion of leadership expertise through grantmaking across the State of New Jersey. To meet the many health needs of our state’s diverse populations, regions and communities, the NJHI program encourages improvement and collaboration in health service programs, delivery systems, provider arrangements and financing mechanisms. Congratulations Bob!

### CURE-affiliated scholars Stacia Gilliard-Matthews and Robin Stevens in the news! – June 6, 2013

An article that appeared in NJ.com on June 5th highlights the research conducted by two of our affiliated scholars, Rutgers-Camden professors Stacia Gilliard-Matthews and Robin Stevens, who are hoping their study will help youths in high-crime and high-poverty neighborhoods in the city avoid drug and alcohol abuse.

“The multi-year survey, called “EPIC Camden,” is currently being conducted by Rutgers–Camden professors Stacia Gilliard-Matthews and Robin Stevens. With plans to gather stories, information and perspectives from 260 African American and Hispanic Camden residents between the ages of 13 and 30, the professors want to accomplish two goals: show that a majority of youths are making efforts to avoid crime and drug abuse, and provide information for those in danger of falling into those two traps.” (NJ.com)

## Scholarship and activities of Center Director Paul A. Jargowsky



Professor of Public Policy Paul A. Jargowsky joined Rutgers-Camden in 2011 to be the founding director of the Center for Urban Research and Education. He is a Senior Research Affiliate at the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan and an affiliated scholar of the Urban Institute. He is well known for his work on high-poverty neighborhoods in U.S. metropolitan areas. His book, *Poverty and Place: Ghettos, Barrios, and the American City*, was named the Best Book in Urban Affairs for 1997-1998 by the Urban Affairs Association. Jargowsky's work helped to refocus the debate about high poverty neighborhoods in the inner city away from local neighborhood factors and toward the metropolitan housing and labor markets that contribute to economic segregation.

Jargowsky's current research agenda focuses on the causes and consequences of the metropolitan spatial stratification. He finds that after falling during the 1990s, the spatial concentration of poverty has surged since 2000, particularly since the housing crisis and recession began in 2008. In particular, concentrated poverty has returned to and surpassed the peak levels of 1990, but with important differences in the distribution and composition of high-poverty neighborhoods. For example, concentration of poverty has grown fastest among non-Hispanic whites. High-poverty neighborhoods are substantially less likely to be composed of a single racial or ethnic group. No longer confined to the central cities of major metropolitan areas, concentrations of poverty have increased faster in smaller metropolitan areas. Another change is that high-poverty census tracts are no longer found in one or two contiguous clusters, but are more widely scattered around metropolitan areas, including inner-ring suburban areas. Concentration of poverty, therefore, remains an important social problem that is now affecting more groups in more diverse locations in the metropolitan landscape.

Jargowsky also has an interest in the role the racial and economic segregation play in limiting access to educational opportunity. From 2003 to 2008, Jargowsky served as Director of the Texas Schools Project (TSP), which brings together data from multiple Texas state agencies, school districts, as well as other sources to support independent, high-quality academic research on a variety of topics. Using TSP data, Jargowsky has investigated the relative contributions of neighborhood and peer effects on student achievement. Current projects examine the role of Texas pre-K program for economically and disadvantaged students, and finds important effects on math and reading scores in third grade – five years after participation in the program.

### Dr. Jargowsky's Recent Research Presentations – October 12, 2012

Dr. PAUL JARGOWSKY (professor, CFAS-public policy and director, Center for Urban Research) presented a paper, "The Effect of Texas's Targeted Pre-Kindergarten Program on Academic Achievement," at the conference "Improving Education Through Accountability and Evaluation: Lessons from Around the World" that was held in Rome and organized by the University of Maryland School of Public Policy, the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, and the Istituto nazionale per la valutazione del sistema educativo di istruzione e di formazione. His presentation was on Oct. 4. He also participated in a panel discussion, at the conference "The Truly Disadvantaged after 25 Years," (Conference Agenda) which was held at Harvard University on Sept. 14.

## Dr. Jargowsky's remarks at Harvard commemorating the 25th anniversary of Bill Wilson's "The Truly Disadvantaged"

The event was held at Harvard University on September 14, 2012. For more information on the event: <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/news-events/news/press-releases/truly-disadvantaged-conference-release>

## Dr. Jargowsky quoted in the Phila Inquirer on Feb. 10, 2013

Center director Paul Jargowsky was quoted in an article that appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer on Sunday, February 10, 2013, entitled: "Amid Crushing Poverty and Crime, Camden Fights On"

## Dr. Jargowsky quoted in MSN News – March 8, 2013

As part of the "In plain sight – Poverty in America" series by MSN News, Center director Paul Jargowsky was quoted in the article "What's The Matter with Camden?" ([http://inplainsight.nbcnews.com/\\_news/2013/03/07/17226041-Whats-the-matter-with-camden?chromedomain=rockcenter](http://inplainsight.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/03/07/17226041-Whats-the-matter-with-camden?chromedomain=rockcenter)).

## Dr. Jargowsky's recent research presentation – April 11, 2013

Center director Paul Jargowsky presented his recent research *Inequality's Spatial Dimension: The Case of the United States* at the Conference on Solidarity VIII: Inequality and Social Solidarity in Vienna, Austria on April 5-7, 2013, sponsored by the Social Science Research Council and the Institute for Human Sciences/ Vienna.

## Student Civic Engagement in Camden!

Adam Dembo and Falio Labya-Martinez, students in a Spring semester course entitled Camden and the Region taught by Center Director Paul Jargowsky, wrote in a recent email:

*Professor Jargowsky,*

*I just wanted to thank you for inspiring Falio and I to create our civic engagement project. We did another cleanup on May 18th at the other park in Centerville located on 7th and Ferry Ave. We are also thinking about setting up a non-profit group to revitalize all the basketball courts in Camden. With a budget less than \$200 we were able to make a significant impact on two courts and parks. Hopefully in your future classes we can get some other urban studies students involved and continue the project. Thanks again for the inspiration.*

*Adam*





# Scholarship and activities of Associate Director Natasha O. Tursi

## Appointment of CURE Associate Director, Dr. Natasha O. Tursi

In September of 2012, Dr. Kriste Lindenmeyer, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers-Camden announced that Dr. Natasha Tursi joined CURE as Associate Director. Prior to joining CURE, Dr. Tursi was a very effective Assistant Dean in the Arts and Sciences responsible for coordinating the University College's Academic Transitions Program (ATP).

In her new role as Associate Director of CURE, Dr. Tursi is responsible for program development, outreach and dissemination, and management of center activities. She will assist Prof. Jargowsky in identifying and pursuing strategic opportunities for research funding through foundations and government agencies. As a Ph.D. in Planning and Public Policy, she will also have the opportunity to reconnect with scholarly research through her work with the Center.

Indeed, Natasha has reconnected with scholarly research by directing the Camden Neighborhood Change Study, teaching a graduate Colloquium in Housing Policy in the Fall, attending the annual Urban Affairs Association conference that was held in San Francisco in April of 2013, participating in the Rutgers Camden Writing Circle, as well as a university-wide program to advance Women in Science. In addition to her work at the center, which includes networking with scholars in the field and forging collaborations, Natasha's dissertation was recently published as a book entitled *A Discourse Analysis of the Policy-Making Process: Poverty Deconcentration, Housing Mobility, and the Construction of Recent US Housing Policy*.

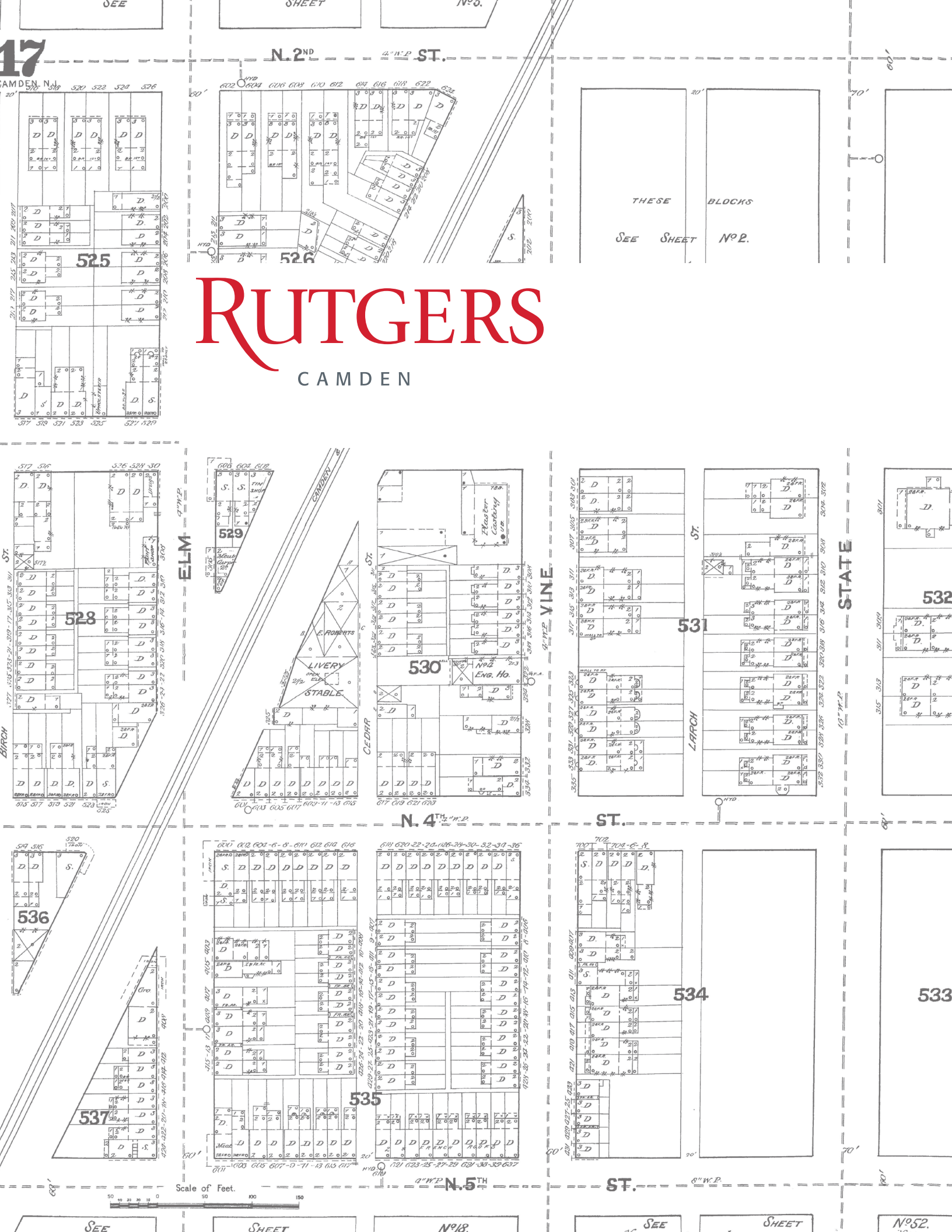


## Looking Ahead – Plans for the 2013/14 Academic Year

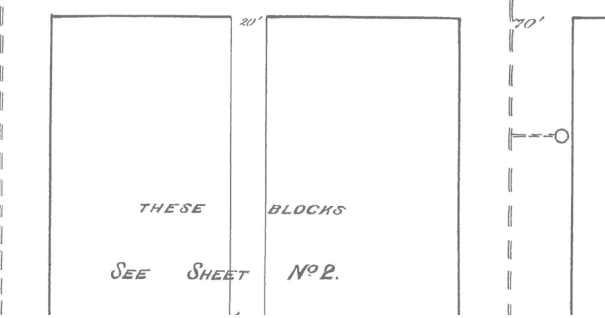
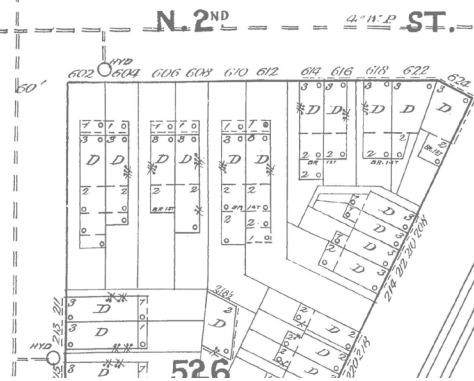
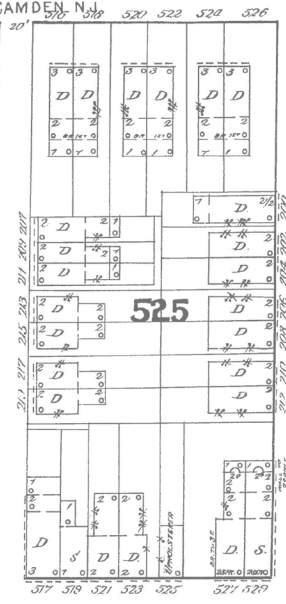
- *Acquire grants to fund new and existing research projects*
- *Facilitate research opportunities for graduate students*
- *Collaborate with Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank Community Development Studies and Education Office on graduate student events and internship opportunities*
- *Initiate a working paper series*
- *Expand and increase activity of our data center*
- *Create an interactive map that elucidates regional poverty concentration patterns and their associated impacts on education, crime, and other outcome measures that affect the well-being of our residents in the state and the region*
- *Host another exciting seminar series*
- *Organize a joint conference with our affiliated research center and produce publication of conference papers*
- *Host a forum on Latino incarceration*
- *Host a debate on a current policy topic*
- *Produce a NJ Poverty Report in collaboration with our affiliated research centers*

We welcome comments and suggestions for future activities that would benefit the urban research community on the Rutgers-Camden campus. If you have suggestions, please contact Natasha Tursi :

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