

Annual Report

FY08



REGIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Forty-three years of Regional Research Excellence



Regional Research Institute
West Virginia University
3040 University Avenue
PO Box 6825
Morgantown, WV 26506-6825

Tel: 304-293-2896
Email: rri@mail.wvu.edu
Website: www.rri.wvu.edu

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Executive Summary

I am pleased to present this summary of the Regional Research Institute's activities for FY 2008. During the past year, the RRI continued to maintain and strengthen its forty-three year tradition as an internationally recognized center of excellence for research, teaching, and service in regional research. This report describes the professional activities of RRI's core faculty and Faculty Research Associates between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008. More extensive descriptions of these activities can be found on the RRI web page at <http://www.rri.wvu.edu>.

The very popular Web Book of Regional Science continued to draw extensive interest from researchers around the world, and several new volumes were added to the Classics section. Four research grants were continued, completed, or initiated. RRI core faculty had ten external publications and fourteen RRI Working Papers published on the RRI web site. The RRI sponsored seven campus-wide seminars, bringing to campus scholars of national and international reputation. Continuing its long-standing tradition of cooperating with international researchers, the RRI hosted three visiting scholars, this year all from Korea. As a result, the RRI signed two Memoranda of Understanding, one with Andong University, the other with the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics & Trade (KIET). The RRI also continued to support its Internal Seed Grant Program, with the production of external research proposals as the primary goal.

Our service activities to the state and the profession also continued apace. In June 2008, we completed our final year of a long-term commitment to maintaining and providing up-to-date population information and analysis on West Virginia in service to the state and the profession. We also provide free public access to input-output software and an interstate commodity flow database. We hosted and or maintained ours plus three additional web sites: two for regional science professional organizations and one for an RRI-initiated consortium of regional research institutes and centers. I'm pleased to report that there are now eighteen national and international members. I also was honored this year to receive the David E. Boyce Award for Distinguished Service to the Regional Science Association International, as I also concluded my service as Chair of the North American Regional Science Council.

These activities combine to promote, facilitate, and generate external funds, to support a highly active regional research community on campus, and perhaps most importantly, to sustain a national and international visibility for the Institute and West Virginia University. As the authors of our most recent external review expressed, "Indeed, to economists and geographers trained since the early 1960s, West Virginia University is best known as an international leader in regional research." I am pleased to be in a position to continue and reinforce West Virginia University's reputation for excellence.

Randall W. Jackson, Director

RRI Mission

The Regional Research Institute at West Virginia University conducts and promotes interdisciplinary research on the economic and social development of lagging regions. A focal point for regional research excellence for more than four decades, the RRI has served as an internationally recognized center for the advancement of regional science – an interdisciplinary field at the intersection of geography, economics, and planning.

Our research focuses on theories and history of regional development, methods for studying regions, and policies for stimulating their development. We seek to advance understanding of socioeconomic processes and our ability to explain regional differences in rates of growth and levels of regional development. RRI activities are both national and international in scope. We have interests around the globe, and maintain a special focus on our own Appalachian region.

The Institute is committed to scholarship at its highest levels. We currently have 32 Faculty Research Associates representing 14 different departments or units from five colleges, a solid core of regional science faculty in-house, an extended network of scholars elsewhere in the United States and abroad, and an outstanding group of graduate students. Our goal is to create learning opportunities, to provide research support for those engaged in regional research, and to bring together scholars from across campus and around the world to create an intellectually rich environment for the conduct of regional research. We sponsor visiting scholars, seminars, workshops, and conferences, providing a forum for exchanging ideas and discussing regional development research and issues. A primary RRI goal is to enhance the image of West Virginia University by solidifying the status of the Institute as an internationally recognized center of excellence in Regional Science research.

FY08 Faculty and Staff

Shaoming Cheng	Research Assistant Professor
Sung-Goan Choi	Visiting Scholar
David Dyre	Graduate Research Assistant
Gebremeskel Gebremariam	Post-Doctoral Research Fellow ((appointment ended))
Hodjat Ghadimi	Research Associate Professor
Haixiao Huang	Post-Doctoral Research Fellow (returned to China)
Randall W. Jackson	Director
Christa Jensen	Graduate Research Fellow
Mulugeta Kahsai	Graduate Research Assistant
James LeSage	RRI Faculty Affiliate (University of Texas at San Marcos)
Vishakha Maskey	Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Kathryn O'Donnell	Graduate Research Associate (appointment ended)
Kenneth Patrick	Accounting Assistant (resigned)
Sumedha Pradhan	Accounting Assistant
William H. Miernyk	Director Emeritus (now deceased)
Mary Lou Myer	Administrative Assistant
Chris Reber	IT Manager
Sam Wilkinson	Graduate Research Assistant (appointment ended)

Faculty Research Associates

James T. Anderson	Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Management
Laura A. Blanciforti	Economist, NIOSH
Cheryl Brown	Assistant Professor, Agricultural and Resource Economics
Mary Carter	Assistant Professor, Center on Aging, School of Medicine
K. Victor Chow	Professor of Finance
Brian J. Cushing	Associate Professor of Economics
Jinyang Deng	Assistant Professor of Recreation, Parks and Tourism Resources
Stratford M. Douglas	Associate Professor of Economics
Gerard E. D'Souza	Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics
Gregory A. Elmes	Professor of Geography
Jerald J. Fletcher	Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics
Ken Fones-Wolf	Associate Professor of History
James J. Friedberg	Professor of Law
Tesfa G. Gebremedhin	Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics
Robert Q. Hanham	Associate Professor of Geography
Trevor M. Harris	Professor and Chair of Geography
Michael Hendryx	Associate Professor, Community Medicine
Ronald L. Lewis	Eberly Distinguished Professor of American History
Kevin M. Leyden	Associate Professor of Political Science, Director of Public Affairs
Roger A. Lohmann	Professor of Social Work
Kenneth C. Martis	Professor of Geography
Robert M. Maxon	Professor of History
A. Michal McMahon	Associate Professor of History
Ann M. Oberhauser	Professor of Geography
Timothy T. Phipps	Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics
Santiago M. Pinto	Associate Professor of Economics
Peter V. Schaeffer	Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics
Steven W. Selin	Professor of Forestry
John C. Super	Professor of History
William N. Trumbull	Associate Professor of Economics, Interim Dean
Timothy A. Warner	Professor of Geography
Charles Yuill	Associate Professor of Resource Management

Our Board of Advisors

Internal Advisory Board

Brian J. Cushing

Associate Professor of Economics

Ronald L. Lewis

Eberly Distinguished Professor of American History

Roger A. Lohmann

Professor of Social Work

Peter V. Schaeffer

*Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics
Division Director, Resource Management*

External Advisory Board

Raymond J.G.M. Florax

*Professor, Economics and Business Administration
Professor, Spatial Economics, Free University
Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

Kingsley E. Haynes

*Dean, School of Public Policy
George Mason University*

T. R. Lakshmanan

*Director, Center for Transportation Studies
Executive Director, Center for Energy and
Environmental Studies
Boston University*

Peter McGregor

*Professor and Head, Economics
University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland*

Karen R. Polenske

*IDRP Head and Professor of Regional Political
Economy and Planning
Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

John Rees

*Professor, Geography
University of North Carolina at Greensboro*

Arthur Getis

*Professor, Geography
San Diego State University*

Geoffrey J.D. Hewings

*Professor, Geography, Economics
Director, Regional Economics Applications Laboratory
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

Edward Malecki

*Director, Centre for Urban and Regional Development
Associate Editor, Entrepreneurship and Regional
Development
The Ohio State University*

David A. Plane

*Professor, Geography and Regional Development
University of Arizona*

John M. Quigley

*I Donald Turner Distinguished Professor
Haas School of Business
Chancellor's Professor, Public Policy and Economics
Director, Berkeley Program on Housing and Urban Policy
University of California, Berkeley*

Sponsored Research

The Regional Research Institute occupies a unique position on the WVU Campus. While limited in research staff, its activities and influence extend across a large number of disciplines, colleges and research units. The RRI research staff for AY08 year comprised the Director, a Research Associate, a Research Assistant Professor, and a Post-doctoral Research Fellow. All RRI research staff are expected to participate in external funding activities, including the preparation and submission of external funding proposals and the conduct of funded research. The RRI strives to include faculty from across campus in collaborative research proposals initiated in-house, and also participates whenever appropriate and possible in initiatives centered elsewhere. Non-RRI collaborators are most often drawn from the ranks of the RRI's Faculty Research Associates, who gain that status by virtue of having competed successfully for an RRI internal grant. Of course, we welcome, encourage and have benefited from the participation of all researchers with complementary interests. We continually seek to expand ties with other campus units. A growing number of FRAs (32) from an ever widening number of departments and other units (now 13) are reflections of these efforts. Likewise, we seek to build relationships with researchers other institutions, including continuing collaborations with scholars at other institutions, which have included the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon, Georgia Tech, the University of Washington in Seattle, and the National Energy Technology Laboratory.

External Funding History

\$20K in external funding was administered by the RRI in 98-99. Just under \$50K ran through the Institute the following year, after which the amounts fell sharply. Upon the arrival of the current Director in January 2002, there was no external funding administered by the Institute. This was the result in part due to instability in RRI leadership, culminating in a vacant Directorship for the last half of 2001. Since that time, the RRI has had administrative oversight on more than 50 research proposals submitted or re-submitted involving more than 30 different WVU faculty members. During 2007-2008, the RRI completed, continued, or initiated four externally funded research projects. One of the three projects was administered by Engineering, the other three by the RRI.

2007-2008 Projects

Models of Energy Futures and NETL's Local/Regional Economic and Environmental Impact

Researchers: Randall Jackson, Regional Research Institute; David Martinelli, Civil & Environmental Engineering; researchers from Carnegie Mellon University and the National Energy Technology Laboratory
Funding agency: The National Energy Technology Laboratory (DOE/NETL)

Start Date: September 15, 2006, Duration: 12 months

Funding agency: The National Energy Technology Laboratory (DOE/NETL). \$107k

Project Summary: This project provided a means for (1) regularly estimating the economic benefits that NETL employment and funding has on the state economy in terms of job creation and (2) identifying the more extensive state-level benefits from NETL research and energy industry improvements in the form of reduced costs and environmental impacts. In future years, the project work could develop means for quantifying the benefits associated with NETL research results and energy industry improvements. The intent is to develop a methodology that can be used by NETL and its partner research universities for continuing impact assessments and to provide guidance in decision making with respect to research investments. The project involved researchers at Carnegie Mellon and West Virginia Universities as well as personnel from NETL.

Materials Flow Modeling in Sustainable Industrial Systems within Urban Centers

Collaborative Researchers: Nancey Green Leigh, Bert Bras, Steven French, Catherine Ross, and John Muzzy, City & Regional Planning, Mechanical, Chemical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology; Joyce Cooper, Mechanical Engineering, University of Washington; Randall Jackson, Regional Research Institute, West Virginia University

Start Date: September 15, 2006, Duration: 5 years

Funding Agency: National Science Foundation. \$99k

Project Summary: Urban centers contain a significant and growing fraction of population and material and energy flows associated with the use and disposal of products. Re-engineering the flows of materials – particularly the patterns of their disposal – is critical to achieving sustainable systems within national boundaries, across international boundaries, and across generations. Yet, the urban landscape and population, and their associated material flows, have been underrepresented in models of sustainable industrial system growth. In developing models and tools to shape the next generation of industrial systems for materials mined from urban centers, the spatial distribution of these material resources must be integrated because successful

design of sustainable systems cannot occur in a geographical vacuum. In recognition of the symbiotic material flow relationship between manufacturing companies and urban regions, this multi-disciplinary collaborative research effort will develop a framework for modeling and assessing the impact of redesigning urban materials flows to advance the mutual goals of sustainable industrial and urban systems. Our common focus is on mining specific products and associated materials from urban centers through new recycling networks and facilities for the Atlanta and Seattle metropolitan regions, and on modeling the economic development and environmental effects of different material flow scenarios on these regions. In our work, we will connect Geographic Information Systems data to demographic data, to consumer behavior models, to product models with material information, to industrial recycling process models, to Input-Output and Social Accounting Matrix models, and to transportation and environmental impact assessment models.

The resulting framework and models will be applied to evaluate specific techno-economic-policy scenarios of interest to the Cities of Atlanta and Seattle in carpet and electronics recycling in terms of material flows, transportation, economic development, and environmental impact. Recognizing the global need for such models and analysis systems, our work includes a problem-based international educational component focused on the dumping of electronic waste in Africa. We expect the research insights generated by this project will help in closing the significant gap in thinking on sustainability that has resulted from treating industrial systems separately from urban systems. Closing this gap is a necessary condition for fully mitigating the environmental impacts of industry. Outcomes will include improved modeling of material flows for the urban scale that will help in developing market-based collection and recycling systems which take into account the impacts of consuming greenfields, inner city economic revitalization, and landfill reduction. Thus, this research is intended to encourage new manufacturing activity via waste diversion in distressed areas -- a promising economic development strategy that promotes urban sustainability.

Valuing Domestically Produced Natural Gas and Oil

Researchers: Randall Jackson, Regional Research Institute; Lisa Phares, National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL)

Start Date: October 1, 2007, Duration: 16 months

Funding agency: The National Energy Technology Laboratory (DOE/NETL). \$107k

Project Summary: Technologies supported and advanced by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct999 technologies) funding are expected to increase US natural gas and oil production while lowering production costs. The goal of this project is to develop a model that will facilitate a national and regional economic analysis of the impacts of offsetting imports by increasing domestic natural gas and oil production in areas likely to be impacted by EPAct 999 technologies. Ultimately, this project is aimed at capturing the economic impacts of industry-based activity associated with converting new and existing reserves into production and moving

this product to the point of refinement or processing. The incremental value of these activities is the net value of these domestic production activities less the value of import-related activities within the US.

The RRI was notified in June of 2008 that the following has been approved for funding. Pre-project coordination at WVU and with collaborators at George Mason University and Florida International has begun.

Evaluation without Bias: New Performance Measures for Business Incubators in Rural America

Researchers: Shaoming Cheng and Randall W. Jackson, WVU Regional Research Institute, and Peter Schaeffer, Division of Resource Management

Start Date: September 1, 2008, Duration: 2 years

External Funding: USDA's National Research Initiative (NRI). \$500k

Project Summary: The proposed integrated project demonstrates the importance of business incubation for entrepreneurship fostering and rural economic development. It shows that existing evaluation tools for business incubators are lacking and that there have been numerous flawed attempts to evaluate incubator performance in the past. Moreover, it shows that there have been systematic and inherent biases against rural incubators in the way evaluation data have been interpreted with regard to rural business incubation programs where successful business formation and development are known to be considerably more difficult than in more urbanized areas. The research produces new and expanded tools and instruments for evaluating the performance of rural business incubators, specifically, quantitative quasi-experimental and input-output measures and qualitative balanced scorecard measures. Major outputs of the integrated project include: 1) An evaluation toolkit for business incubators. The toolkit will include a description of the problems rural incubators face, the methods for addressing these problems, and draft protocols (measurement instruments and instructions on their utilization) for evaluation of rural business incubators. 2) A handbook for policy makers and practitioners in business incubation, entrepreneurship nurturing, and rural development. The policy handbook highlights the challenges and opportunities for rural incubators, develops generalizable, yet tailored policy tools and action plans addressing identified challenges, and provides a strategic focus on the needs of the development of business incubators and quality entrepreneurship in the economically distressed areas. 3) A new curriculum, which emphasizes the interconnection between entrepreneurship and rural development.

Four proposals for approximately \$850k were pending as of the end of FY2008.

Web Book of Regional Science

The Web Book of Regional Science brings together on one web site comprehensive descriptions of many of the basic concepts, analytical tools and policy issues important to regional science. The papers can be accessed at <http://www.rri.wvu.edu/regscweb.htm>.

The Web Book of Regional Science is equivalent to well over fifteen hundred pages of traditional text. The intent in bringing together such an extensive collection of scholarship is to make it possible for instructors to choose from a menu of offerings (appropriate for their students) when designing courses. Just as one would never order everything on the menu for one meal at most restaurants, it is not expected that anyone would ever put all of the Web Book contributions into a single syllabus! The electronic medium makes appropriate choices easy. The flexibility of electronic publishing also makes it easier to either update or supplement the material once it is posted. A further advantage of the hypertext version of each Web Book contribution is the live links that quickly provide the reader with access to glossary definitions, data sources, or related web sites. The Web Book is fully searchable, so users can quickly identify the material that interests them the most. The contributions fall into three broad categories, one oriented towards methods or empirical issues, another toward more topical or policy oriented topics. The third category includes regional science classics, to which 11 volumes were added in 2008.

Web Book materials are used in introductory, upper division undergraduate and graduate courses, and by practitioners. Globalizing forces, technical progress in marrying regional models with data, and an increasingly important understanding of the complexity of systems that govern global change and its regional dimensions means that the skills of regional scientists will be in great demand throughout this new millennium. An indicator of this demand is popularity of the Web Book of Regional Science, which now logs more than 11 million hits per year. Researchers from more than 92 countries visit the site during in a typical year.

Publications and Presentations

Publications

- Jackson RW and K Haynes. Methods: Shift-Share Analysis. In International Encyclopedia of Human Geography, Elsevier (forthcoming).
- Giarratani F, G Gruver and RW Jackson. Reply to SD Kominers Comment on “Clusters, Agglomeration, and Economic Development Potential: Empirical Evidence Based on the Advent of Slab Casting by U.S. Steel Minimills.” Economic Development Quarterly (forthcoming).
- Hailu YG TG Gebremedhin and RW Jackson. An Econometric Analysis of the Links between Income Inequality and Economic Growth. Journal of Income Distribution, (forthcoming).
- Cheng, S and R Stough. 2008. The Pattern and Magnitude of China’s Outward FDI in China. In *New Dimensions of Economic Globalization*, eds. R Rajan, R Kumar and N Virgill. Singapore: World Scientific.
- Cheng S. 2008. Fostering Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development in China: A Policy Review. *Journal of the Washington Institute of China Studies* 3,1: 52-62.
- Cheng, S. 2008. How can Western China Attract FDI? A Case of Japanese Investment. *Annals of Regional Science* 42,2: 357-374.
- Cheng, S (ed). 2007. Preference Heterogeneity and Industrial Location: Location Choices of Japanese FDI in China. VDM Verlag Dr. Muller.
- Cheng, S. 2007. The Structure of Firm Location Choices: An Examination of Japanese Greenfield Investment in China. *Asian Economic Journal* 21,1: 47-73.
- Ghadimi, H. 2007. Economic Development Planning in Oil Economies: A Dynamic Computable General Equilibrium Analysis. VDM Verlag Dr. Muller.
- Giarratani, F G Gruver and RW Jackson. 2007. Clusters, Agglomeration and Economic Development Potential: Empirical Evidence based on the Advent of Slab Casting by U.S. Steel Minimills. *Economic Development Quarterly*, Volume 21, Number 2, pages 148-164.

Ghadimi H. 2007. CGE Modeling and Applications: A Short Course. A Teaching resource on the Regional Research Institute website, <http://www.rri.wvu.edu/CGECourse/index.htm>), West Virginia University.

Maskey, V, C Brown, AR Collins and HF Nassar. 2007. What is Historic Integrity Worth to the General Public? Evidence from a Proposed Relocation of a West Virginia Agricultural Mill." *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review* 36/1.

Presentations

Ghadimi, H. Energy in a Resource-based Regional Economy: A Dynamic General Equilibrium Analysis. Paper presented at the 47th Annual Western Regional Science Association Annual Meeting, Hawaii, February 2008.

Maskey, V, MR Strager, C Yuill. Alternative Futures Analysis for the Little Kanawha River Basin in West Virginia. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Western Regional Science Association, HI, February 2008.

Jensen, CD. Zoning Objectives and Consequential Necessity. Paper presented at the 47th Annual Southern Regional Science Association Meeting, Washington, DC, March 2008.

Jackson RW, T Choi, NG Leigh. Recycling and Re-manufacturing in Input-Output Models. 47th Annual Southern Regional Science Association Meeting, Washington, DC, March 2008.

Ghadimi, H. Global Impact of Energy Use in Oil Economies of the Middle East: A Modeling Framework for Analyzing Technology-Energy-Environment-Economy Chain. Paper presented at the 46th annual meeting of the Southern Regional Science Association, Washington, DC, March 2007.

Gebremarian, G, TG Gebremedhin, PV Schaefer, TT Phipps, RW Jackson. A Spatial Panel Simultaneous-Equations Model of Business Growth, Migration Behavior, Local Public Services and Household Income in Appalachia. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Agricultural and Economics Association, Portland, OR, July 2007.

Gebremarian, G., TG Gebremedhin, PV Schaeffer, RW Jackson, TT Phipps. An Empirical Analysis of Employment, Migration, Local Public Services and Regional Income Growth in Appalachia. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association, Rehoboth Beach, DE, June 2007.

RRI Working Paper Series

- 2008-5 An Alternative Futures Analysis for the Little Kanawha River Watershed in West Virginia, Vishakha Maskey, Michael P. Strager, and Charles B. Yuill
- 2008-4 Recycling and Remanufacturing in Input-Output Models, Randall W. Jackson, Taelim Choi, and Nancey Green Leigh
- 2008-3 Valuing Community Attributes in Rural Counties in West Virginia: An Application of Data Envelopment Analysis, Maribel N. Mojica, Tesfa Gebremedhin, Peter Schaeffer
- 2008-2 Energy in a Resource-based Regional Economy: A Dynamic General Equilibrium Analysis, Hodjat Ghadimi
- 2008-1 Lung Cancer Mortality Is Elevated in Coal Mining Areas of Appalachia, Michael Hendryx, Kathryn O'Donnell and Kimberly Horn
- 2007-13 Modeling and Estimation Issues in Spatial Simultaneous Equations Models, Gebremeskel H. Gebremariam
- 2007-12 Issues in the Implementation of Interregional Commodity by Industry Input-Output Models , Randall W. Jackson and Walter R. Schwarm
- 2007-11 A Spatial Panel Simultaneous-Equations Model of Business Growth, Migration Behavior, Local Public Services and Household Income in Appalachia, Gebremeskel H. Gebremariam, Tesfa G. Gebremedhin, Peter V. Schaeffer, Tim T. Phipps and Randall W. Jackson
- 2007-10 An Empirical Analysis of Employment, Migration, Local Public Services and Regional Income Growth in Appalachia, Gebremeskel H. Gebremariam, Tesfa G. Gebremedhin, Peter V. Schaeffer, Randall W. Jackson and Tim T. Phipps
- 2007-9 A Spatial Model of Regional Variations in Business Growth in Appalachian States, Gebremeskel H. Gebremariam, Tesfa G. Gebremedhin, Peter V. Schaeffer, Tim T. Phipps, and Randall W. Jackson

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- 2007-8 The Role of Institutions of Private Property Rights and Money in Entrepreneurial Discovery, Odd J. Stalebrink, John Sacco and Gerald Bushee

 - 2007-7 Farmland Preservation Programs in West Virginia: A Preliminary Inquiry into the Merits of Purchase Development Rights, Odd J. Stalebrink and Samuel E. Wilkinson

 - 2007-6 Re-scaling Household Strategies: Globalization and Livelihoods in Accra, Ghana, Ann M. Oberhauser and Kobena Hanson

Visitors

The Regional Research Institute contributes to the intellectual environment of the WVU Campus by providing a variety of enhanced learning opportunities. Among these opportunities are the RRI Seminar Series and Visiting Scholar programs. We strive to bring cutting edge and eminent scholars to campus to interact through public lectures, workshops, group and individual collaborations. Lists of such visitors follow.

Visiting Scholars

Sung-Goan Choi, Professor and Chair, Department of Economics, Andong National University, Korea, August 2006-August 2008

Eun Woo Lee, Professor of Economics, University of Ulsan, Korea, January- August 2007

Eun-Mi Jung, Research Fellow, Korea Institute for Industrial Economics & Trade (KIET) July 2007-July 2008

RRI Seminar Speakers

Edward Feser, Associate Professor & Interim Head of Urban & Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, presented a seminar entitled: "Knowledge-Intensive Activity in U.S. Metro Areas: An Occupation-Based Analysis of 1990-2000 Trends", October 11, 2007.

William Bowen, Professor of Urban Studies, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University, presented a seminar entitled: "Industrial Agglomeration and the Regional Scientific Explanation of Perceived Environmental Injustice", November 15, 2007.

Geoffrey J. D. Hewings, Professor of Geography, Economics, and Urban & Regional Planning; Director of the Regional Economics Applications Laboratory, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, presented a seminar entitled: "Demographic Challenges to Regional Development," November 29, 2007.

Ivan T. Gruikin, Bulgarian Ombudsman Representative, presented an exchange of knowledge and ideas among the people of the US and Bulgaria, February 5, 2008.

Roger Stough, Associate Dean for Research & Development, and External Relations, Professor & Director, ITS Center and NOVA Endowed Chair, George Mason University, presented a seminar entitled: "Leadership and Regional Economic Development," February 7, 2008.

Serge Rey, Professor of Geography, San Diego State University, presented a seminar entitled: "Exploratory Space-Time Data Analysis with STARS," March 13, 2008.

David Plane, Professor of Geography and Regional Development, University of Arizona, presented a seminar entitled: " Rounding the Life Course and Heading for Home: How Age and Intergenerational Family Ties Shape Migration Up and Down the U.S. Urban Hierarchy," April 10, 2008.

Awards and Recognitions

RRI Internal Programs

Annual RRI Internal Seed Grant Competition

The RRI provides two seed grants annually to tenured or tenure track WVU faculty with interests in any aspect of regional research and analysis, including but not limited to studies of economy, land use, environment, energy, industry, and socioeconomic welfare. Each award supports a graduate research assistant for the academic year along with support for conference travel. Preference is given to projects that have the greatest potential for future external funding, and recipients are required to submit a formal proposal to an external agency at the completion of the award term.

2009 Awardee:

Jinyang Deng, Assistant Professor, Recreation, Parks, & Tourism Resources, "Linking Tourism Resources and Local Economic Development: A Spatial Analysis in West Virginia," David Dyre, GRA.

2008 Awardees:

Michael Hendryx, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, "Proximity to Coal Mining and Health," Kathryn O'Donnell, GRA.

Charles Yuill, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, "West Virginia/Central Appalachian Land Use Status and Trends Project," Vishakha Maskey, GRA.

RRI Graduate Research Fellowship (established 2006)

Christa Dean Jensen, Ph.D. graduate research assistant, Economics

RRI Honors

The William H. Miernyk Research Excellence Medal (established 2004)

The Regional Research Institute at West Virginia University sponsors an award for scholarly excellence. Named in his honor, the William H. Miernyk Research Excellence Medal is now awarded annually at the Southern Regional Science Association Meeting. The Medal honors the best SRSA conference paper in the field of regional economics presented by a recent doctorate. A stipend accompanies the Medal.

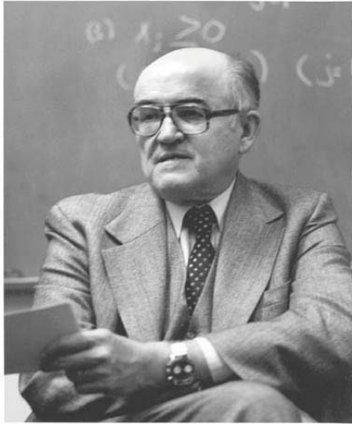
2008 Recipient: Olivier Parent, Assistant Professor, Economics, University of Cincinnati



“I am so pleased to be in a position to establish a formal honor for Bill Miernyk’s long and distinguished career. His influence on those around him has been many and diverse, and always positive. I can think of no more appropriate individual in whose name a Research Excellence Medal should be.”

Randy Jackson

Tribute to William H. Miernyk (1918-2008)



William H. Miernyk earned both Bachelors and Masters Degrees in economics from the University of Colorado, followed by Masters and Doctoral Degrees in economics from Harvard University. Dedicated to research, he also discovered a love of teaching that would stay with him throughout his entire professorial career. He taught economics at Harvard, Northeastern University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of Colorado before being recruited to West Virginia University to establish the Regional Research Institute. He originally committed to only a

temporary stay at WVU, but found the area and work so appealing that he abandoned his plans to return to Colorado.

Perhaps best known for his widely distributed and well-received *The Elements of Input-Output Analysis* (1965), his interests and contributions to knowledge have focused on a much broader set of topics within and beyond regional science. His research has included such topics as pollution abatement, energy prices, unemployment, labor force participation, and migration in the Appalachian states. He has served as a consultant for, among many others, US Senate committees, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and The World Bank. Known for his critical insight, rigor, and excellence in research, his writing was always clear and concise. In addition to numerous contributions to the academic literature, Miernyk extended his sphere of influence to the general public through 17 years of weekly columns published in the Charleston Gazette.

During much of his career, Bill was closely affiliated with the Southern Regional Science Association. He was an SRSA Fellow, and was the organizations fifth president in 1975. It was largely through his efforts and influence that West Virginia University developed into a center of regional science research. Lasting evidence of his role in this context includes the longest-standing regional science oriented university research institute, the Regional Research Institute, and the long list of subsequent WVU contributors to service to several Regional Science councils and executive committees, including the current President and Treasurer, and one council member in the SRSA.

He also was active in the Regional Science Association International, where he served as Vice President in 1972-1973. Bill also was presented with the first RSA Distinguished Scholar Award in 1982. The text of that award read:

In recognition of his contributions to the field of Regional Science, particularly in the areas of regional input-output modeling, regional energy analysis and regional growth and development theory.

Bill's contributions to regional policy and analysis are substantial. His contributions to both theory and method include *Elements of Input-Output Analysis* on which so many of us relied for 10 introduction, and the construction of a survey-based West Virginia 10 model that many more of us used in testing and demonstration of our research. His early applications of regional input-output modeling set the standard for similar analyses for years to come, and are still singled out as exemplars in the field.



Service to the State and the Professions

Population Projections

As West Virginia's state Census partner from 1992 through 2007, we project and publish county population by age and cohort for the U.S. Bureau of the Census, providing public access to these projections on our website. These projections are used heavily by sub-state agencies in developing short and long range plans for their geographical areas. Additionally, we collect and compile vital statistics and group quarters data to the US Census Bureau annually.

Internet Service

In addition to the primary Regional Research Institute's web site and the Web Book of Regional Science previously described, the RRI hosts and maintains other web sites that serve the regional research community.

REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL (RSAI). Founded in 1954, the Regional Science Association International provides intellectual leadership in the study of those social, economic, political and behavioral phenomena which have a spatial dimension. Consequently, the Association brings together scholars from a large number of fields, including economics, geography, urban and regional planning, civil engineering, sociology, finance and political science. Members are found in academic institutions, in government, in consulting organizations and a variety of private firms. Website hosted and maintained from 2002 through December, 2007.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (SRSA). Founded in 1962 the Southern Regional Science Association's main objectives are the fostering and exchange of ideas and the promotion of studies focusing on the region including the utilization of tools, methods and theoretical frameworks specifically designed for regional analysis as well as concepts, procedures and analytical techniques of the various social and other sciences. Website hosted since 2003.

CONSORTIUM OF REGIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND CENTERS (CORRIC). Dedicated to advancing the understanding of socio-economic processes within and across regions through improved theory, methods, technology and data. The mission is to serve as an effective, unified voice for the regional research community; to foster multidisciplinary and inter-institutional research and education; and to promote the informed and responsible use of regional research analysis for the benefit of society. Website hosted and maintained since 2003. Organization established by Jackson/RRI.

Service to Professional Organizations

External Awards and Recognitions

RRI Director Randall Jackson was the recipient of the annual “David E. Boyce Award for Distinguished Service to the Field of Regional Science,” presented at the annual meeting of the Regional Science Association International, Savannah, GA, November 2007.

RRI Administrative Assistant, Mary Lou Myer was the first recipient of the “William A. Schaffer Award for Distinguished Service to Regional Science,” presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Regional Science Association, Washington, DC, March 2008.

Leadership Roles in Regional Science Organizations

Randall Jackson was 2007 Chair of the North American Regional Science Council, and Councilor-at-Large for the Southern Regional Science Association.

Faculty Research Associate Peter Schaeffer completed his term as Southern Regional Science Association Councilor and assumed his new role as Southern Regional Science Association President.

Faculty Research Associate Brian Cushing completed his term as Southern Regional Science Association Councilor.

Faculty Research Associate Santiago Pinto continues as Southern Regional Science Association Treasurer.