

# OREGON Futures

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News from the Community Service Center at the University of Oregon

Spring 2003

## CSC Research: Expanding Knowledge for Planning & Teaching



Bob Parker, Megan Smith, André LeDuc and images from various CSC projects  
Photo Composite by: Skipper McFarlane

*As a unit of the University of Oregon, the Community Service Center (CSC) engages in all three broad goals of the University: instruction, research and service. The central role of the CSC is to link the skills, expertise and innovation of higher education with the economic development and environmental needs of the State of Oregon, thereby providing service to Oregon and learning opportunities to the students involved. This is critical to the instruction and service goals of the University.*

The CSC is placing increasing emphasis on the University's third goal: research. Over the past five years, the CSC staff has engaged in research that informs the broader fields of planning, community development and service learning.

One of the most recent achievements in this area is the selection of Bob Parker to contribute a chapter for an upcoming book titled *Lessons in Smart Growth: University Case Studies and Best Practices*. The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy are sponsoring the project. Parker's work will focus on the CSC model and will highlight strategies for developing university/community partnerships and an institutional framework for community service programs that focus on smart growth issues.

With Parker, André LeDuc recently authored a chapter for a book on natural hazard mitigation for the Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center at the University of Colorado at Boulder. This project was supported through funds from the National Science Foundation.

David Povey, former director of the CSC, and Megan Smith recently conducted two research projects. The first, in coordination with the National Congress on Community and Economic Development, addressed the core competencies needed by staff of community development organizations, and the degree to which higher education prepares students to be professionals in the field. The second project analyzed the attitudes and opinions of returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) who participated in service learning graduate programs once they returned to the United States.

CSC staff have also developed papers or conducted presentations for the Corporation for National and Community Service (service learning and poverty elimination); the University Congress on Water Resources Journal (service learning and watershed management); and the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (service learning and hazard mitigation), among others. Through these research projects, the CSC expands the knowledge base for community development and planning, and the methods for teaching students in these disciplines.

# CPW Addresses a Range of Projects

FOR more than 25 years, the Community Planning Workshop (CPW) has provided service to local and state government agencies in Oregon by engaging graduate students in the PPPM program in applied research projects. CPW has an array of exciting projects this year that span a range of planning and public policy issues:

- *Beaverton Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.* The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires all incorporated cities to develop and adopt natural hazards mitigation plans. CPW is working with the City of Beaverton to inventory hazardous areas and develop strategies that will reduce risks of future natural disasters.
- *Redmond Annexation Plan.* The City of Redmond in Central Oregon expects to double its population in the next 20 years. CPW is assisting the City in evaluating the fiscal, social, and environmental impacts of annexing unincorporated lands within its urban growth boundary.
- *Food, Farms & Communities.* Oregon is ranked the least food secure state in the nation. CPW is working with Food for Lane County to establish food action groups in seven Lane County communities.
- *Telework Outreach Evaluation.* Telework was widely publicized in the 1990s as a strategy to decrease commute trips. CPW is working with the Oregon Office of Energy to evaluate its telework outreach efforts to businesses in the Portland Metropolitan area.
- *Encouraging Smartgrowth in Rural Communities.* Oregon has implemented growth management strategies for nearly 30 years. CPW is working with the Transportation and Growth Management program to assess barriers to implementing smartgrowth principles in rural communities.



*Members of the Beaverton Mitigation Steering Committee brainstorm goals & issues related to natural hazards in Beaverton  
Photo by: André LeDuc*

For more information contact Bob Parker, 541.346.3801, or visit the CPW website:  
<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~cpw>

## COPC's New Directions

THE Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) is a community-based planning collaborative in the Eugene-Springfield area. Housed in the Community Service Center and funded by a three-year grant from the US Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), COPC is an active, thriving collaborative with partners ranging from university students and faculty to non-profit organizations and community members. Although the original HUD grant came to an end in December 2002, COPC continues on in these community and university-driven initiatives. Through a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service's Learn and Serve America Program, the CSC is able to provide continued staff support to the projects of COPC. In addition, thanks to the University of Oregon's Planning, Public Policy and Management Department, two work-study students are funded to work with the Kids' Clubs. The COPC partners intend to submit a proposal to HUD for two years of funding through the New Directions Program that will support COPC activities through 2005.

## ONHW's Outreach Activities

OREGON Natural Hazards Workgroup (ONHW) is working to further spread its message regarding natural hazard disaster mitigation. Through the Partners for Disaster Resistance and Resilience website (at [www.oregonshowcase.org](http://www.oregonshowcase.org)) and Partnerships in Action newsletter, ONHW wants to attract a more general readership of decision makers at the local and county level. Unlike natural hazards specialists, these decision makers want a quick overview and update regarding changes and opportunities in natural hazard mitigation. ONHW will also provide more "how to" information on the website and newsletter. This change compliments ONHW's mission of facilitating communication between the public and private sector. ONHW is now using a bi-weekly electronic newsletter aimed at specialists.

# RARE Welcomes Two New Funding Partners!

THE Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) Program is excited to have two new funding partners this year. RARE received a \$133,903 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI). RCDI funds support technical assistance to develop or increase communities' capacity to implement projects in the areas of housing, community facilities, and community and economic development in rural areas. For RARE, these funds will be used to support positions in the following counties: Baker, Douglas, Hood, Lincoln, Linn, Polk, Wallowa and Washington. The Oregon Community Foundation is providing \$12,000 to support community workshops. The RARE Program provides a workshop with each of its placements for community members. These workshops increase community capacity beyond the service of the RARE member. Topics include non-profit board development, computer skills, and GIS, among many others. OCF is providing funding for workshops in each RARE community.

## RARE Updates!

THE month of February was busy for the RARE Program. The call for community pre-applications for the 2003 – 2004 year went out. For information please contact rare@darkwing.uoregon.edu.

RARE also hosted the seventh annual "Making Connections" conference in Salem. The conference was another great success thanks to the more than 45 non-profit organizations and state and federal agency employees who joined RARE at the round table sessions. Thanks also to the RARE members and their community counterparts for joining us in Salem and making connections for their communities. The conference attendees also had a chance to come to Salem a day early and participate in Rural Oregon Day at the legislature.

## New and Shifting Staff at the CSC

### Rose Armour Moves to Africa

ROSE Armour, who most recently served as the Assistant Director for RARE, has accepted a position with the Peace Corps as the Associate Country Director for Burkina Faso. Rose has been with the RARE Program in a variety of roles, as a member or staff person, for nearly seven years. This is a return to West Africa for Rose, who was a Peace Corps volunteer in Côte d'Ivoire. We will miss Rose's excellent work, commitment to rural Oregon and sense of humor and wish her all the best on this new adventure.

### CSC's New Faculty Advisor

PROFESSOR Jean Stockard, whose history with the University of Oregon runs deep, was recently named faculty advisor to the CSC. Jean's increased involvement with the CSC will undoubtedly increase the CSC's ability to help solve local issues and improve the quality of life for Oregon residents.

### Dan Van Otten Retires

THE CSC bids farewell to Dan Van Otten who has served as the Interagency Liaison to the CSC from the Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services since December 1998. Dan leaves a great legacy of engaging students and the local community in social planning activities through the Community

Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) and in grant writing development. Dan moves on to more intensive work mending fences, among other things, on his ranch outside of Salem.

### Scott Doyle and Bethany Johnson Join the CSC

THE CSC is pleased to announce the addition of two new staff members, Scott Doyle and Bethany Johnson. Scott, a graduate of the Masters of Community and Regional Planning Program at UO and past RARE participant, began as the Project Coordinator for the Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup (ONHW) in October 2002. His responsibilities with the ONHW include advancing the Partners for Disaster Resistance: Oregon Showcase State Program.

Bethany Johnson, hired as a Planner in January 2003, comes to the CSC with private sector experience and a degree from Cornell University. She is responsible for a mix of duties with both ONHW and Community Planning Workshop (CPW). She is currently managing a CPW team that is conducting a Transportation Growth Management (TGM) project investigating local barriers to advancing transportation efficient land uses. Other projects include updating a park plan for the City of Estacada and coordinating the completion of the Statewide Hazard Risk Assessment.



*Scott Doyle and  
Bethany Johnson*

*Photos by: Skipper McFarlane*



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Community Service Center  
1209 University of Oregon  
Eugene OR 97403-1209

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- Writers: *Rose Armour*
- Scott Doyle*
- Kim Jones*
- André LeDuc*
- Bob Parker*
- Megan Smith*

Design: *Skipper McFarlane*

**Address all correspondence to:**

Editor, Oregon Futures  
1209 University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403-1209

If you have questions about the CSC or any of our community assistance programs call us at:

(541) 346-3889

or visit our website at:

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~csc>

**STAFF of the Community Service Center**

<b>Armour, Rose</b> Assistant Director, RARE	<b>LeDuc, André</b> Director, ONHW	<b>Megan Smith</b> Director, RARE Managing Director, CSC	Project Managers, CPW <b>Jennifer Curkendall</b>
<b>Doyle, Scott</b> Project Coordinator, ONHW	<b>McFarlane, Skipper</b> Graphic Designer, CSC	<b>Jean Stockard</b> Senior Faculty Advisor, CSC	<b>Justin Grishkin</b>
<b>Foster, Julie</b> Grants Administrator, CSC	<b>Myers, Nancy Owen</b> Office Coordinator, CSC		<b>Amy Lapin</b>
<b>Johnson, Bethany</b> Planner, CPW & ONHW	<b>Bob Parker</b> Director, CPW Managing Director, CSC		<b>Krista Mitchell</b>
			Project Managers, ONHW <b>Heather Goodson</b>