For almost sixty years now, Emeritus Professor Glenn Fuguitt has engaged in population-related research in what was formerly the Department of Rural Sociology (now the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology) at UW-Madison. At the same time, Glenn has had a longstanding productive relationship with the APL, serving as its co-director 1974-1990 and in the years before and after serving as an active faculty affiliate. Glenn’s scholarship has helped generations to better understand population distribution and change in the nonmetropolitan United States. In particular, his work documenting and explaining migration patterns between metro and nonmetro counties over time has earned Glenn recognition as one of the nation’s premier experts on domestic migration and rural demography. 

Migration has an important influence on the population and economy of a community. Over time, as people move in and out of a place, migration affects the size of the population, contributing to growth or decline, as well as its composition. In addition, migration is closely related to economic and housing market trends. Changes in the age structure, gender composition, and race/ethnic make-up of the population brought about by migration can significantly change local economic conditions and community relations.

In an effort to document and understand migration patterns by age and race/ethnicity for small areas, Glenn contributed to projects calculating county-specific net migration estimates by age 1980-1990 (Fuguitt and Beale 1993) and net migration estimates by age, sex, and race/ethnicity 1990-2000 (Voss, McNiven, Johnson, Hammer, and Fuguitt, 2004). These estimates build upon similar estimates generated for the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s (Bowles and Tarver, 1965; 1960s: Bowles, Beale and Lee, 1975; 1970s: White, Mueser and Tierney, 1987) to join five decades of migration patterns by age for U.S. counties. Currently, the APL is beginning work to generate similar net migration estimates 2000-2010. 

Using these data, APL staff generate what we refer to as “net migration signatures” to show migration patterns by age for individual counties over time. The Dane County, Wisconsin signature is shown at right. This pattern is typical of a large university (which attracts undergraduate and graduate students). A large proportion of residents ages 15-29 are in-migrants, and there is a significant net out-migration after completion of a degree at ages 30-34.

Continued on pg. 2
We think of these migration signatures as telling demographic stories. Changes in the demographic structure of a population (e.g., population growth, decline, or changes in age structure) have important effects on the social fabric of communities. Likewise, social changes (e.g., a new college or nursing home, rising incomes, new transportation, business closures, etc.) impact the demographic structure. Migration “signatures” visually represent these stories, some examples of which are included below.

Kenosha County grew as an automaking hub for American Motors. It experienced the height of its manufacturing success in 1960 after a postwar boom. After 1960, auto-making in Kenosha suffered slow decline, until Chrysler Motors closed the Kenosha plant in 1988. A migration rebound occurred in the 1990s as Chicago commuters, firms, and money expanded into Kenosha County, making the 1990s signature follow a more suburban pattern.

Vilas County has a long history of serving as a summertime escape from the heat of cities like Chicago and Milwaukee. With its forests and abundant lakes, the county is the seasonal home of many city dwellers. In-migration occurred in the 1970s and 1990s as families with children sought to get “back to the land” and older people retired in their previously seasonal homes. Vilas County is quickly aging with a median age of 46 in 2000.

St. Croix County, WI shares a border with Minnesota and has been a site of recent Twin Cities’ suburbanization. A relatively rural county until recently, St. Croix County is the fastest growing county in Wisconsin, growing by about 26% in the 1990s and even faster in the early 2000s. In the signature, we see typical suburban in-migration of young families with children since the 1960s.

In sum, the character of net migration into and out of different types of counties is a critical component in local community and economic development and planning efforts because social service demands, the size and character of the local labor market, local infrastructure demands, housing markets, and environmental impacts are all affected by changes in population composition induced by migration of different kinds of people moving into and out of the local area. Following Glenn’s previous work, APL staff are working to add 2000-2010 estimates to this series.

This article was written, in part, to recognize the value of Glenn Fuguitt’s career and his contributions over the last several decades to the APL, the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology, and to the field of rural demography. Special thanks to you, Glenn, for all your year’s of service!

ON THE WEB: History of the Department of Rural Sociology

Glenn Fuguitt, emeritus faculty of the former Department of Rural Sociology (now Community and Environmental Sociology), has filmed an informative video on the history of the Department of Rural Sociology. This interesting video, completed to coincide with the department’s name change to the Department of Community and Environmental Society (see pg. 5), is available at:

http://www.dces.wisc.edu/history/index.php

In addition, Glenn talks specifically about the role of Demography and the Applied Population Laboratory in the history of the department of Rural Sociology in a separate video available here:

http://blip.tv/file/2405613
What’s in a Name?

What goes into deciding the name for a department? For the home department of the Applied Population Laboratory, lots of interesting discussion, thoughts, and debate. As of August 2009 clients and contacts of the APL will see the “Department of Community and Environmental Sociology” on our communications instead of the “Department of Rural Sociology”. We have not changed departments, but our home department has changed their name.

Faculty of the department felt that both undergraduate students and the broader community experienced difficulty understanding exactly what “Rural Sociology” is, and that the breadth of work done within the department was not encompassed by the name of Rural Sociology.

We at the APL are excited to be a part of the “new” Department of Community and Environmental Sociology, and look forward to the future within the department.

For more information on the new and improved Department of Community and Environmental Sociology visit: http://www.dces.wisc.edu

TRIVIA

When was the first rural sociologist hired at UW-Madison?
The first rural sociologist at UW-Madison, Charles Galpin, was hired in 1911 with an appointment in Agricultural Economics, and a course on Rural Life was first taught in 1912-1913. He was the third member of the Department of Agricultural Economics.

Galpin is noted as being one of the first rural sociologists in the United States, and is credited with establishing a pattern for rural community studies through his work with rural communities in Walworth County, Wisconsin. He also organized the first statewide Country Life Conferences.

When was the Department of Rural Sociology founded?
The Department of Rural Sociology was founded in 1930, and has existed for almost 80 years. The department has also been a part of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) for as many years. The department was founded by John Kolb, a professor of Agricultural Economics who left that department to start the Department of Rural Sociology.


ON THE HORIZON: Winter Meetings and Activities


APL will teach the Farm and Industry Short Course this Winter. For more information go to: http://www.cals.wisc.edu/students/shortCourse/

2010 Wisconsin Land Information Association Conference (February 24-26, 2010) in Appleton, Wisconsin

Population Association of America Conference (April 15-17, 2010) in Dallas, Texas.
From the Director’s Desk

The Applied Population Laboratory has been a research unit in the Department of Rural Sociology for more than 30 years. When the department changed its name to Community and Environmental Sociology, it seemed fitting to celebrate the legacy of our presence in the department and, especially, to acknowledge the contributions and mentoring of professor emeritus Glenn Fuguitt. This issue of Population Notes focuses on the rich history of the APL and the (former) Department of Rural Sociology and on contributions that Glenn has made to the APL and to research on rural population distribution, particularly migration. The movement of people is an important component of population change and examining net migration trends helps to unpack fascinating stories of regional and community character and associated social change. Thanks to Glenn’s work, ICPSR now hosts five decade’s worth of net migration estimates by age for every county in the United States. These data help to inform demographers making population estimates and projections, analyses of urbanization and counter-urbanization, a variety of “pushes and pulls” for population change, and the movement of population groups by detailed characteristics like age, race and ethnicity. Looking forward, the Applied Population Laboratory is beginning work with Glenn and other collaborators to add data from the current decade (net migration estimates 2000-2010), after the release of data from the 2010 Census. We are fortunate to have Glenn as a colleague and look forward to ongoing collaboration as we carry on his important work on migration.

Regards, Dan

Staff Spotlight: Professor Glenn Fuguitt

Professor Glenn Fuguitt has been a professor at the University of Wisconsin - Madison since 1956. While he became a Professor Emeritus in 1993, you can still find him within the halls of the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology. Glenn’s contributions to the APL are substantial, and he continues to provide guidance to the staff at the APL on a variety of research projects and questions.

His seminal research on population distribution and change in nonmetropolitan areas of the United States has had a profound impact on the field. Focusing on rural-urban relationships and long-run trends in population redistribution and migration, Glenn’s research continues to point the way for sociologist and demographers and his continued collaboration with researchers at UW-Madison and the Economic Research Service provides leadership and insight on these important issues.

Over the years Professor Fuguitt has been president of several organizations, including the Rural Sociological Society, and the International Rural Sociology Association.

Glenn was Chair of the Department of Rural Sociology from 1968-70 and 1978-1981. In addition to his role as chair of the department, Professor Fuguitt was also Co-Director of the Applied Population Laboratory from 1974-1990. He continues to serve as a member of the APL’s steering committee for the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology.

The Applied Population Laboratory thanks Glenn for his contributions past and present to the Applied Population Laboratory and for his ongoing mentorship and wisdom. You can reach Glenn via e-mail at fuguitt@ssc.wisc.edu.