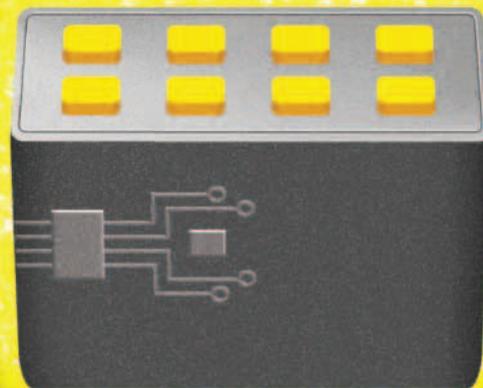
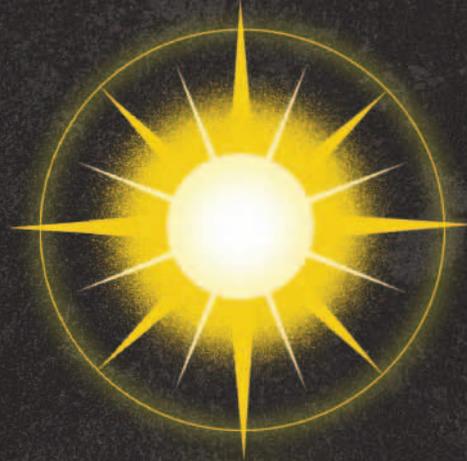


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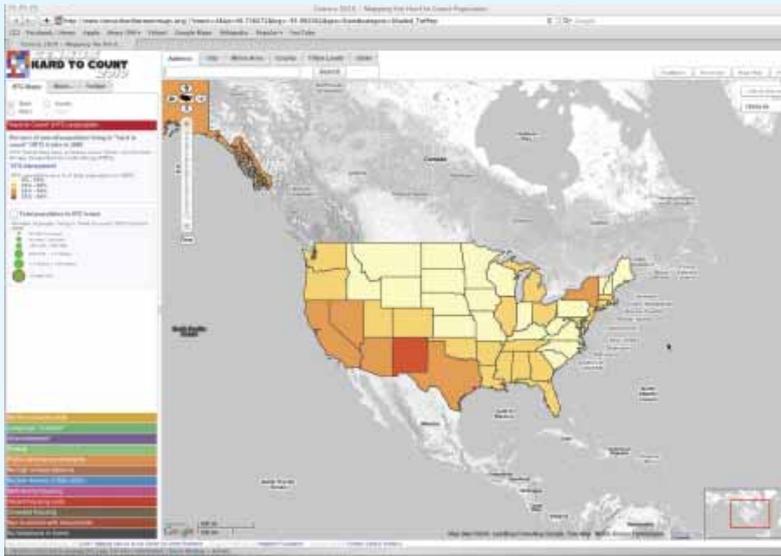
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Mapping Center Adds Accuracy to Census



IT'S HARD ENOUGH for the U.S. Census Bureau to count every resident in America and Puerto Rico every 10 years, but that task gets even more challenging when it comes to historically hard-to-count neighborhoods. CUNY is trying to help.

The University's Mapping Service at the Center for Urban Research at The Graduate Center launched The Census 2010 Hard-To-Count Interactive Map (www.CensusHardToCountMaps.org). The interactive website helps community groups and local governments to better target difficult to count areas. "Everyone should have a vested interest in making sure everyone is counted, because there's so much at stake," says Steven Romalewski, director of the mapping service. "There are billions of federal dollars that are spent based on the census data, local resources allotted based on census data, businesses making decisions based on the data, so if the census is inaccurate, you won't get the resources that you deserve."

The mapping center isn't the only help CUNY is providing. "Be Counted" assistance centers, where students and city residents could get census forms in multiple languages were opened at several of the colleges in the spring.

"CUNY has been working closely with federal census officials for the past year and a half by hosting training sessions on many campuses and helping students apply for census employment," says Chancellor Matthew Goldstein.

At the mapping service, the map displays detailed demographic and housing characteristics, which allow census advo-

cates to target their activities to address language barriers, educational attainment, high poverty rates, large numbers of renters and others issues. Site users can view hard-to-count census tracts within states, counties, metro areas, cities, tribal lands, congressional districts and ZIP Codes.

Romalewski says it took six months to develop the interactive application, analyze data provided by the Census Bureau's tract-level panning database and work with local groups around the country to understand their needs. Google provided technical advice (the site contains Google Maps) and access to server resources.

"The website makes it possible to do door-to-door outreach," says Howard Shih of the Asian American Federation of New York, a coalition of over 40 organizations, 30 of which are active in the census. "The key advantage of this site is that it's user-friendly and it can be used by the general public."

The site was funded with a grant from the Long Island-based Hagedorn Foundation and is supported by the Funders Census Initiative, a coalition of foundations and philanthropic groups interested in a fair and accurate census.

Groups like the Leadership Conference Education Fund, a national civil-rights organization that is leading a national campaign in support of the 2010 census, the National Congress of American Indians, The Southern Coalition for Social Justice and various immigrant community organizations have used the site, says Romalewski.

A Letter-Perfect

SOME COLLEGE STUDENTS yearn to spend a semester abroad, but for Crystal Ferguson, a junior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Washington, D.C. was a better fit.

That's because she's interning at the White House's Office of Presidential Correspondence.

"It's a wonderful feeling to know that I am a part of history," says Ferguson of interning during the first term of Barack Obama, the country's first African-American president. "Being part of this administration motivates me to keep pressing forward in succeeding with the goals I have set for myself."

Her main duty is to help make sure correspondence to the president is answered. She hasn't met Obama, but she did catch a glimpse of him when he arrived at the White House recently on Marine One, the presidential helicopter.

The internship is sure to help her grow, she says. "So many doors have been opened. From the time I arrived, I've been growing and developing constantly," she says. "I will never forget where I came from, but I know where I'm going and I won't stop until I get there."

New Film Shows

IN 1966, during the worst years of apartheid, New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy took a surprise five-day trip to South Africa to speak out for equal rights and justice. This often overlooked trip is the subject of the documentary "RFK In the Land of Apartheid: A Ripple of Hope" by Hunter College professors Larry Shore and Tami Gold.

The pair combined archival footage with new interviews in South Africa and the United States. The film follows Kennedy from the site of his "Ripple of Hope" speech at Cape Town University to his meeting with the banned president of the African National Congress and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Chief Albert Lutuli.

The meeting was controversial and proved to be a major embarrassment to the apartheid regime. In the film, the late Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy talks about how deeply moved his brother was by the encounter. "My brother described him [Lutuli] as one of the inspiring figures of our time."

“ The filmmakers found that many younger people do not know what apartheid is. ”

White House Internship

Ferguson was working on Mayor Michael Bloomberg's re-election campaign in September when she noticed an ad for the White House intern program on Facebook. She knew it was highly competitive and didn't think she'd get it but decided to give it a shot. "I didn't think I could do it," says Ferguson, who's majoring in deviant behavior and social control. She's also a shooting guard on the women's basketball team and a member of the cross-country team.

"Because of the application process, I've learned to view challenges like this in a different light," she says. "I will no longer doubt what I am capable of, no matter how high the bar has been set."

Ferguson was raised by a single mother, a home-health worker, in Crown Heights, Brooklyn and moved to East New York two years ago. For high school, she got up at 6 a.m. to catch three trains to the Greater New York Academy of Seventh-day Adventists, in Woodside, Queens. Her interest in law and government drew her to John Jay. "I love my college," she says. "The diversity in our school makes it even better."

In 2007, she participated in the Manhattan-based All Stars Project, where she was part of the

Development School for Youth, a leadership program in the inner city. That experience helped her land a paid summer internship with the Health Plus insurance company. She also serves as a youth choir director and assistant director of the children's choir at the East New York Seventh-day Adventist Church. Ferguson says she's been able to juggle it all and stay organized thanks to a good planner and calendar.

"I thought I was a superwoman my freshman year, trying to do way too much, and it caught up with me," she says. "[The planner] has helped me and has been my best friend ever since."

For the future, Ferguson is thinking about becoming a lawyer to defend youth in the juvenile justice system. "I want to invest my time in giving back to those like me who come from poverty-stricken neighborhoods," she says.

John Jay junior Crystal Ferguson is proud to be "a part of history."



RFK's Anti-Apartheid Stand



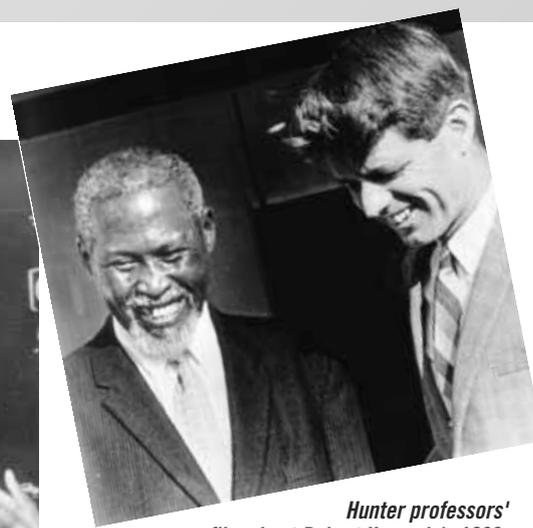
Shore, a native of Johannesburg, was a teenager at the time of Kennedy's visit. He immigrated to the United States in 1973, but like many people from South Africa, the visit never left him. "This was something in his memory that he shared with me and other people," says Gold.

When Shore searched the archives and saw there was very little in the United States

about the meeting, he went to South Africa. What he brought back was never before seen raw film footage.

The filmmakers found that many younger people do not know what apartheid is.

"I think the best way to explain apartheid is to compare it to this country," Shore says. "It was once described as Jim Crow on steroids."



Hunter professors' film about Robert Kennedy's 1966 South Africa trip includes footage of him with Chief Albert Lutuli, above, and greeting crowds, left.

But it was different than Jim Crow, says Gold "because [in South Africa] you had a white minority."

The film was screened at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library Museum in Boston in January and has received the support of the Kennedy family. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Robert Kennedy's oldest child, and Albertina Lutuli, Lutuli's daughter and member of the South African parliament, and Margaret Marshall, chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court and Robert Kennedy's student host in South Africa, attended the screening and were part of a panel discussion.