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# Newsletter

**lewis center** n.  
...established to promote the study, understanding and solution of regional policy issues, with special reference to Southern California, including problems of the environment, urban design, housing, community and neighborhood dynamics, transportation and economic development...

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**“The Socioeconomic Status of American Indians and Asians in Los Angeles” UC Regents Presentation**  
page 1

**Lewis Center Boasts of Own Comedienne: Project Director Ruth Matthias**  
page 2

**Staff Research Associate Supervisor, Doug Houston**  
page 2

**American Community Survey Workshop**  
page 3

**Mapping Community Health: Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Health and Public Health Research**  
page 4

## 2004 Frankel Symposium: “Shaping Environmental Science: Science in Context”

The UCLA School of Law, in cooperation with the Lewis Center, hosted the 2004 Frankel Symposium on environmental policy on March 12.

Dr. Donald Kennedy, President Emeritus and Bing Professor of Environmental Science and Policy Emeritus at Stanford University and Editor-in-Chief of *Science Magazine*, was the keynote speaker for the “Shaping Environmental Policy: Science in Context” symposium.

This symposium provided panelists and attendees with the opportunity to discuss and explore the functions of law, politics, science, values, and public participation in the cultivation of conscientious environmental policy.

UCLA School of Law

Interim Dean Norman Abrams and Associate Dean Ann Carlson introduced the four panels to follow.

Jody Freeman, UCLA Professor of Law and Associate Dean of the UC Santa Barbara Donald Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, moderated the opening panel on “Perspectives on Science and Values in Environmental Decisionmaking.”

The panelists explored the authority of science in the development of environmental policy and in expert as well as the lay’s perceptions of such policymaking.

The panelists of the “New Source Review” panel, moderated by UCLA Acting Professor of Law Timothy

Malloy, scrutinized the influence of new source permitting on economic health and technological advancement.

J.R. De Shazo, Lewis Center Associate Director and Policy Studies faculty, moderated the panelists of the third panel, entitled “The Role of Science Advisory Boards in Making Environmental Policy,” in their discussion of government agencies’ use of SABs in environmental policymaking.

The fourth panel on “Public Participation, Expertise, and Risk,” moderated by UCLA Environmental Law Center Executive Director Sean B. Hecht, probed the role of expert and lay participation in environmental policy development.

## “The Socioeconomic Status of American Indians and Asians in Los Angeles County”

On February 5, Asian Pacific American Community Development Data Center coordinator and research analyst Melany Dela Cruz and graduate student researcher Rita Varisa Patraporn presented preliminary findings from the “The Socioeconomic Status of American Indians and Asians in Los Angeles County: Educational Attainment, Employment, and Home Ownership” project to the UC Regents.

Dela Cruz and Patraporn discussed the socioeconomic findings about American Indians and Asians in comparison to non-Hispanic whites. The project is scheduled to be completed in June 2004.

The project, sponsored by the Center for Community Partnerships, United American Indian Involvement, and Coalition of Asian Pacific American Community Development, aims to understand the nexus between human capital, labor market status, and homeownership for American Indians and Asians in Los Angeles, according to Patraporn.

The project was one of three UCLA in LA grant recipients selected to present at the meeting “as an example of research applications and usage by community based organizations and the University on areas of mutual interest,” according to Center of Community Partnerships Assistant Director Margaret Leal-Sotelo.

Chancellor Albert Carnesale, Associate Vice Chancellor of Community Partnerships Frank Gilliam, Center for Community Partnerships staff, University of California Office of the President staff, and graduate students of Paul Ong’s research seminar also attended the presentation.



## Meet the Staff ....



### RUTH MATTHIAS

#### PROJECT DIRECTOR

"I make sure that the project gets done. I work on them from the human relations aspect to project funding to project implementation."

In her research, Ruth focuses on geriatric issues such as aging, long-term care, and in-home caregiving.

Ruth is currently coordinating a project funded by the state to evaluate the nurse workforce initiative.

In a second project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies, she will explore family caregiving under California's in-home supportive services program to help determine areas for the expansion of the caregiver workforce in the state.

Her work places her in the path of a variety of staff and graduate students.

"I get to work with very smart and interesting people. I enjoy the collaboration with people who share the same goals as I do. It's fun working with people who enjoy what they are doing and have a sense of humor."

Before coming to the Lewis Center, Ruth taught middle and high school biology in Iowa and worked in geriatric medicine at the UCLA School of Public Health after earning her doctorate at UCLA.

She was also a 10-year board member of the Venice Family Clinic, a Los Angeles-based free clinic.

Outside of her work, Ruth enjoys such relaxing and rejuvenating activities as reading, taking walks, and traveling.

This past December, Ruth vacationed in India.

"It was amazing and fasci-

nating. I want to go back!"

Ruth has also experienced life on the other side of the Atlantic - she lived in England in the late 70s and 80s.

"I stayed in London. I loved it, but not the weather. I got a little homesick because I missed the California sunshine."

When Ruth is grounded in California, she watches TV shows and remodels for fun.

"I watch Law & Order and it's relaxing. Now we're remodeling our condo. That's not relaxing. You can say remodeling is a hobby—it never ends!"

Always prepared with a ready smile and an off-the-cuff joke, Ruth enjoys sharing humor with her co-workers.

"My motto is, 'You should always have three clean jokes that you can share.'"

Some benefits of aging - Kidnappers are not very interested in you. There's nothing left to learn the hard way. Things you buy now won't wear out. You can eat dinner at 4 p.m. You have a party and the neighbors don't even realize it.

This is one of many jokes bestowed upon Lewis Center staff by project director Ruth Matthias, who coordinates the center's healthcare and long-term care projects.



### DOUG HOUSTON

#### STAFF RESEARCH ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR

Public Policy and Social Research and has continued on in his present capacity since earning his master's degree in Urban Planning in 1999.

"As the staff research associate supervisor, I help oversee and manage a number of research initiatives run through the Lewis Center and help coordinate the center's GIS activities. Not only do I conduct research and keep projects on task, I also work closely with graduate students engaged in research."

Doug has been involved in many research projects in his five years at the Lewis Center.

The CalWorks Transportation Needs Assessment, conducted in conjunction with Los Angeles County, was one of Doug's first projects at the Lewis Center. The project identified transportation barriers facing welfare

recipients who reenter the workforce and investigated policies that would assist their transportation needs.

Presently, Doug is investigating the effects of air pollution on the health of residents of high traffic areas. This project began as a collaboration with researchers in the UCLA School of Public Policy who were concerned with the effects of air pollution on residents living 100 meters from high pollution areas.

Doug is also the principal investigator of a UCLA Community Partnerships grant project that is collaborating with arts and cultural museums to explore the ways that Los Angelenos use such institutions.

Outside of his work at the center, Doug is writing a coming-of-age novel set in East Texas, where he grew up, and is

involved in peer writing groups.

"I feel that I am on the right path in life. When I was an undergraduate, I realized there were three things I wanted to do in my life: write fiction, teach, and do public policy research."

"I am happy those things are a part of my life now. They keep me challenged and learning new things. In some way, I hope they make a difference. My goal is to keep pursuing these things and see what I can learn," reflected Doug.

Doug's satisfaction with his life does not prevent him from thinking about his next one.

"I have come to a decision in the last six to nine months that if I am reincarnated, I would want to be a hummingbird. They are really fast and their favorite flowers are aloes, which are *my* favorite flowers."

"While it is widely known that I am an aloe plants enthusiast, few people know that I am compiling a web page celebrating the genus. Fewer still know the web address: [aloescape.com](http://aloescape.com)," said Doug Houston, the Lewis Center's staff research associate supervisor and GIS coordinator.

This aloe-enthusiast has worked at the Lewis Center since his days as a graduate student at the UCLA School of

## Project Abstracts

### California Policy Options 2004

Edited by J.B. Mitchell

The 2004 edition of California Policy Options paints the picture of a state starting to turn things around politically and economically, but constrained by structural flaws and demographic demands, particularly poverty, education, law enforcement, and labor markets have been impacted. This edition of California Policy Options also includes articles on policy topics as diverse as the challenges facing ex-offenders looking for work, human resources policy and morale issues at the Los Angeles Police department, urban design for public safety, and incentives for school reform.

This edition is published by the School of Public Policy and Social Research with the Lewis Center.

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Complete reports for each project can be accessed through the Lewis Center website at [www.lewis.spspr.ucla.edu](http://www.lewis.spspr.ucla.edu).

### United Way American Community Survey Workshop

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ambitious effort by the U.S. Bureau of the Census to collect demographic and socioeconomic data that will be used to produce annual statistics for local communities. The ACS is scheduled to replace the long-form data from the decennial census, which is a rich source of information but is collected only once every ten years. ACS will provide more timely statistics that can be used to enhance program planning and policy formulation. Los Angeles County has been selected as a possible pilot site to examine how annual ACS data can be reported for communities of at least 65,000 people.

On March 25, 2004, the United Way and the Lewis Center hosted a meeting for representatives from the Bureau of the Census and regional agencies to discuss the potential of the proposed pilot project for ACS. The meeting included individuals from the Air Quality Management District, Southern California Association of Government, Metropolitan Transit Authority, California Department of Finance, Los Angeles County

### California Transportation Needs Assessment: The Transportation Barriers and Needs of Welfare Recipients and Low-Wage Workers

by Evelyn Blumenberg, Douglas Miller, Mark Garrett, Lisa Schweitzer, Karen Kitsis, Michael Manville, and Bravishwar Mallavarapu

This report seeks to aid policymakers, planners, and administrators in using available funds to effectively plan for the transportation needs of welfare recipients and other low-income adults in California. The objectives of this project were to identify the transportation obstacles facing welfare recipients and other low-income individuals in California, provide transportation options to better enable CalWORKs recipients and low-income individuals to find and keep employment, provide information and county-specific data to better assist local welfare agencies, transit providers, workforce development boards, state agencies and the private sector in planning and implementing welfare-to-work transportation programs, and to develop a statewide strategy for applying for and allocating funding through the Job Access and Reverse Commute program.

Department of Health Services, and Los Angeles County Urban Research. The goals for the meeting were to stimulate an exchange of ideas, to strengthen the network of agencies that will benefit from ACS, and to explore new opportunities.

The issues discussed included the criteria for defining the boundaries for sub-county areas, the desirability to tests other options

### Neighborhood Effects on HIV Testing: A Multi-Level Analysis

by Stephanie L. Taylor, Arleen Leibowitz, Paul A. Simon, and Oscar Grusky

Only one study has explored geographic variations in HIV-testing and possible regional characteristics correlated with that variation. This paper explores geographic disparities in HIV-testing and eleven neighborhood characteristics as potential correlates of those disparities. Using a 1999 random probability sample of Los Angeles County adults, a multi-level analysis was conducted of HIV-testing among respondents in: 1) all neighborhoods and 2) the subset of regions having more respondents reporting higher-risk sex.

Additional testing outreach efforts are needed in Latino and White higher-risk areas in L.A. County. Latinos represent 40% of the newly diagnosed AIDS cases in L.A.; similar rates are seen in the ten West and Northeast states where Latinos with HIV/AIDS are clustered. Thus, public health officials and HIV/AIDS service organizations in these regions may want to evaluate their efforts at targeting Latino neighborhoods.

for defining communities, the need to work closely with the Bureau of the Census, and the potential to develop projects to take greater advantage of ACS data. The meeting concluded with recommendations that the group should continue to work with the Bureau of the Census on the pilot effort and to expand the discussion to include other stakeholders.



*From left: James T. Christy, Regional Director, and Perry Wong, Information Services Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau Los Angeles Regional Office*

# Lewis Center Videoconferencing Facility

Professor Stuart Kirk of the Department of Social Welfare explains, "It worked well, it was my first time with it" about his experience using the Internet conferencing capabilities of the Lewis Center's videoconferencing facility.

On January 19, Professor Kirk held a colloquium with a New York-based professor via videoconferencing to provide his doctoral students with an opportunity to converse with the professor about his research.

Professor Kirk's experience is part of the Lewis Center's burgeoning program to provide the School of Public Policy with an interactive resource that facilitates "communication between researchers and public policy officials in the state and nation and between the University of California campuses," according to SRA Supervisor Doug Houston.

"Right now we are conducting a pilot phase, having professors conduct symposiums in the videoconferencing facility in order to work out any bugs before we open availability to the public," Houston explains.

The Lewis Center's high-speed Internet-based videoconferencing facility includes a large plasma monitor, camera, and other audiovisual equipment supporting videoconferencing and tele-



conferencing capabilities.

The idea for the videoconferencing facility germinated from discussions spurred by Dr. Gary Dymksi of the UC Center in Sacramento (UCCS), who approached Lewis Center Director Paul Ong as a representative of the School of Public Policy to establish a communications bridge between UCLA and UCCS.

After the pilot phase, the Lewis Center plans to make the facility accessible to faculty and projects affiliated with the center.

"Hopefully, our pilot effort with the UC Center in Sacramento will help demonstrate ways the facility can be used to link the School of Public Policy with policymakers in Sacramento and strengthen the UCCS program run by Dr. Dymksi. UC students doing internships in Sacramento must complete a certain number of units while they are there. The Lewis Center facility will allow professors at UCLA to hold lectures via telecommunication so students can complete their course credit while in Sacramento," said Houston.

As suggested by Professor Kirk's experience, "The videoconferencing system has already proven to be a successful tool in facilitating communication."

## "Mapping Community Health: Using GIS in Health Research"

On May 7, the Lewis Center will sponsor an all-day forum entitled "Mapping Community Health: Using GIS in Health Research" that will explore the use of geographic analytical techniques, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS), in health and public health research.

The Lewis Center is presenting this event in conjunction with the UCLA Center for Research, Education, Training, and Strategic Communication on Minority Health Disparities.

"It is primarily a 'how to' event featuring researchers who will discuss research methods and demonstrate how to use GIS as a mapping research tool," said Lewis Center GIS coordinator Doug Houston.

According to Houston, the workshop will highlight a number of research projects, including research that links individual survey responses with neighborhood characteristics and demonstrates how neighborhoods have affected individual behavior.

"The premise of the event is that neighborhoods play a very important role in individual and community health. For instance, the distance of a person's neighborhood from an HIV clinic plays an

important role in whether they access care. A wave of recent studies have documented the role of neighborhood factors in the health disparities faced by poor and minority neighborhoods. Similarly, air pollution and related health problems vary substantially across Los Angeles. Seniors, children, and those most vulnerable to pollutants are often the most impacted by the pollution."

Workshop-style presentations will demonstrate and discuss methods for measuring the influence of neighborhood-level characteristics on community health outcomes.

Nancy Krieger, Associate Professor of Public Health at the Harvard University School of Public Policy, will give a presentation entitled, "The Public Health Disparities Geocoding Project: Monitoring U.S. Social Inequalities in Health," in the morning session.

The afternoon session will feature a panel presentation of geographic techniques used in a number of health and public health projects.

The forum, a response to suggestions by the Lewis Center Advisory Committee, is open to the public and is geared toward researchers who are

involved in or are interested in ways to integrate neighborhood factors into their research.

*RVSP at [www.lewis.sppsr.ucla.edu](http://www.lewis.sppsr.ucla.edu).*

### **Lewis Center Staff**

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SRA Supervisor: Douglas Houston  
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### **HIV Early Detection Organizational Factors**

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