Charlotte Data Day: Using Data for Community Development
Tuesday, March 26, 2013 • UNC Charlotte Center City Building

Presenter Bios

Claire Apaliski, Social Research Specialist, UNC Charlotte Urban Institute
Claire’s primary focus at the Institute is the Regional Indicators Partners. She is involved with multiple client-based research initiatives and needs assessments for various organizations in the Charlotte community. Her responsibilities include project design and management, data collection and review, report writing and review, client relations, and graduate student supervision. Claire received a B.A. in Geography with a Concentration in Environmental Science from Villanova University in 2008. She is currently working on her Master’s Degree in Geography from UNC Charlotte.

Katie Benston, Chief Program Officer, Care Ring
Care Ring is a Charlotte-based non-profit organization with a mission to empower individuals with limited resources to establish and maintain good health. Katie joined Care Ring in April 2011 and oversees the strategy and operations of all programs for the agency. She has more than 20 years of operations management and fund development experience, including eight years of non-profit leadership. Katie is a graduate of Furman University and obtained her certification as a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE).

Shannon Binns, Executive Director, Sustain Charlotte
Shannon founded Sustain Charlotte. Prior to moving to Charlotte in 2007, Shannon worked at The Nature Conservancy in Washington, DC as part of their climate change science and policy team. Shannon has also served as an agro-forestry volunteer with the Peace Corps in Senegal and helped found a tsunami relief organization in Thailand. He has served in communities across the Northeast United States as a member of AmeriCorps. In the private sector, Shannon has worked as an industrial engineer for Motorola, General Motors, and Trane. He is a Senior Fellow in the Environmental Leadership Program’s Southeast Network and a former Supervisor on the Mecklenburg County Soil and Water Conservation Board. Shannon is also an adjunct professor in the Sustainable Technologies program at Central Piedmont Community College. Shannon received a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Iowa State University and a M.A. of Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy from Columbia University.

Heather Bradbury, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)
Heather has over 15 years of experience in the fields of communications, and creative and educational project management. Prior to MICA, Heather held the position of Communications Specialist at the Maryland State Department of Education, Office of the State Superintendent as well as in the Office of Public Outreach at the Space Telescope Science Institute (home of the Hubble Space Telescope). Heather’s background and broad professional experience provide her with a unique perspective in visual communication.

Laura Clark, Director, The Larry King Center, Council for Children’s Rights
Laura’s work involves research, community planning, and advocacy to provide long-term solutions to problems affecting children in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. Laura also is an adjunct faculty member at Queens University, teaching courses in human and community services. Her previous work includes serving as the Director of Research and Planning for the Council for Children’s Rights and the Director of Evaluation and Community Impact for United Way of Central Carolinas. Laura received a B.A. in Psychology from Appalachian State University and a M.A. in Clinical and Community Psychology from UNC Charlotte.

Bryan Connor, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)
Bryan is a consultant and professor for the master’s degree in information visualization at the Maryland Institute College of Art. His specialties include data visualization, information and web design, and infographics. Bryan is the co-founder and design director of Infused, a web portfolio tool that allows professionals and organizations to collect, organize, and showcase their work and achievements. His professional background also includes working as a freelance designer for varying organizations. Bryan received a B.A. in Graphic Design from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2011.
Dr. Owen J. Furuseth, Associate Provost for Metropolitan Studies and Extended Academic Programs, UNC Charlotte

Owen is professor of geography at UNC Charlotte. Prior to joining the UNC Charlotte faculty, Owen was employed as an urban and regional planner in Jacksonville, Florida. Since joining the faculty at UNC Charlotte, he has had an active program of engaged scholarship, working with local governments, non-profits, and community groups to design and develop community planning tools and policy guides. Beginning in 1997, Owen has served as the principal research director for UNC Charlotte’s partnership with the City of Charlotte for the Neighborhood Quality of Life studies. Furuseth’s current research interests are centered on community change, especially social and neighborhood change associated with Latino immigration into Charlotte and North Carolina, more broadly. In 2006, he co-edited with Dr. Heather Smith, the book, *Latinos in the New South: Transformations of Place* (Ashgate).

Ira Goldstein, Ph.D., President, Policy Solutions, The Reinvestment Fund (TRF)

The Reinvestment Fund is a results-oriented, socially responsible community investment group. Dr. Goldstein has conducted detailed spatial and statistical analyses of housing markets in many cities ranging from Philadelphia to Detroit to San Antonio. Those studies are used by local government to craft policy responses and allocate scarce resources based on local market conditions. He also has conducted studies of mortgage foreclosures and abusive lending practices. His work supported civil rights and consumer protection cases brought by federal, state and local governments. Prior to joining TRF, Dr. Goldstein was the mid-Atlantic Director of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. He is a former member of the Federal Reserve Board’s Consumer Advisory Council and a current member of the Research Advisory Board of the Center for Responsible Lending, Governor of Pennsylvania’s Housing Advisory Committee and the HOPE LoanPort Board. For more than 20 years, Dr. Goldstein has been a Lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania’s Urban Studies program.

Eric Guckian, Executive Director, New Leaders for New Schools

New Leaders’ mission is to ensure high academic achievement for all children, especially students in poverty and students of color, by developing transformational school leaders and advancing the policies and practices that allow great leaders to succeed. New Leaders is currently a community of 75 school leaders in Charlotte committed to transforming the city’s highest need public schools. Previously, Eric served as Executive Director of Teach for America-North Carolina. Over the course of his tenure with TFA, the size of teaching corps quadrupled and the annual fundraising base tripled. Most importantly, student achievement dramatically increased; students taught by TFA teachers in North Carolina had the highest student achievement outcomes in the country among their TFA peers according to ABC Accountability results. Eric received a B.A. in English from Colgate University and a M.A. in Education from Harvard University.

Jerri Haigler, Vice President of Education, Engagement, and Communications, United Way of Central Carolinas

Jerri is an accredited public relations professional and her current work involves increasing community engagement and support for quality public education in the United Way region. Before joining United Way, she served as the Executive Director of Parent University for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, a program designed to engage parents in their children’s academic success. She also served as Executive Director for Public Information in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Jerri received a B.S. in Communications from Wingate University.
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**John Howard, Project Coordinator, Neighborhood and Business Services, City of Charlotte**
John’s emphasis is on managing the Quality of Life Study. Prior to this role, John was a Principal Planner for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Department for 12 years, working collaboratively with neighborhood residents, the development community, and government staff to improve the built environment. In his current position, John builds on this spirit of collaboration by managing outreach strategies to area residents and other Quality of Life Study users. John received his B.A. in Architecture from UNC Charlotte.

**Kelly Karres, Data Dissemination Specialist for North and South Carolina, U.S. Census Bureau**
Kelly has worked for the Census Bureau for seven years in several positions including Program Supervisor and Information Services Specialist. Her current position involves educating the public on the availability, extraction and usage of data available on the Census Bureau’s website. She has provided over 200 presentations, training and workshop sessions for a variety of groups including community planners, chambers of commerce, non-profit organizations, educational institutions and business organizations. Kelly received a B.S. and M.S. in Sociology from UNC Charlotte.

**Mary Klenz, Chair, Mixed Income Housing Coalition**
The Mixed Income Housing Coalition is a grassroots coalition that works to gain support for policies that create and sustain mixed-income communities in Mecklenburg County. Mary also serves as the second vice president of the League of Women Voters (LWV) of the United States, former President of the LWV Charlotte-Mecklenburg and Co-President, LWVNC. During her terms she chaired the League’s successful statewide campaign to repeal the state food tax, founded the Leagues Civics 101 program and currently is serving on the steering committees for NC Women Matter and Together NC. Mary received a B.A. in Business and a M.A. in Sociology from UNC Charlotte. Mary founded and operated the Klenz Insurance Agency for Nationwide Insurance for twenty-five years before selling her business in 2004.

**Raquel Lynch, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Crisis Assistance Ministry**
Crisis Assistance Ministry is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing assistance and advocacy for people in financial crisis. In this capacity, Raquel leads the strategic plan of the organization and oversees the agency’s advocacy program, strategic projects, and technology. Her previous work focused on community and infrastructure development at two of Charlotte’s leading immigrant rights organizations, the Latin American Coalition and the International House, respectively. She is currently serving or has served on the following boards and committees: North Carolina Justice Center, State Advisory Panel of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, ACS’s Project & Access Programs grants, Legal Services of Southern Piedmont and the Theatre Charlotte Diversity Task Force. Raquel received a B.A. in Communications Arts from Hofstra University.

**Matthew Martin, Regional Executive, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Charlotte Branch**
Matt is responsible for leadership of the Charlotte branch as well as Community Development, Economic Education, and Financial Institution Outreach across the Federal Reserve’s 5th District. He joined the Charlotte Branch as a regional economist in 2006. In that role, his responsibilities included analyzing regional economic conditions, as well as developing relationships with and educating the region’s diverse constituents on the work of the Federal Reserve and the Richmond Fed. Prior to joining the Federal Reserve, Matt covered national and regional economic issues for Moody's Economy.com. His other professional experience includes time spent as an analyst at the Congressional Budget Office and as a faculty member at Kent State University, where he taught macroeconomics, money and banking, and economic history. Matt serves on the boards of Community Link, North Carolina Council on Economic Education, South Carolina Economics, and the Advisory Board for UNC Charlotte’s Belk School of Business. Matt is a Pennsylvania native and received a B.S. from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and after military service, received a Ph.D. from the University of Delaware.
Presenter Bios

**Bill McCoy, Retired Director, UNC Charlotte Urban Institute**
Bill is Professor Emeritus of Political Science, and former Associate Vice Chancellor for Extended Academic Programs at UNC Charlotte. Among many community activities, he has served on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission, on the Citizens Advisory Committee for the 2005 Transportation Plan, on the Planning Board of the Town of Davidson, and served as the Executive Director of Leadership Charlotte. He is currently serving or has served on the following Boards of Directors: Leadership Charlotte, the Carolinas Land Conservation Network, Central Carolinas Choices, the Charlotte Chamber, WFAE, the University City Area Council, the University City YMCA, Child Care Resources, Inc., Grier Heights Economic Foundation, and the Mecklenburg Council on Aging. Bill received his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee.

**Shannon A. McKay, Research Analyst, Community Development, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond**
Shannon is involved in the department’s work on foreclosures, neighborhood stabilization and small manufacturing cities, as well as its data and mapping initiatives. She has a Ph.D. in Urban Studies and Planning from MIT. Her doctoral work focused on the intersection of politics and economics in the development and implementation of land use regulations, specifically those addressing growth management issues. Shannon has a B.A. in Economics from Vassar College and a M.S. in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University. Prior to attending graduate school, Shannon worked in the Education Policy Center at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C.

**Jeff Michael, Director, UNC Charlotte Urban Institute**
A planner and attorney by training, Jeff’s professional experience includes extensive work on sustainable development and land conservation issues in North Carolina, including the co-founding of two non-profit organizations, The LandTrust for Central North Carolina and Central Park NC. Prior to coming to the Institute, Jeff served as Director of the Wildacres Leadership Initiative one of the state’s premier leadership programs focusing on human relations. Jeff received a B.A. in Business Administration and M.A. in Regional Planning from UNC Chapel Hill. He also holds a J.D. from the University Of North Carolina School Of Law.

**Amy Hawn Nelson, Director, Institute for Social Capital, UNC Charlotte Urban Institute**
UNC Charlotte’s Institute for Social Capital is an organization committed to advancing university research and supporting data-based decision making in our community. As a Teach For America alumnus and NC Principal Fellow, she has served as a public school teacher and school leader. Amy’s myriad experiences at the school level inform her work as an educational researcher. She is an active member of the community, serving several youth and music oriented organizations in Charlotte. She has two M.A. degrees; one in Teaching from Johns Hopkins University and one in School Administration from UNC Charlotte. Amy also has a Ph.D. in Urban Education, Curriculum & Instruction from UNC Charlotte.

**Matt Noonkester, Principal, Seven Hills Town Planning Group, Inc.**
Matt is the founder of Seven Hills Town Planning group is a planning firm specializing in town-building and sustainable development. Matt’s professional experiences include working with staff and elected officials in preparing regional growth and corridor studies and capital improvement, transportation, and small area plans. He has worked in the public sector as the Zoning Compliance Planner for the City of Bloomington, Indiana and possesses several planning and software certifications. Matt received a B.A. in Urban Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a M.S. in City/Urban Community and Regional Planning from Florida State University.
Laura Simmons, Social Research Specialist, UNC Charlotte Urban Institute.
Laura manages the Charlotte Regional Indicators Project and the accompanying Indicators Partners Program. In addition, Laura oversees multiple client-based research initiatives for various organizations in the Charlotte community. She also works on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Quality of Life Study and is involved with the Mecklenburg Area Partnership for Primary Care Research (MAPPR). Laura has a B.A. in Geography from Macalester College, St. Paul, MN and a M.A. in Geography from UNC Charlotte.

Timmothy Tibbs, Assistant to the Mecklenburg County Manager, Mecklenburg County
In his role as the County Ombudsman, Timmothy assists the County Manager, Board of County Commissioners and general public with research projects and problem resolution. He has also worked as co-project lead to expand the Quality of Life Study countywide. Before joining Mecklenburg County in 2008, he worked as the Planning Director for the Town of Elizabethtown, North Carolina as well as numerous public agencies. Timothy received a B.S. in Public Health from Western Kentucky University in 2000 and a M.A. in Public Administration with honors from North Carolina Central University in 2007.

Tom Warshauer, Community Engagement Manager, Neighborhood and Business Services, City of Charlotte
Tom has worked for the City of Charlotte for more than 20 years developing and managing programs to revitalize neighborhoods and business districts to maintain and improve the quality of life for residents. He received a B.A. in Architecture from Rice University and a M.A. in Real Estate Development from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).