2006
Computer-Assisted Reporting Conference

2006 CAR on the Turnpike

N.J. Turnpike

CAR

March 9–12, 2006

Newark, N.J.

WELCOME TO NEWARK!

Thank you for joining us in one of the prime cities, not to mention states, for investigative and computer-assisted journalism.

While neither Springsteen nor the Sopranos will be in attendance, (however, our host, *The Star-Ledger*, is the paper of record for the Sopranos) this conference will spin out plenty of hot tracks on CAR methods and stories, a variety of hands-on classes for beginner to advanced, and special presentations of the latest techniques.

As in recent years, this year's program gets the CAR engines ignited with a Thursday focused on the needs of the advanced CAR practitioner. Sessions will range from better intranets to Web scraping to the latest in mapping data and social network analysis. The day's speakers are at the top of the charts in the profession and generous in sharing their knowledge.

The main days of the conference will be packed with panels about criminal justice, money and politics, bulletproofing stories, social research methods and dozens of other topics. The panelists will show how computer-assisted reporting helps on every beat and on a daily and weekly basis. And we'll have sessions that deal with all media, whether print, broadcast or online.

A highlight of the conference will be the presentation of the first Philip Meyer Awards for excellent work in using social science methods in journalism. Meyer, a pioneer in the field, will join us at the ceremony and reception at 6 p.m. on Friday.

Our hands-on classes will include the Internet, data analysis with spreadsheets and database managers, mapping, programming, statistics and social network analysis.

In addition, there will be a special mini-boot camp series of panel sessions each morning, then classes throughout the afternoon. Designed for CAR beginners, the classes are similar to sessions conducted during lengthier boot camps at the IRE and NICAR headquarters. The classes begin with basic spreadsheet calculations and work through CAR techniques for investigative projects or deadline stories.

The Demo Room again will be a hub of activity, featuring special sessions on uses of new software and techniques for news stories. These sessions have an informal approach and often turn into freewheeling discussions among participants. You can road test IRE and NICAR services and data from our ever-growing government database collection. Staffers will be on hand to answer questions and make suggestions on how to better use CAR.

This conference will help all attendees at all levels become better journalists and leaders in the use of new technology and reporting methods in their newsrooms. Be sure to take advantage of this great network of colleagues, whether in the panel rooms, the Demo Room or in the informal meetings in the hallways, coffee shop and bars.

Thanks for again coming to IRE and NICAR's cutting-edge conference and thanks to our host, *The Star-Ledger*, and all of our sponsors.

Brant Houston
Executive Director
Investigative Reporters and Editors

Conference Sponsors

IRE and NICAR would like to thank the organizations contributing to this conference and the programs related to the conference:
- **The Star-Ledger**, for hosting the conference
- **Gannett Foundation**, for general support of the conference
- **The New York Times**, for general support of the conference
- **Los Angeles Times**, for general support of the conference
- **Chicago Tribune Foundation**, for support of minority fellowships to the conference
- **Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, PC**, for support of the Philip Meyer Award Reception.

Registration and Sales

The registration desk and the sales counter are on the Lobby Level. IRE books, hats and other materials are on sale. IRE and NICAR staff members can answer questions or offer information about future training opportunities.

	Registration desk:	Sales counter:
Wednesday	4-6 p.m.	Closed
Thursday	7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.	7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m.-6 p.m.	8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday	8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday	Closed	8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Reprints

Copies of some of the top investigative work in the country using computer-assisted techniques are available in the Foyer on the Lobby Level. If you have copies of stories you'd like to make available, please leave them with a reprint area staff member. Extra tipsheets and handouts from the panels will also be available on these tables.

Update your bookshelf!

IRE books, hats and other materials are available at the sales counter on the Lobby Level (see hours above).
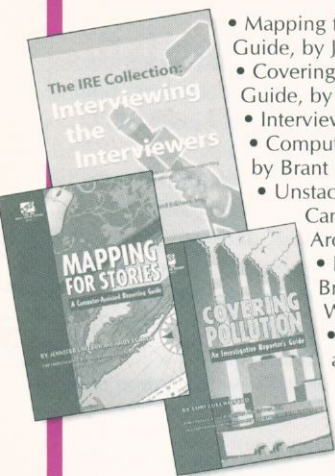
- Mapping for Stories: A Computer-Assisted Reporting Guide, by Jennifer LaFleur and Andy Lehren
- Covering Pollution: An Investigative Reporter's Guide, by Lori Luechtefeld
- Interviewing the Interviewers, By Lori Luechtefeld
- Computer-Assisted Reporting: A Practical Guide, by Brant Houston
- Unstacking the Deck: A Reporter's Guide to Campaign Finance, by Michael A. Weber, Aron Pilhofer and Derek Willis
- Investigative Reporter's Handbook, by Brant Houston, Len Bruzzese and Steve Weinberg
- Numbers in the Newsroom: Using Math and Statistics in News, by Sarah Cohen
- Covering Aviation Safety: An Investigator's Guide, by Marie Tessier
- Understanding Crime Statistics: A Reporter's Guide, by Kurt Silver

Special Thanks

Thanks to the Missouri School of Journalism, which provides space and resources to IRE and the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting. NICAR is a joint program of IRE and the school.

Local Support

Thanks to the supporters of this conference:
James Willse, *The Star-Ledger*
Robert Gebeloff, *The Star-Ledger*
Paul D'Ambrosio, *Asbury Park Press*
Doug Clancy, *The (Hackensack, N.J.) Record*
Jennifer LaFleur, *The Dallas Morning News*
Benjamin Lesser, *The (Hackensack, N.J.) Record*
James Method, *Asbury Park Press*
Stephen C. Miller, *The New York Times*
Terry Schwadron, *The New York Times*
Doug Smith, *Los Angeles Times*

Minority Fellowships (supported by Chicago Tribune Foundation)
- Yong-Jin Kim, visiting scholar, Korean Broadcasting System
- Eric Sagara, *Tucson Citizen*

Exhibitors/Recruiters

Exhibitors, who offer special products and services to journalists, as well as recruiters, will be located on the Lobby Level.
- Gannett Co., Inc., www.gannett.com
- PR Newswire, www.prnewswire.com

Reminders
- Make sure you wear your nametag throughout the conference.
- Please set cell phones and pagers to silent or vibrate while in the sessions. The speakers and fellow attendees will appreciate it.
- Before you leave the conference, please drop off your nametag holder at the registration desk or in other deposit boxes in the main hall. We will recycle them.

Fill Out an Evaluation Form

By filling out and returning a conference evaluation form, you are entered into a drawing for free registration to next year's CAR Conference. Tony Palazzo of Bloomberg News won the complimentary conference registration to the 2006 CAR Conference by filling out an online evaluation last year. Don't miss out! Complete your evaluation form online at www.ire.org/training/newark06/eval.

Hotel shuttle:

	To the Hilton:	To the Double Tree:
Thursday	8:30 a.m.	6:15 p.m.
Friday	8:30 a.m.	7:30 p.m.
Saturday	8:30 a.m.	6:15 p.m.
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	

Special Events

Advanced Day Welcome
9-10:10 a.m., Thursday, Atlantic
A welcome for those attending Thursday's sessions and a preview of the day's advanced topics.

Main Program Preview
8-8:50 a.m., Friday, Atlantic
Welcome and suggestions for making the best use of the conference. Includes a question-and-answer period.
• David Donald, IRE and NICAR
• David Herzog, NICAR and Missouri School of Journalism
• Brant Houston, IRE and NICAR
• Jeff Porter, IRE and NICAR
The preview will be followed by a welcome from James Willse, editor of *The Star-Ledger*, and Brant Houston.

Philip Meyer Award Reception
Friday, 6-7:20 p.m., Atlantic
(Cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres will be available.)

Join us as we present the first Philip Meyer Awards, recognizing the best uses of social science methods in journalism. They are administered by NICAR, and the Knight Chair in Journalism at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University.

The awards honor Philip Meyer, the Knight Chair in Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Meyer is the author of Precision Journalism, the seminal 1973 book (and subsequent editions) that encouraged journalists to incorporate social science methods in the pursuit of better journalism. As a reporter, he pioneered using survey research for Knight Ridder newspapers while exploring the causes of race riots in the 1960s.

The winners of the 2005 Meyer Awards are:

• **FIRST PLACE:** *The Oregonian* for "Unnecessary Epidemic," a series of articles over the past year showing how Congress and the Drug Enforcement Administration could have stopped the growth of meth abuse by aggressively regulating the import of the chemicals necessary to make it. Lead reporter Steve Suo's work included sophisticated statistical analyses of data on hospital and treatment center admissions, arrests, meth prices and purity, and chemical imports.

• **SECOND PLACE:** The Knight-Ridder Washington Bureau for "Discharged and Dishonored," a year long series of stories that revealed how disabled veterans were being harmed by the bureaucratic inefficiencies of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Reporters Chris Adams and Alison Young analyzed survey data and the VA's own database of 3.4 million claims to discover that more than 13,700 veterans died while waiting for their claims to be resolved, and as many as 572,000 vets may be missing out on their rightful disability payments.

• **THIRD PLACE:** The *St. Petersburg Times*, for "Vanishing Wetlands," which demonstrated that 84,000 acres of Florida wetlands have been destroyed by development since 1990 when President George H. W. Bush declared a national policy of no net loss of wetlands. Reporters Matthew Waite and Craig Pittman penetrated beyond the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' poorly-documented records of development permits by using before-and-after satellite imagery and geographic information systems software to accurately measure the loss.

Hands-On Classes

Most attendees pre-registered for hands-on classes, but seats may still be available for various topics. Also, more classes may be added. Check with the sign-up desk at the Demo Room (Seth Boyden Room) for availability.

Beginners (mini-boot camp)
For CAR beginners, special morning panels will be coordinated with hands-on classes in the afternoon. The combination will give participants a mini-boot camp experience with plenty of opportunity to apply what they learn to reporting and writing news stories. Participants are automatically signed up for classes that follow the IRE and NICAR boot camp curriculum. This will offer 10 hours of hands-on instruction in Internet, spreadsheets and database management. The 36 participants will be divided into two teams: Red Team and Green Team. The Red Team will usually use the Mercer Room and the Green Team will usually use the Morris Room.

Broadcasters
• CAR for broadcast, on Friday at 2 p.m., will feature Nancy Amons, WSMV-Nashville; Andy Lehren, *The New York Times*; and Jeff Porter, IRE and NICAR.
• What IRE and NICAR can do for you, on Friday at 3:20 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m., will include information about data analysis for television.

Educators
Teaching CAR from college to the newsroom, on Saturday at 3:20 p.m., will feature Brant Houston, IRE and NICAR; David Herzog, NICAR and Missouri School of Journalism; and Jeff South, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Computer Demo Room

Seth Boyden Room on the Lobby Level

Check out the IRE and NICAR Computer Demo Room, where there will be numerous demonstrations of the latest in computer-assisted reporting tools and techniques.

Some of the best CAR journalists will show their techniques for making intranet search pages on the fly, parsing PDFs into databases, putting maps online, automating tedious tasks and more.

To learn more about the array of services IRE and NICAR provide to journalists, check out the schedule for sessions led by our staff members. In addition to these sessions, NICAR database library staff will be available in the Demo Room throughout the conference to answer questions and demonstrate the many datasets IRE and NICAR make available to journalists.

The Demo Room also serves as the cyber café with 10 computers available to check your e-mail.

Upcoming Events

Some of the IRE and NICAR opportunities planned this year:

2006 IRE Conference

Dallas/Fort Worth – June 15-18
• Panels touching every beat, including computer-assisted reporting angles
• Special emphasis on covering public safety, courts, national security, the military, business, education, local government and much more
• Special broadcast topics and skills panels
• Broadcast Show & Tell Room
• First-day-on-the-beat sessions – Pick up the basics of covering a new beat or gain a skill you can use every day
• Presentation of the IRE Awards
• Annual IRE membership meeting and elections

Keep checking for updates and new offerings at
www.ire.org/training/dallasfortworth06

Save the Date!

The 2007 IRE Conference will be at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa in Phoenix, June 7-10.
www.ire.org/training/phoenix07

Computer–Assisted Reporting Boot Camps

These unique seminars train journalists to acquire electronic information, use spreadsheets and databases to analyze the information and to translate that information into high-impact stories. In addition, the institute then provides follow-up help when participants return to their news organizations.
• March 26-31 – Columbia, Mo.
• April 23-28 – North Miami, Fla.
• May 21-26 – Columbia, Mo.
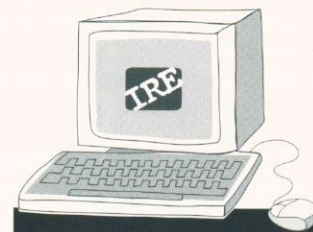• Aug. 6-11 – Columbia, Mo.

Special Editor's Boot Camp, designed for the needs of newsroom managers
• April 7-9 – Columbia, Mo.

Mapping Data for News Stories Boot Camp
• Aug. 18-20 – Columbia, Mo.

Register and find out more at www.ire.org/training/bootcamps.php

Watchdog Journalism

Unleashing the Watchdogs

These workshops, held in partnership with the American Society of Newspaper Editors, feature top editors and trainers sharing techniques, tips and years of experience on how to get watchdog journalism done, especially from reporters covering beats and daily stories. The workshops cover how to guide reporters in the effective use of the Internet, open records laws, computer-assisted reporting and anonymous sources. This series is made possible in part by a generous grant from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation.
• March 31-April 1 – Los Angeles, Calif., hosted by the Western Knight Center for Specialized Journalism
• May 15-16 – Cambridge, Mass., hosted by the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University

Better Watchdog Workshops

These workshops help journalists at small- to medium-sized news organizations – and those in bureaus of larger organizations – learn the investigative skills that keep government and business accountable and to produce enterprising and informative stories. This series is made possible in part by generous grants from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation and the Chicago Tribune Foundation.
• April 8 – Rochester, N.Y., hosted by WXXI Public Broadcasting
• May 16 – Boston, Mass., hosted by the *The Boston Globe*
• June 21 – Waikiki, Hawaii, at the 2006 AAJA National Convention

In skilled hands, computer software can sift and analyze millions of records in seconds. IRE and its National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting have the expertise needed to determine patterns, identify people and map locations quickly – saving newsrooms days of trial and error. Adding this kind of authority to your reporting can be critical to your story. We look forward to helping you by supplying data, providing analysis or consulting on a project. Data prices start as low as $25, analysis as low as $50 an hour.

The IRE and NICAR Database Library maintains a collection of databases containing government data on a wide array of subjects, provides data analysis services for news organizations, and provides assistance to journalists trying to resolve data problems.

Some of the data available:

- Transportation (air safety, roads, waterways, hazardous materials)
- Elections (campaign contributions)
- Health (pharmaceuticals, medical devices, AIDS cases)
- Public Safety (crime, bridges, dams, firearms, workplace safety, consumer products)
- Environment (toxic releases, hazardous sites)
- Business (wage violations, federal contracts, home mortgages, SBA loans)
- Federal Spending (payments to states, federal grants, arts grants, Social Security payments)
- Census (complete 2000 Census material, community migration and immigrants)

The Database Library can offer these databases via customized online accounts, including special pricing for our entire database collection. The online accounts can include some of the constantly updated databases as well, which are a great resource on deadline.

There are some distinct advantages to getting your data from IRE and NICAR. For those who are not interested in processing raw government data, we provide a cleaner, more user-friendly format for instant use. And, while many of you could process the data yourselves, the service was created to help you devote your time and resources to other reporting tasks.

The Database Library also offers specialty work for journalists, such as transferring data from magnetic data tapes to CD-ROM and quick searches of aviation data following a plane crash to find reports of service difficulties, previous accidents or incidents and registration information of that plane. Look for additional, even faster services related to aviation disaster in the next few months.

We can provide the backbone for a story that:
- uses data from your own area
- is provided exclusively to your organization
- will have your readers and viewers talking

Endless story possibilities

In the past two years, NICAR has helped journalists pinpoint problem polluters in their regions, find obsolete or deficient local bridges and dams, reveal their towns' filthiest restaurants, and even identify problematic parking meters. Call us with your ideas. See what we can do for you.

Here are just a few examples of data work IRE and NICAR provided to news organizations:

Campus crime by the numbers

ABC News used campus crime data, plus IRE and NICAR services, to report which colleges had the highest reported violent crime rates. The analysis divided the schools into four categories - largest to smallest - and were available from 2002 and 2003.

Comparing public school test scores

Working with IRE and NICAR, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* used data analysis results in its campus-by-campus comparison of public schools test scores in Missouri and Illinois.

Helping Associated Press clients make deadline

After the 2000 Census data were released, the Database Library helped process the voluminous amount of information in 2001 and 2002, providing fast and accurate service to the AP.

Sex offenders move close to daycares

Chris Halsne of KIRO-Seattle teamed up with IRE and NICAR to find that 605 sex offenders live close to daycares in Washington.

Felons receive hunting permits

Steve Chamraz of KCTV-Kansas City used IRE and NICAR analysis services to expose a glaring weakness in Missouri's hunting permit system. Nearly 1,000 convicted felons possessed permits, despite being barred from owning or firing a gun.

Speed traps revealed across state

Duane Pohlman of WEWS-Cleveland obtained records from a half-million speeding tickets across Ohio. IRE and NICAR mapped the data, highlighting several speed trap "hot spots." The report gave special emphasis to the five largest concentrations of tickets, including one spot where more than 5,000 tickets were issued in a year.

Learn more

Database Library staff will be available at the Demo Room (Seth Boyden) throughout the conference to answer questions and demonstrate the library's services. Don't miss two special sessions in the Demo Room on "What IRE and NICAR can do for you" at 3:20 p.m. on Friday and 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Contact Jeff Porter, IRE and NICAR • jeff@ire.org • 573-882-1982 • 573-882-2042 • www.ire.org/datalibrary

	Atlantic	Monmouth	Bergen
9 – 10:10 a.m.	**Start your engines: An overview of the advanced day** • David Donald, IRE and NICAR • Brant Houston, IRE and NICAR		
10:20–11:30 a.m.	**The latest and best in mapping techniques** • David Herzog, NICAR and Missouri School of Journalism • Andy Lehren, *The New York Times*		**Advanced Excel functions** • MaryJo Sylwester, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*
11:40–12:50 p.m.	**The latest in Web scraping** • John Perry, The Center for Public Integrity • Derek Willis, *The Washington Post*	**Data cleaning with Access** • Tim Henderson, *The Miami Herald* • Maurice Tamman, *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*	**MySQL for the intranet** • Brad Heath, *The Detroit News* • Daniel Lathrop, The Center for Public Integrity
12:50 – 2 p.m.	Lunch on your own		
2–3:10 p.m.	**The thinking intranet** • Tom Torok, *The New York Times*	**Mapping on the Web** • Dave Sheingold, *The (Hackensack, N.J.) Record* • Matthew Waite, *St. Petersburg Times*	
3:20–4:30 p.m.	**Stats for the newsroom** • David Donald, IRE and NICAR • Jennifer LaFleur, *The Dallas Morning News*	**Open-source software** • Griff Palmer, *San Jose Mercury News* • Aron Pilhofer, *The New York Times*	
4:40–5:50 p.m.	**Social network analysis and using it for stories** • Jaimi Dowdell, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* • Tommy Kaas, Danish International Center for Analytical Reporting • Aaron Kessler, Virginia Public Access Project	**Using Perl, Python and R** • Amanda Cox, *The New York Times* • Matthew Ericson, *The New York Times* • Ron Nixon, *The New York Times*	**Blogs, wikis and RSS in the newsroom** • Matthew Waite, *St. Petersburg Times* • Derek Willis, *The Washington Post*
6:15 p.m.	**Please use our conference bulletin board to arrange drinks and dinner. Restaurant recommendations can be found in the Dining Guide on page 13.**		

	Essex	Atlantic	Monmouth	Seth Boyden (Demo Room)
8 a.m.		**How to get the most out of the conference** • David Donald, IRE and NICAR • David Herzog, NICAR and Missouri School of Journalism • Brant Houston, IRE and NICAR • Jeff Porter, IRE and NICAR		
8:45 a.m.		**Welcome** • James Willse, *The Star-Ledger* • Brant Houston, IRE and NICAR		
9 – 10:10 a.m.	**Internet 101: Better search techniques for the Web** • Benjamin Lesser, *The (Hackensack, N.J.) Record* • Neil Reisner, Florida International University	**CAR for justice** • Jennifer LaFleur, *The Dallas Morning News* • Griff Palmer, *San Jose Mercury News* • Janet Roberts, *The New York Times*	**International data and investigations** • Brant Houston, IRE and NICAR (moderator) • Helena Bengtsson, The Center for Public Integrity • Nils Mulvad, Danish International Center for Analytical Reporting	**Deciphering the alphabet soup: ASP, PHP, VB, VBA, SQL. A pre-primer for the network newbie** • Joshua Tanzer, *Freelance*
10:20–11:30 a.m.	**CAR for digging into local contracts** • David Fallis, *The Washington Post* • Dan Keating, *The Washington Post* • Dunstan McNichol, *The Star-Ledger*	**Revealing stories from veterans data** • Chris Adams, Knight Ridder • Doug Stanley, *The Tampa Tribune*	**Investigating business** • David Dietz, *Bloomberg Markets* • Brant Houston, IRE and NICAR	**The basics of CrimeStat: A free tool for ArcView to help map crime hot spots** • Enric Volante, *Arizona Daily Star*
11:40–12:50 p.m.	**CAR for covering natural disasters** • John Maines, *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* • Natalya Shulyakovskaya, *The Orange County Register*	**CAR for property investigations** • Doug Haddix, *The Columbus Dispatch* • Brooke Williams, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*	**Census: American Community Survey, American Housing Survey and other new releases and tools** • Paul Overberg, *USA Today* (moderator) • Dave Davis, *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer* • Paula Lavigne, *The Dallas Morning News*	**Using Python to gather congressional vote data** • Derek Willis, *The Washington Post*
12:50 – 2 p.m.	Lunch on your own			
2–3:10 p.m.	**CAR for broadcast** • Nancy Amons, WSMV-Nashville • Andy Lehren, *The New York Times* • Jeff Porter, IRE and NICAR	**Advanced Internet: From better searches to the invisible Web** • M.J. Crowley, *The Star-Ledger* • Nora Paul, Institute for Media Studies • Margot Williams, *The New York Times*	**Thunder road: Transportation** • Paul Overberg, *USA Today* • David Raynor, *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer*	**Generating stories with TRAC data** • David Burnham, Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse
3:20–4:30 p.m.	**Using CAR in everyday work** • David Armstrong, *The Wall Street Journal* • Tom McGinty, *Newsday*	**CAR and the environment** • Spencer Hunt, *The Columbus Dispatch* • Matthew Waite, *St. Petersburg Times*	**Setting up a data library and the intranet: Organizing the data for the newsroom** • Robert Gebeloff, *The Star-Ledger* • MaryJo Sylwester, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*	**What IRE and NICAR can do for you** • IRE and NICAR staff
4:40–5:50 p.m.	**Social research methods and common sense for newsrooms** • Steve Doig, Arizona State University • Philip Meyer, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill To be followed by presentation of the Philip Meyer Awards			
6 p.m.	**Philip Meyer Award Reception in Atlantic** **Join us to celebrate the first Philip Meyer Awards, recognizing the best uses of social science methods in journalism.** Thanks to support from Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, PC for this event			
7:30 p.m.	**Please use our conference bulletin board to arrange drinks and dinner.** **Restaurant recommendations can be found in the Dining Guide on page 13.**			

A = Advanced classes; B = Basic classes; I = Intermediate classes; **MINI-BOOT CAMP**

Mercer	Morris	Bergen (Internet)	Hudson	Rutgers
B: Access 1: The purifying experience of filtering your data. Learn to select and sort data items you choose. • Agustin Armendariz, The Center for Public Integrity	B: Excel 1: Performing simple calculations and sorting • Steve Doig, Arizona State University	I: Making the most of the U.S. Census Bureau's Factfinder • Kelly Guckian, *San Antonio Express-News*	A: Beyond basics 1: Using advanced Excel functions • MaryJo Sylwester, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*	A: An introduction to SQL Server: What it has that desktop apps don't. How to import, view and query the data • Alletta Emeno, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*
I: Access 2: Summarizing databases with counting and summing • Agustin Armendariz, The Center for Public Integrity	B: Excel 2: Calculating ratios and rates in Excel • Steve Doig, Arizona State University	B: Web sites and search techniques for reporters • Toby Lyles, *The New York Times*	A: Beyond basics 2: Cleaning data with SQL functions in Access • Jeff Porter, IRE and NICAR	A: SQL automation: How to spend zero time on those tedious, recurrent tasks of importing, manipulating, analyzing and publishing data with data transformation service. • James Wilkerson, *The New York Times*
A: Access 3: How to join tables, matching information from one file to another • Tom McGinty, *Newsday*	B: Excel 3: Learn pivot tables, filtering and more • Janet Roberts, *The New York Times*	B: Backgrounding people on the Internet • Margot Williams, *The New York Times*	A: Beyond basics 3: Programming in Access to ease importing and other automated tasks • Maurice Tamman, *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*	A: Optimizing with SQL Server: Using indexes and other tools to spot slowdowns and speed up your queries • Tom Torok, *The New York Times*
Lunch on your own				
B: Excel 1: Performing simple calculations and sorting (MINI-BOOT CAMP) • Aaron Kessler, Virginia Public Access Project	B: Excel 1: Performing simple calculations and sorting (MINI-BOOT CAMP) • Enric Volante, *Arizona Daily Star*	B: Backgrounding businesses on the Internet • Monika Mathur, The Associated Press	A: Mapping 1: Displaying data geographically with ArcView 9 • Christopher Schnaars, *The Morning Call*	A: SAS: Reading in and analyzing with SAS tools • Dan Keating, *The Washington Post*
B: Excel 2: Calculating ratios and rates (MINI-BOOT CAMP) • Aaron Kessler, Virginia Public Access Project	B: Excel 2: Calculating ratios and rates (MINI-BOOT CAMP) • Dave Sheingold, *The* (Hackensack, N.J.) *Record*	B: Excel and Internet: Importing data from the Web into spreadsheets • Carolyn Edds, *St. Petersburg Times*	A: Mapping 2: Importing and selecting data by attribute (ArcView 9) • Brad Heath, *The Detroit News*	A: Similar tasks, different tools: Moving data into your newsroom with ASP.NET • Aron Pilhofer, *The New York Times*
B: Importing data into Excel (MINI-BOOT CAMP) • Debbie Wolfe, *St. Petersburg Times*	B: Importing data into Excel (MINI-BOOT CAMP) • Dave Sheingold, *The* (Hackensack, N.J.) *Record*	B: Excel and Internet: Importing PDFs into spreadsheets • Derek Willis, *The Washington Post*	A: Mapping 3: Geocoding to merge databases with street addresses into maps (ArcView 9) • Andy Lehren, *The New York Times*	A: Similar tasks, different tools: Moving data into your newsroom with PHP • Joshua Tanzer, *Freelance*

Philip Meyer Award Reception in Atlantic
Join us to celebrate the first Philip Meyer Awards, recognizing the best uses of social science methods in journalism.
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Demo Room

	Essex	Atlantic	Monmouth	Bentley's	Seth Boyden
9 – 10:10 a.m.	**CAR for money and politics** • Aaron Kessler, Virginia Public Access Project • Aron Pilhofer, *The New York Times* • Derek Willis, *The Washington Post*	**CAR for covering education** • Rose Ciotta, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* • Tawnell Hobbs, *The Dallas Morning News* • Mc Nelly Torres, *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*	**Year in review in CAR** • David Donald, IRE and NICAR	**Using CAR for FOI** • Wendell Cochran, American University • Coral Davenport, *American University* • Tom Gaumer, *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer*	**Recapturing history: Using IPUMS to build Census tables you can't find in the library** • Robert Gebeloff, *The Star-Ledger*
10:20–11:30 a.m.	**Property, mortgages and foreclosures** • John McCormick, *Chicago Tribune* • Ted Mellnik, *The Charlotte Observer*	**Dealing with denials of FOI data requests** • David Burnham, Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse • David McCraw, *The New York Times* • Jo Craven McGinty, *The New York Times* • David Smallman, Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz PC		**CAR for covering public health** • Fred Schulte, *The (Baltimore) Sun* • Steve Suo, *The (Portland) Oregonian*	**Text from TIFFs: Document images come to life through bulk OCR and full-text searches** • Tom Torok, *The New York Times*
11:40–12:50 p.m.	**20 years later: CAR and strategies for changing newsroom cultures** • Brant Houston, IRE and NICAR • Anne Saul, Gannett Co., Inc. • Terry Schwadron, *The New York Times*	**Writing the data-heavy story** • Jason Method, *Asbury Park Press* • Mc Nelly Torres, *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*		**Military data** • Mike Fabey, *Defense News* • Doug Smith, *Los Angeles Times*	**Creating easy forms, serving up data pages with PHP** • Brian Hamman, IRE and NICAR
12:50 – 2 p.m.	Lunch on your own				
2–3:10 p.m.	**Visual investigations and CAR** • Sarah Cohen, *The Washington Post* • Matthew Ericson, *The New York Times* • Matthew Waite, *St. Petersburg Times*	**Managing and editing the CAR story** • Tom Curran, *The Star-Ledger* (moderator) • Doug Haddix, *The Columbus Dispatch* • Tim Nostrand, *The (Hackensack, N.J.) Record*		**Food safety and CAR** • Tim Darragh, *The Morning Call* • Christopher Schnaars, *The Morning Call*	**What IRE and NICAR can do for you** • IRE and NICAR staff
3:20–4:30 p.m.	**Bulletproofing the story** • Danielle Cervantes, *The San Diego Union-Tribune* • Jennifer LaFleur, *The Dallas Morning News*	**CAR after the disaster: FEMA, SBA and other data** • Russ Beuttner, *New York Daily News* • John Maines, *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* • Ron Nixon, *The New York Times*	**Hardware and gadgets for the computer-assisted reporter** • Stephen C. Miller, *The New York Times* • Matthew Waite, *St. Petersburg Times*	**Teaching CAR from college to the newsroom** • Brant Houston, IRE and NICAR (moderator) • David Herzog, NICAR and Missouri School of Journalism • Jeff South, Virginia Commonwealth University	**Online mapping with ArcIMS** • Ted Mellnik, *The Charlotte Observer*
4:40–5:50 p.m.	**Using data to track sexual predators** • Jeff Porter, IRE and NICAR (moderator) • Robert Benincasa, Gannett News Service • Paul D'Ambrosio, *Asbury Park Press* • Jason Grotto, *The Miami Herald*	**Worker safety and CAR** • Linda Johnson, *Lexington Herald-Leader* • Tom Torok, *The New York Times* • Ken Ward Jr., *The Charleston (W.V.) Gazette*	**Katrina roundtable** *Open to all* IRE staff will invite those who have used CAR to cover Katrina to join a wide-ranging discussion.	**CAR for sports coverage** • Thomas Hargrove, Scripps Howard News Service • Jodi Upton, *USA Today*	**Turning "dirty" text and PDFs into spreadsheets with Monarch** • Paula Lavigne, *The Dallas Morning News*
6:00 p.m.	**Please use our conference bulletin board to arrange drinks and dinner. Restaurant recommendations can be found in the Dining Guide on page 13.**				

Saturday Hands-on

A = Advanced classes; B = Basic classes; I = Intermediate classes; **MINI-BOOT CAMP**

Mercer	Morris	Bergen (Internet)	Hudson	Rutgers
A: Database building: Using Access forms to ease the process • Anthony DeBarros, *USA Today*	**B:** Excel 1: Performing simple calculations and sorting • Danielle Cervantes, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*	**B:** Web sites and search techniques for reporters • Toby Lyles, *The New York Times*	**A:** Mapping 4: How Spatial Analyst can pinpoint places and improve stories (ArcView 9) • Matthew Waite, *St. Petersburg Times*	**A:** MySQL: Introduction to writing database code in a low-cost alternative to SQL Server • Daniel Lathrop, The Center for Public Integrity
B: Access 1: The purifying experience of filtering your data. Learn to select and sort data items you choose. • Griff Palmer, *San Jose Mercury News*	**B:** Excel 2: Calculating ratios and rates • Natalya Shulyakovskaya, *The Orange County Register*	**A:** Advanced scripting 1: Using Perl to grab data from the Web • Matthew Ericson, *The New York Times* • John Perry, The Center for Public Integrity • Aron Pilhofer, *The New York Times*	**A:** Mapping 5: Nailing down the details - dealing with projections • Jennifer LaFleur, *The Dallas Morning News*	**A:** Introduction to social network software • Jaimi Dowdell, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*
B: Access 2: Summarizing databases with counting and summing • Griff Palmer, *San Jose Mercury News*	**B:** Excel 3: Learn pivot tables, filtering and more • Larry Gillick, American University	**A:** Advanced scripting 2: Using Perl to grab data from the Web (attendance in Advanced Scripting 1 required) • Matthew Ericson, *The New York Times* • John Perry, The Center for Public Integrity • Aron Pilhofer, *The New York Times*	**A:** SPSS 1: Navigate SPSS, using descriptive statistics and frequencies. Create basic counts and percentages to help you understand your data • David Donald, IRE and NICAR	**A:** VEdit and others: Using text editors to clean your data and text manipulation • Sarah Cohen, *The Washington Post*

Lunch on your own

Mercer	Morris	Bergen (Internet)	Hudson	Rutgers
A: Moving into Access: An introduction to filtering with Access **(MINI-BOOT CAMP)** • Jennifer LaFleur, *The Dallas Morning News*	**A:** Moving into Access: An introduction to filtering with Access **(MINI-BOOT CAMP)** • William Hartnett, *The Palm Beach Post*	**B:** Excel and Internet: Importing PDFs into spreadsheets • Derek Willis, *The Washington Post*	**A:** SPSS 2: Doing crosstabs to show the data in different ways, and statistical tests • Jason Method, *Asbury Park Press*	**A:** An introduction to Perl and regular expressions • John Perry, The Center for Public Integrity
I: Access 2: Summarizing databases with counting and summing **(MINI-BOOT CAMP)** • James Wilkerson, *The New York Times*	**I:** Access 2: Summarizing databases with counting and summing **(MINI-BOOT CAMP)** • Doug Smith, *Los Angeles Times*	**I:** Downloading and analyzing Census demographics to help cover your community • Doug Stanley, *The Tampa Tribune*	**A:** SPSS 3: Basic linear regression techniques and diagnostics • Steve Suo, *The Oregonian*	**A:** Scripting away your data woes: Perl and VBScript as tools to format, clean and organize data for use in any database software • Matthew Ericson, *The New York Times* • Tom Torok, *The New York Times*
A: Access 3: How to join tables, matching information from one file to another **(MINI-BOOT CAMP)** • James Wilkerson, *The New York Times*	**A:** Access 3: How to join tables, matching information from one file to another **(MINI-BOOT CAMP)** • Robert Gebeloff, *The Star-Ledger*	**I:** Downloading and analyzing campaign finance data • Jeff South, Virginia Commonwealth University	**A:** SPSS 4: Using SPSS syntax to automate time-consuming tasks • David Donald, IRE and NICAR	**A:** Similar tasks, different tools: Moving data into your newsroom with ASP • MaryJo Sylwester, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

If you have a willing teacher and students, we can add a session in this time slot! Come see us in the Demo Room for scheduling.	**OPEN LAB for mini-boot camps:** A session on finding, downloading and importing data (limited seating available; students might have to share computer time) • IRE and NICAR staff	If you have a willing teacher and students, we can add a session in this time slot! Come see us in the Demo Room for scheduling.	

	Atlantic	Monmouth
9 – 10:10 a.m.	**Internet 101: Better search techniques for the Web** • Pia Christensen, IRE and NICAR • Toby Lyles, *The New York Times*	**Basic math primer** • David Donald, IRE and NICAR
10:20–11:30 a.m.	**Covering homicides with CAR** • Rob Gebeloff, *The Star-Ledger* • Doug Smith, *Los Angeles Times*	**Latest in using census data** • Colleen O'Dea, (Parsippany, N.J.) *Daily Record*

BREAK THROUGHS

FUNDING IRE'S FUTURE

Make your mark in IRE history today by joining the hundreds of IRE members who have donated and pledged to IRE's endowment fund. When you do, you will help us raise a stable, long-term source of funding for IRE's mission of fostering excellence in investigative journalism. Only investment income from the fund will be used; the principal is set aside in a reserved fund, and will always remain to provide investment income in future years. The fund is already generating significant monetary support for IRE programming.

All endowment gifts make a difference because, taken together, they form a strong foundation that continues to grow for years to come.

If you value quality investigative journalism and recognize the importance of keeping governments, businesses and individuals accountable, then please pledge to the IRE endowment fund this year. And, for a short time longer, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation will give $1 for every $2 you donate or pledge under a $1 million partial matching program.

> "IRE's hands-on training, practical advice and network of support have made it the go-to organization for journalists in the U.S. and around the world. By revolutionizing the training of journalists everywhere, IRE has quite simply made the profession better. Contributing to its endowment will enable IRE to continue this great work."
> – James B. Steele, Editor-at-large for Time Inc.

To Make a Pledge:

...during the conference, please drop by the **sales desk** on the lobby level and fill out a pledge form and/or make a payment to the Breakthroughs drive.

...when you get home, please visit the Breakthroughs page on the IRE Web site: **www.ire.org/endowment**

Questions? Please call or e-mail IRE's development officer, Jennifer Erickson, at **jennifer@ire.org** or 573-884-2222.

Mercer	Morris	Bergen (Internet)
B: Build your own database: The ins and outs of how to structure and maintain a database you create. **(MINI-BOOT CAMP)** • Robert Gebeloff, *The Star-Ledger*	**B:** Build your own database: The ins and outs of how to structure and maintain a database you create. **(MINI-BOOT CAMP)** • Andy Lehren, *The New York Times*	**B:** Backgrounding people on the Internet • Margot Williams, *The New York Times*
A final Q&A session, exercise and how to take it all home. **(MINI-BOOT CAMP)** • IRE and NICAR staff	A final Q&A session, exercise and how to take it all home. **(MINI-BOOT CAMP)** • IRE and NICAR staff	**B:** Backgrounding businesses on the Internet • Monika Mathur, The Associated Press

GETTING AROUND

The Gateway Hilton is within walking distance of most of the downtown attractions, the lively "Ironbound" neighborhood, and Newark Penn Station, which has two local train services into Manhattan, with some interesting stops in between.

Generally, anyplace within walking distance is safe during daylight hours, and at night in groups. While Newark still has one of the highest crime rates in the nation, the vast majority of crime occurs in the city's residential neighborhoods.

Cabs are readily available just outside the hotel near the train station. Cabs line up there looking for fares until fairly late at night.

For trips into New York City, your best bet is to use one of the two rail systems at Newark Penn Station. To get there, use the indoor walkway that connects the hotel lobby with the station. It's open most of the time, except from 12:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. Otherwise, you can go down one level from the lobby and simply walk across the street to the station.

Either NJ Transit or the PATH trains will get you into New York.

For **Midtown Manhattan** - and easy access to a variety of subways that can take you just about anywhere in New York, from Coney Island to the Cloisters – take NJ Transit. The one-way fare for the 20-minute ride is $3.75, or you can buy a $6.25 off-peak round-trip ticket. There are ticket vendors and machines in the station's main concourse and additional machines on the train platforms. New York-bound trains leave from platforms one and two. The tickets are good for any train that runs between Newark and New York. Check the monitors in the station for the next train heading to New York.

If you are looking to go to **Lower Manhattan**, the PATH system is the best option. You get to the PATH trains through boarding platforms one and two. Fares are $1.50 and you pay at the turnstile. The dollar slots on the tickets machine are finicky, so it helps to have a couple of quarters with you. The PATH train, a 22-minute trip, will end at the World Trade Center station.

Another popular destination is **Hoboken**. The NJ Transit service between Hoboken and Newark Penn Station is less frequent and stops earlier in the evening. If you take the PATH to Hoboken, you have to switch trains at Journal Square in Jersey City. With a timely connection, the trip may take about 30 minutes. During late-night hours, the connections at Journal Square are not so frequent.

WARNING: The PATH trains stop running shortly after midnight; the NJ Transit trains to New York stop running around 2 a.m. – plan your trip accordingly.

Visitors were as numerous as the blossoms during the annual Cherry Blossom Festival at Branch Brook Park. Families picnicked under the flowering trees all around the park.

A tugboat pushes a barge under the George Washington Bridge on the Hudson River with New York in the background.

IRE and NICAR would like to thank the _Star-Ledger_ staffers who compiled this guide:

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Julia Scott
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Joan Whitlow

Our neighborhoods and downtown are busy with construction and renovation. We are teeming with good people — 280,000 residents packed into 24 square miles. And tens of thousands more come to town each day. That's because Newark is the county seat, home to state and federal courts, major corporations such as Prudential and five colleges and universities.

We are a unique ethnic, cultural and economic mix. The largest contingents of residents are African Americans, followed by Latinos. Large parts of Newark hum with the Old World influence of Portuguese Europe accented by the New World nuances of Brazilian and Caribbean folk.

Make your way west of downtown, to the edge of the New Jersey Institute of Technology campus, where Raymond Boulevard begins. Swirl through the curves of the boulevard back toward the city's center, past the campuses, toward the big office buildings, through the throngs of people coming and going. Look at Newark from that view early in the morning, and you will get a sense of what Newark used to be and what it is becoming.

Newark is one of the oldest cities in America, founded in 1666 by Puritans from Connecticut. I've been told that Newark lived under strict Puritan rules longer than most New England communities. That may be hard to believe today, when you hear hard-core hip-hop lyrics blaring at you from the stores on Market Street near Broad.

The largest city in New Jersey, Newark was once among the most successful cities in the country. In the 1800s, Newark made 90 percent of the country's leather. It was the source of the brownstone that built the great homes of the Northeast. It was a major rail and shipping hub (Port Newark still hustles) which positioned Newark as the perfect site for manufacturing of all kinds.

The mansions in Newark's North Ward and those still standing on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, formerly High Street, are from the days when fortunes turned on industry, insurance and beer. You will hear arguments about why Newark declined after World War II and why the riots broke out in 1967.

You also will hear arguments about the city's leadership. Mayor Sharpe James, who has held City Hall for 20 years, says he deserves the credit for Newark's renaissance: a housing boom in the neighborhoods and a sports arena planned for downtown. His arch political rival, former city councilman Cory Booker, says the renaissance is built on a corrupt political foundation. Booker ran for mayor and lost to James four years ago. That race was chronicled in the documentary "Street Fight," which gave the nation a peek at campaigning Newark-style. It gets rough here. James and Booker appear headed for a rematch in May. The fur has been flying for months. James/Booker II looks to be a hot one.

There is no doubt, however, that the city is recovering from the down days. We are building a new urban reality on the old, enduring foundation.

— Joan Whitlow, _Star-Ledger_ columnist

For dining choices farther afield, be sure to check the Nearby Destinations section.

BREAKFAST/BAKERIES

Coutinho's, 88 Wilson Ave., Newark; 973-589-9316. Newark's Ironbound is home to scores of Brazilian and Portuguese restaurants; many get their bread and desserts from Coutinho's or **Teixeira's** (184 Ferry St.; 973-589-8875). You can't go wrong at either. Coutinho's custard cups are justly renowned. They make excellent espresso, too. Teixeira's may get the nod in the bread category. Try them both, and pick your favorite.

LUNCH/SANDWICHES

Hero King, 406 Market St., Newark; 973-344-2322. The best subs in Newark are made in this no-frills storefront a block from the train station. More than 200 subs march out of here on a good day. Don't be discouraged by the long lines; the guys behind the counter fill orders with lightning speed. You can even get pancakes and French toast in the morning; burgers, hot dogs, and pastas are also available. Looking for Bigfoot? It's right here. The hefty sandwich includes nearly every meat and cheese in the shop.

Daily Soup, 102 Halsey St., Newark; 973-286-7687. Downtown soup joint offers a dozen or so soups daily, and the lineup goes well beyond chicken noodle and beef barley. You might find Senegalese peanut soup, Argentinean beef soup, Yucatan chicken-lime soup, and other globe-trotting brews. Top-sellers are Tuscan tomato; lentil; and Moroccan curry with couscous. The Manhattan clam chowder is so-so, but all the tomato-based soups range from tasty to terrific. Personal favorites: the butternut-squash-with-apples soup, and the tomato and sweet sausage. Open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Hobby's, 32 Branford Place, Newark; 973-623-0410. Venerable Jewish deli/luncheonette feeds hundreds of downtown workers, from judges to garbage men, every day. All the standards are here – corned beef, pastrami, lox, tongue, knishes, triple-decker clubs, matzo ball soup, cream soda. Closed on Sundays.

Hamburgao, 28 Lafayette St., Newark; 973-465-1776. "Hamburgao" is Portuguese for "big burger," and the burgers at this Brazilian fast food restaurant – you read that right - live up to the description. But not because of the amount of meat; the sandwiches are jam-packed with pieces of corn, lettuce, tomato, mayo, mozzarella, bacon, egg, and potato sticks, among other ingredients. This sure isn't McDonald's or Burger King. Two other must-trys: the enroladinho de presunto e queijo (fried pastry filled with ham and cheese) and the coxinha catupiry (chicken balls with Brazilian cheese).

Emilia's Deli, 234 Jefferson St., Newark; 973-344-9370. Dollar bills are pinned to pictures of the Blessed Virgin, sweet old Italian women stir pots of soup, and you sit at communal tables. It's a shout-your-order-and-help-yourself-to-the-bread kind of place. Daily specials. Want to keep it simple? The prosciutto, fresh mozzarella and sweet red peppers sandwich is a knockout. Closed weekends.

Abin's, 184 Elm St., Newark; 973-589-3349. Closed Sundays. Deli/luncheonette located strategically – or conveniently, depending on how you look at it – across from St. James Hospital. No atmosphere to speak of, yet charming in a low-rent sort of way. This is no place for vegetarians; great dripping slabs of pork, turkey and brisket are sliced in front of you and deposited in rolls or on plates. There are a few tables in front, and a dining room out back for the overflow. Greasy and glorious.

LUNCH/DINNER

Je's, 34 William St., Newark; 973-623-8848. The heart and soul of the New Jersey soul food universe, this family-style cafeteria and luncheonette has served the likes of Shaquille O'Neal and Patti LaBelle. Popular dishes include smothered and fried chicken, catfish, liver, oxtails, meat loaf and short ribs. There's a galaxy of sides – mac and cheese, black-eyed peas, collard greens, string beans and pickled beets, among others. Open Tuesday through Sunday until 7:30 p.m.; closed Monday.

DINNER

Fornos of Spain, 47 Ferry St., Newark; 973-589-4767. Ferry Street, a minute's walk from the train station, is nerve central for the Ironbound, its river of commerce and cuisine. There are many no-frills storefront restaurants, and then there are places like Fornos, a stylish, spacious restaurant. The menu is Spanish meets Continental, which explains non-Ironbound-like dishes like carpaccio, duck in cherry sauce, and stuffed artichokes with crab meat and cream cheese. You can't go wrong with the sangrias; both white and red are good. Many dishes, though, seem to be hit and miss. Recommended: the roasted shank of lamb, filet mignon, and blackened salmon. The portions here are among the Ironbound's biggest.

Iberia Tavern and Restaurant, 80-84 Ferry St., Newark; 973-344-7603. Iberia Tavern and Restaurant, and Iberia Peninsula, across the street, are the first names that come to mind when many people think "Ironbound restaurant." They're owned by the same people; Iberia Tavern is livelier and slightly larger than its sister restaurant. Both offer a Portuguese menu; most of the staff speak English, Portuguese and Spanish. You haven't lived, or died, until you try the Brazilian speciality known as rodizio. It's essentially a nonstop meat orgy; waiters bring skewers of meat – pork sausage, chicken, pork tenderloin, sirloin steak, steak wrapped in bacon, pork ribs, chicken hearts – until you tell them to stop, or you keel over. It's a must-try experience – unless, of course, you're a vegetarian – and Iberia Tavern's is among the better

Mario Costa, chef at Seabra's Rodizio in Newark, works the various meats on the spits.

Amanda Brown / NJNP

ones (the best I've ever had is at Solar do Minho in Belleville, a 10-minute ride from downtown Newark). Iberia is fun and festive; there are often strolling guitar players. Have dinner here, cap it off with a bracing espresso and dessert at Teixeira's, Coutinho's or another of the Ironbound's many cafes/bakeries.

Maize, Robert Treat Hotel, 50 Park Place, Newark; 973-639-1200. Looking for that one big splurge downtown? Maize is the place. This elegant eatery has garnered positive if not enthusiastic reviews since it opened five years ago. "New American cuisine'' is the byword here. *Star-Ledger* reviewer Cody Kendall gave the restaurant three stars in her visit, recommending, among other dishes, the Provencale crusted rack of lamb, grilled ribeye steak, and the baby scallop and rock shrimp sautee. She loved the desserts, especially the creme brulee or warm jasmine pudding.

Casa Vasca, 141 Elm St., Newark; 973-465-1350. Forno's, Iberia Peninsula and Iberia Tavern, all on Ferry Street, get most of the publicity, but my choice for an Ironbound dining experience would be Casa Vasca. It sits, almost as an afterthought, on a residential street. It's a cozy little hideaway, with white tablecloths, flowers and a menu reflecting owner Maria Aurre's Spanish-Basque background. Try the rabbit stew – tender, not gamey, in a silky brown sauce. Also recommended: the baked red snapper, the veal in sherry sauce, and pulpo a la Gallega – octopus Galician style. You'll find better sangria elsewhere, but not better food.

Assaggini Di Roma, 134 Clifford St., Newark; 973-466-3344. The dining room soundtrack veers from opera and Sinatra to Billy Joel and the Spencer Davis Group, but Assaggini Di Roma (A Little Taste of Rome) may be the city's best Italian restaurant. The provolone and grilled sausage appetizer, a plate of cheese and juicy, fennel-flecked sausage, would do an Italian street festival proud. The linguine with seafood is superlative. Werewolves beware, though. The folks here do love their garlic. Leave room for the fresh, creamy cannoli and cheesecake. Don't forget to try the house wine. Open seven days a week.

LATE NIGHT

Krug's Tavern, 118 Wilson Ave., Newark; 973-465-9795. The Ironbound is more than just Portuguese and Brazilian; Krug's (pronounced Kroog's) may serve the city's best burger. It may take a while to materialize, but it's worth every minute. Order one with the beer-battered onion rings and a cold one; you'll thank me later. Check the daily specials; they are written on pieces of construction paper taped to the TV.

The Priory, 233 West Market St., Newark; 973-639-7885. Newark's longest-running jazz club offers shows every Friday night. It's in a renovated church on Market Street close to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, a short cab ride from the Gateway. Admission is free, though they do ask you to buy a drink. The shows are always decent; at times, they can be great. There's a pretty good soul food restaurant in the back of the place.

The Savoy Grill, 60 Park Place, Newark; 973-286-1700. Around the corner from the Robert Treat Hotel, the Grill has a nice bar; the food is good, and the place offers jazz on Friday and Saturday nights.

Aerial shot of downtown Newark looking northeast toward midtown Manhattan.

Andrew Mills / The Star-Ledger

Things to Do

The Newark Museum (49 Washington St., 973-596-6550) should be high on anyone's list of stops to make on a trip to Newark. It's open Wednesdays through Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free, though they do ask for a donation. There is usually a traveling exhibit or two that are featured, but the permanent exhibits include originals by the likes of Georgia O'Keefe and Andy Warhol. Be sure to stop by the Tibetan altar upstairs. It is one of the few in the country and was consecrated by the Dalai Lama. If it's a nice day, check out the garden behind the museum. The Ballantine House next to (but part of) the museum is a restored Victorian mansion worthy of seeing.

Getting to the museum from the Gateway is easy. Walk up Raymond Boulevard, make a right onto Broad Street. Continue north on Broad to Washington Park. The museum is on the far side of the park. In the center of Washington Park is a statue of Seth Boyden, one of America's great inventors who was an inspiration to Edison. A list of Boyden's inventions appears on a plaque on the statute's pedestal. On the eastern side of the park, along Broad Street, is a statue of Columbus, site of a famous brawl scene from "The Sopranos."

Between the Gateway and museum is Military Park. In the park is one of the country's great outdoor sculptures. It's by Gutzon Borglum and is called "The Wars of America." Borglum is the sculptor responsible for Mount Rushmore. "The Wars of America," which depicts every war this country was involved in between the Revolutionary War and World War I, was his final major piece before leaving for South Dakota and the Mount Rushmore project. "The Wars of America" includes a conscientious objector. See if you can find him.

At the north end of Military Park is the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, the state's major indoor performance venue.

Branch Brook Park is the oldest county park in the United States. It was designed by the firm of Frederick Olmstead, the landscape architect who designed Central Park in New York City. Adjacent to the park on Clifton Avenue is the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart (89 Ridge St.), designated a basilica by Pope John Paul during a visit to this area in the mid-1990s. It's one of only a handful of basilicas in the U.S. and is worth a peek inside if you are in the neighborhood or into the Catholic Church. It can be reached via a short cab ride.

Hoboken

The birthplace of baseball (likely, but disputed) and Frank Sinatra (that's proven, bub) the Mile Square City is hard to beat for a colorful place to stroll, eat and drink without the hassle of heading into Manhattan. Unlike many spruced up waterfront destinations across the country, this place has retained much of its character and characters. Hoboken is small and cramped, making it impossible to find parking, but the perfect place to explore on foot. To get there, take the PATH train from Newark Penn Station. Change trains at Journal Square or Grove Street and hop on a Hoboken-bound train.

Start with a visit to the storied waterfront made famous in the 1954 Marlon Brando film "On the Waterfront." These days, the old docks have been replaced by new development and a string of parks with striking NYC views. Face east as the sun sets and you'll see the entire skyline light up in orange – a treat only we Jerseyans get to see.

Hungry? Thirsty? Head two blocks west to Washington Street, the town's main thoroughfare lined with a dizzying array of restaurants and bars - the legacy of the huge number of liquor licenses issued to cater to hard drinking longshoremen. They range from frathouse beer halls to Irish pubs, to trendy jazz bars.

For live rock n' roll, check out the fabled Maxwell's, (1039 Washington St., 201-653-1703) where indie rockers and surprisingly big names play in a wonderfully tiny back room.

While gentrification has glossed over a lot of this town's gritty past, touches of the old Hoboken remain in the neighborhoods of old brownstones off Washington Street.

Walk west toward Adams Street where Italian grandmas keep watch on the stoop, delis duke it out for who sells the best mutz (that's fresh mozzarella), and the specter of Ol' Blue Eyes looms over everything. Check out Leo's Grandezvous (200 Grand St., 201-659-9467) where you'll dine amid walls plastered with Sinatra's photo and a jukebox full of Frank. A few blocks away, at 415 Monroe St., there's a brick arch and a gold star marking his birth site.

Jersey City

Take the PATH train to Journal Square for tours of two landmark movie palaces, a look at the area's glory days and nascent revival, and a tasty (and cheap) lunch or dinner.

The city's old commercial center reflects the city's diverse population, particularly the South Asian, Egyptian, Hispanic and Filipino communities. Exiting the PATH station, cross the street to visit Loew's Jersey Theatre (54 Journal Square, 201-798-6055), an ornate 1929 movie palace in the process of being restored to its glory days, for screenings of old movies or a tour, or turn right to visit the even glitzier restored 1928 Stanley Theater (2932 Kennedy Blvd., 201-377-3100), now a Jehovah's Witness temple, but still open for daily tours.

Stop by Boulevard Drinks (48 Journal Square, 201-656-1855) for a classic Jersey chili dog or turn left and stroll down Kennedy Boulevard four blocks for top-notch treats made on site at Lee Sims Chocolates

(743 Bergen Ave., 201-433-1308). Or cross the street, turn left and walk two blocks down to Newark Avenue's Little India to shop for saris, gold jewelry and other South Asian goods. Try a spicy crepe wrapped around your choice of filling at Dosa Hut (777 Newark Ave., 201-420-6660) and dessert at the Bengali Sweet House (836 Newark Ave., 201-798-9241).

Take the PATH train to the Grove Street station downtown for a smattering of good restaurants and cafes. Marco & Pepe's (289 Grove St., 201-860-9688) is a trendy American place with upscale prices and an extensive beer list. Across the street, Ria's Cafe (24 Mercer St., 201-915-0045) offers delicious Spanish/Caribbean fare at a moderate price. For a drink head to the artsy LITM (140 Newark Ave., 201-536-5557) or the Merchant (279 Grove St., 201-200-0202) for a more typical bar experience. Lounge over a cup of joe (or latte) at Sweet Priscilla's (530 Jersey Ave., 201-332-7782). Near the Exchange Place stop, La Rustique (84.5 Morris St., 201-860-4010) has awesome thin-crust pizza. The restaurants around the Pavonia/Newport stop are generally more upscale because they cater to a corporate clientele, but Confucius Asian Bistro (558 Washington Blvd., 201-386-8898) offers quality Chinese food.

Aristide Economopoulos / The Star-Ledger
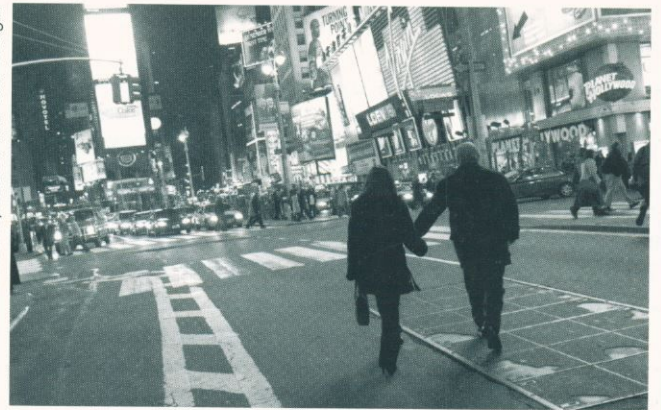
After all the Broadway shows have let out for the night, a couple crosses Broadway near 45th Street.

Manhattan

There are two train services that can get you into New York City, the PATH system and the NJ Transit system. For more details, see "Getting Around" at the beginning of this guide.

While the wonders of Manhattan cannot be captured in a few paragraphs, here are some general descriptions of the neighborhoods served by the trains that run past the Hilton.

On the PATH system, it's a straight shot from Newark to lower Manhattan and the former site of the World Trade Center towers. There are a lot of interesting historic sites to see here during daylight hours, but if you have only one night to spend in Manhattan, this isn't where you want to be.

A better option for nightlife would be to take the PATH Red Line train to Journal Square and switch to the Yellow Line to 33rd Street. Once

DOWNTOWN NEWARK, N.J.
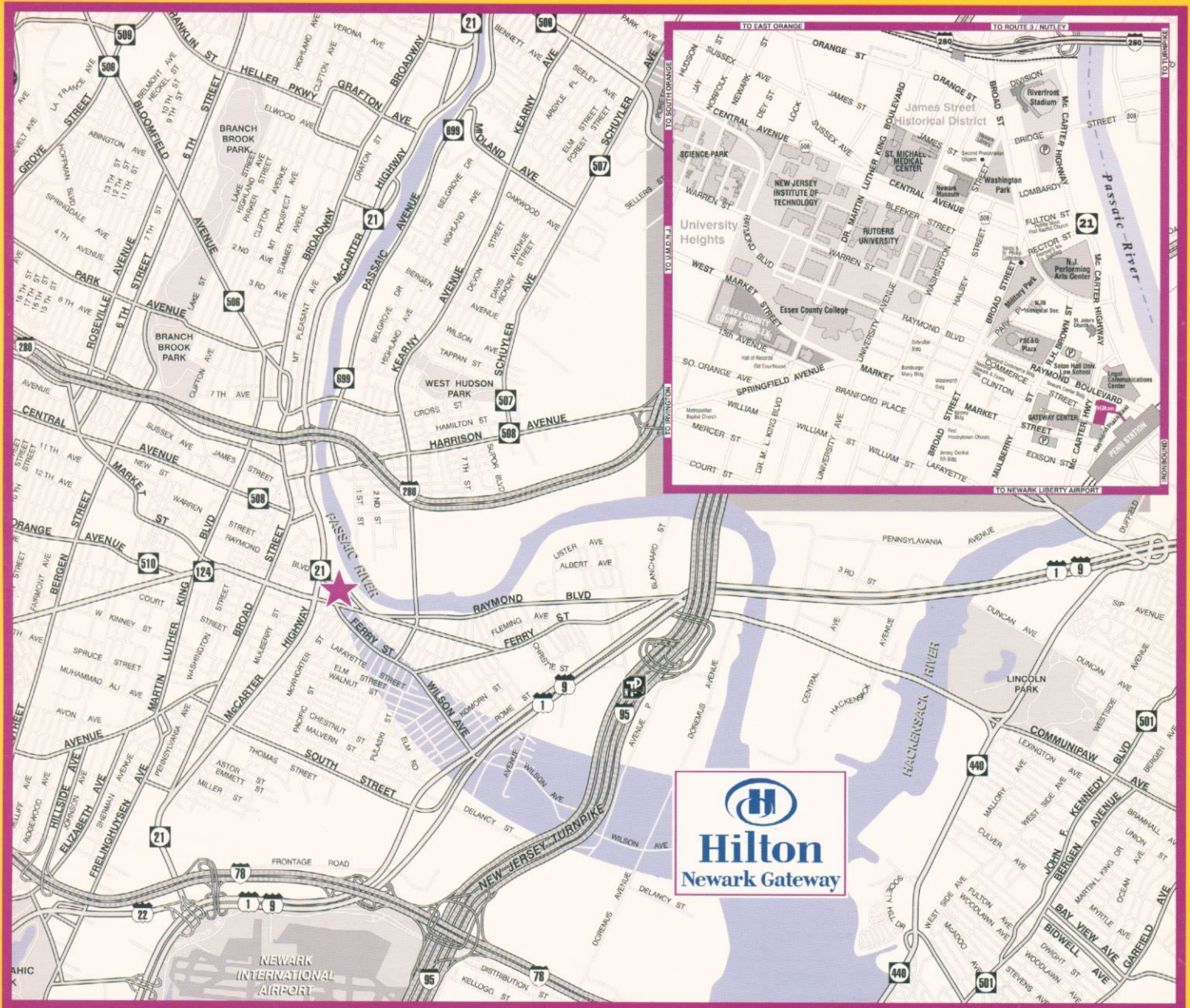
Map reproduced with permission from Communique, Inc.

Hilton Newark Gateway

2006 CAR
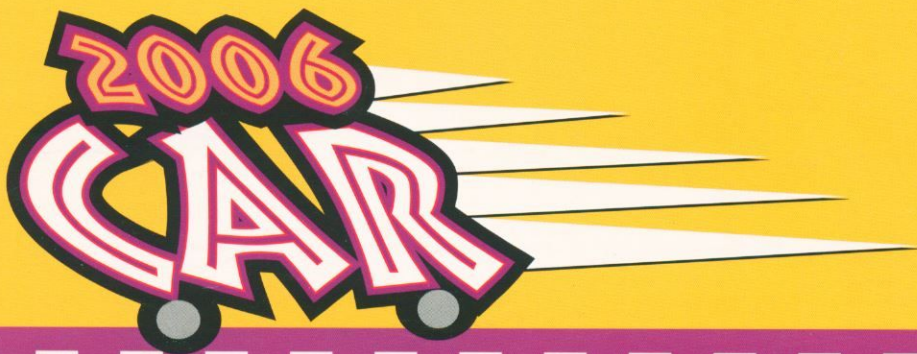
CHRIS ADAMS is a member of Knight Ridder's Washington-based investigative team. He previously worked for *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Times-Picayune* in New Orleans. His work has received the George Polk Award, the Robert F. Kennedy Award, the Worth Bingham Prize, an IRE Award, the Livingston Award, the National Headliner Award, the Gerald Loeb Award and several others. He was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1996 and 1999, and in 2000 was part of a six-person *Journal* team that won the Pulitzer for stories about Pentagon spending. His most recent project (with colleague Alison Young), on mismanagement at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs placed second in IRE's inaugural Philip Meyer Journalism Award.

NANCY AMONS is the chief investigative reporter for WSMV-Nashville's I-Team. She joined the station in 1988, after working in Savannah, Ga. Amons specializes in CAR and investigations into government. She is a contest judge for IRE and has been an IRE member for more than 20 years.

AGUSTIN ARMENDARIZ is an assistant database editor at The Center for Public Integrity in Washington, D.C. His work has included research and reporting for its *New York Times* bestseller, The Buying of the President 2004, and serving as database editor on its "Party Lines" project, which analyzed state political party activity during the 2004 election cycle.

DAVID ARMSTRONG is a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*. He is a long-time IRE member and he was previously a reporter for *The Boston Globe*, *Boston Herald* and *The (Brockton, Mass.) Enterprise*.

HELENA BENGTSSON has worked at several investigative programs at Sveriges Television, the national broadcasting company in Sweden. She has worked there since 1994 as a researcher, assistant producer, projects editor and, most recently, as the database editor for the News and Current Affairs Department. She is the international database scholar at IRE and The Center for Public Integrity, based in Washington, D.C.

ROBERT BENINCASA is database/special projects editor at Gannett News Service in Washington, D.C., the Washington bureau for Gannett's 91 U.S. daily newspapers. He collaborates with other journalists on enterprise and breaking-news stories involving CAR, and assists Gannett journalists around the nation in their CAR efforts. His most recent projects include an analysis of U.S. coastal growth and of sex offender residency and victim patterns in New Jersey.

RUSS BUETTNER is a member of the New York *Daily News* investigations team, specializing in CAR. He recently worked on a project that uncovered widespread waste and fraud in the $21.4 billion federal aid package promised to New York following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. His 2004 investigation of Homeland Security nominee Bernard Kerik revealed major ethical breaches that led to a criminal investigation of Kerik. Buettner came to the *News* in 1995 from New York *Newsday*.

DAVID BURNHAM is a writer, investigative reporter and researcher, as well as co-founder and co-director of the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. He is an associate research professor at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. Burnham, a reporter with *The New York Times* from 1968 to 1986, has written numerous magazine articles and three books, including Above the Law: Secret Deals, Political Fixes, and Other Misadventures of the U.S. Department of Justice (Scribner, 1996).

DANIELLE CERVANTES works on the metro desk at *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. She is a CAR specialist assigned to watchdog investigations. She also dabbles in demographics, statistical analysis and CAR/math training. In December, she and colleague Brooke Williams earned the Editor's Award for Outstanding Achievement for their investigation into the city's real estate assets. Previously, she was a staff researcher for five years.

PIA CHRISTENSEN is publications coordinator for IRE and NICAR. She edits IRE publications, coordinates advertising for *The IRE Journal* and *Uplink*, and coordinates Web content. Before joining IRE, she was an interactive producer and copy editor for the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, a producer for Tribune Interactive, a sports copy editor for the *Marin (Calif.) Independent Journal*, and was job and internship coordinator at the Center for Integration and Improvement of Journalism in San Francisco.

ROSE CIOTTA is the education editor at *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and the editor of the paper's annual Report Card on the Schools. She is the former CAR editor and investigative reporter. She came to Philadelphia in 1998 from Buffalo where she was CAR editor and project and beat reporter. She attended Stanford University on a John S. Knight Fellowship and is a former member of IRE's board of directors.

WENDELL COCHRAN is an associate professor and journalism division director at American University, where he teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in reporting, computer-assisted journalism and journalism ethics, among others. Cochran was special projects editor at Gannett News Service and a business reporter and editor at *The Kansas City Star* and *The Des Moines Register*. He has won the John Hancock Award for Excellence in Business and Economic Journalism, the Amos Tuck Award for Economic Understanding and the National Headliners Award. He is co-author of Inside the Beltway: A Guide to Washington Reporting.

SARAH COHEN is a database editor for *The Washington Post*. She shared in the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting and the IRE Medal, and in the 2004 Selden Ring award for investigative work. Recent stories have focused on lead contamination in the District of Columbia's water supply, the network of George W. Bush supporters leading up to the most recent presidential election and spending of homeland security grants. Cohen has been training director for IRE, where she wrote Numbers in the Newsroom, Using Math and Statistics in News, and was a reporter in Florida.

AMANDA COX is a graphics editor in the BizDay section of *The New York Times*. She has a masters degree in statistics from the University of Washington.

M.J. (MARY JO) CROWLEY is the information editor at *The Star-Ledger*, where she oversees the paper's extensive virtual library, intranet and web-accessible data collection along with the daily archiving of newspaper content. She serves on the newsroom administration team and coordinates the newsroom and intern training program. Previously, she was library manager for Philadelphia Newspapers, publisher of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *The Philadelphia Daily News*.

TOM CURRAN, associate editor of *The Star-Ledger*, attended the first NICAR conference in 1992 as a member of the investigations team at New York *Newsday*. He has been projects editor and assistant managing editor/investigations at *The Star-Ledger*. Curran has worked at the New York *Daily News*, The (Trenton, N.J.) *Times* and the *Hudson Dispatch*. He is an adjunct at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism.

PAUL D'AMBROSIO is the investigations editor for the *Asbury Park (N.J.) Press*. His work has exposed political corruption, medical mistakes, bureaucratic bumbling, and wasteful government spending. He has won more than two dozen national awards, including the Selden Ring Award for Investigative Reporting, the Farfel Prize, the National Headliner Award for Public Service, and the APME Public Service Award. He has twice been named the Daily Journalist of the Year by the New Jersey Press Association.
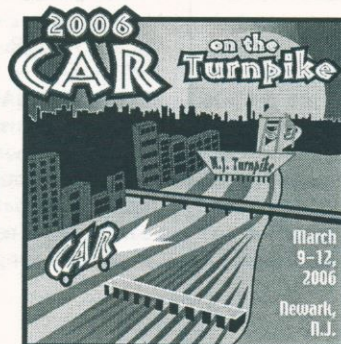
TIMOTHY DARRAGH is investigations editor at *The* (Allentown, Pa.) *Morning Call*. Over the past 25 years, he has held a number of positions there, including reporter, assistant city editor and bureau editor. He has won regional and statewide awards for his investigative stories.

CORAL DAVENPORT is a master's candidate in journalism and public affairs at American University. She has just started writing part-time for *Congressional Quarterly Green Sheets*. She previously was a correspondent in Greece for *The Christian Science Monitor*, where she mainly covered preparation and security issues leading up to the 2004 Athens Olympics. Before moving to Greece she worked as an education reporter for the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* in Northampton, Mass. She has written for *USA Today* and *The Times* of London.

DAVE DAVIS is *The* (Cleveland) *Plain Dealer*'s "go-to" guy for the Census. He has used its data to examine the plight of the working poor in Ohio; to show how the nation's fastest-growing cities are increasing their populations by annexing their neighbors; and to document how the racial income gap has continued to nag big cities like Cleveland, Baltimore and Chicago, despite an overall rise in income. Davis has received an IRE Medal, a Polk Award, the Heywood Broun Award and twice been a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

ANTHONY DEBARROS is database editor in the Life section at *USA Today*, where he covers topics ranging from the deaths of college students to the Academy Awards. Before joining *USA Today*, he was an editor at the *Poughkeepsie* (N.Y.) *Journal* and taught journalism at Marist College in New York. He has won awards from the Education Writers Association and The Associated Press, and his analysis of amusement ride injuries was a finalist in the Missouri-Penney Lifestyle Journalism Awards.

DAVID DIETZ specializes in investigations and enterprise at *Bloomberg Markets* magazine. In a 35-year career, mostly at newspapers, he has won more than 20 national and regional reporting awards for investigating corporate fraud, judicial misconduct and civic corruption. He was formerly a special projects editor and reporter at TheStreet.com, a financial news Web site, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He is a former president of IRE's board of directors.

STEPHEN K. DOIG is the Knight Chair in Journalism, specializing in computer-assisted reporting, at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University. Before joining ASU in 1996, he was associate editor/research of *The Miami Herald*. Projects on which he has worked have won the Pulitzer Prize for public service, the IRE Award, the Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting and others.

DAVID DONALD is training director for IRE and NICAR. He conducts workshops on investigative reporting and computer-assisted reporting for print and broadcast journalists around the country. He worked 12 years at newspapers, most recently at the *Savannah Morning News* where he oversaw the CAR and research programs. He also worked on the education beat, projects team and has taught high school and college courses.

JAIMI DOWDELL is assistant director of news research/computer-assisted reporting specialist at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Before joining the *Post-Dispatch*, she worked at IRE and NICAR in the database library and resource center while completing her master's degree focusing on computer-assisted and investigative reporting. She has worked on projects for *The Kansas City Star*, tracking terrorists and their finances, and for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, analyzing a state prison database.

CAROLYN EDDS is a news researcher for the *St. Petersburg Times*. Prior to joining the paper in 2004, she was the Eugene S. Pulliam research director for IRE and NICAR. She has been a news researcher with the *San Antonio Express-News* and the news research manager at the *Herald-Journal* in Spartanburg, S.C. She has been a presenter at IRE, Special Libraries Association and Southern Newspaper Publishers Association events.

ALLETTA EMENO is a staff writer and director of the CAR team at *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Since joining the *Inquirer* in 1995, she has done reporting and analysis for stories on a variety of subjects including racial segregation, distressed suburban towns, uniform crime reporting, housing prices and educational achievement gaps. She teaches Internet research and analysis at Temple University.

MATTHEW ERICSON is the national graphics editor at *The New York Times*. In the past year, he has produced infographics showing the effects of Hurricane Katrina, the demographics of the 2,000 soldiers killed in the war in Iraq and a brief history of the Star Wars universe. Prior to joining the *Times* in March 2003, he was a graphic artist and Web editor at *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

MICHAEL FABEY is air warfare reporter for *Defense News*. He was the military reporter at the *Savannah Morning News* and the investigative reporter for the *Daily Press* in Newport News, Va., where he won awards for stories about the country's builder of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and submarines. He has traveled throughout Latin America as freelancer and has won more than two dozen awards for coverage of issues ranging from botched maintenance of the Panama Canal to failed enforcement of pesticide regulations.

DAVID S. FALLIS joined the metro projects team at *The Washington Post* in 1999. He won the 2004 Heywood Broun Award for his investigative series about resident neglect in Virginia's assisted-living facilities. In 2002, he was a finalist for the Pulitzer and Goldsmith awards for his work on an investigation into police shootings and in-custody deaths in Prince George's County, Md. He previously wrote and edited for the *Tulsa World*.

TOM GAUMER is editor of computer-assisted reporting at *The* (Cleveland) *Plain Dealer*. He does a lot of mapping data and teaching classes in Internet searching, Access and Excel. He also spends considerable time helping reporters analyze data. Gaumer was a reporter on several beats including the Cleveland schools, assistant city editor, metro editor and business editor. He was co-chair of the open records audit performed in the state of Ohio.

ROBERT GEBELOFF is a projects reporter specializing in CAR for *The Star-Ledger*. In addition to working on enterprise projects and daily journalism, he builds interactive data applications for the intranet and Web.

LARRY GILLICK teaches digital and broadcast journalism at American University in Washington, D.C. He is also a Mac (formerly Linux) geek. Gillick first encountered CAR while studying broadcast journalism at Syracuse University. He is developing an online version of AU's basic CAR course. This summer, Gillick will work as an RTNDF Educator in the Newsroom at an as-yet undisclosed location.

JASON GROTTO is CAR editor for *The Miami Herald*'s investigative team. An IRE Award-winner, he has written stories on Florida's criminal justice system, sexual offenders and the state's process for restoring civil rights to ex-felons. He helped uncover problems in Miami-Dade County public schools, the Department of Children & Families and the Miami Police Department. Prior to joining the *Herald*, he worked for IRE and NICAR.

KELLY GUCKIAN is the database editor at the *San Antonio Express-News*. She assists reporters and editors in negotiating for data from agencies, provides data cleanup and analysis, and trains reporters to use CAR tools. She posts searchable databases on the newsroom intranet and participates on news project teams. She worked for 10 years in news research at the *Express-News*, and has been awarded an Editorial Unsung Hero Award by her peers in 1996 and 2003.

DOUG HADDIX is projects editor of *The Columbus Dispatch*, where he recently directed investigations of mortgage foreclosures and fraud, specialty and nonprofit hospitals, and sex abuse inside an Ohio juvenile prison. Haddix was city editor of *The Scranton* (Pa.) *Times* and *The* (Danville, Ill.) *Commercial-News*, and was a reporter for United Press International in Indianapolis and the *Springfield News-Sun* in Ohio.

BRIAN HAMMAN has been a data analyst in the IRE and NICAR Database Library for two years. He is working on his master's degree, focusing on new media and investigative journalism, at the Missouri School of Journalism. He is an editor and the lead developer of MyMissourian.com.

THOMAS HARGROVE is a national reporter for Scripps Howard News Service, a consultant on CAR techniques for 19 E.W. Scripps daily newspapers and co-founder of the Scripps Survey Research Center at Ohio University. Recent projects include an investigation into police errors in handling missing children cases, prompting reforms in several departments and the Justice Department. A national study of voting practices forced four counties to amend their presidential vote counts in 2004. Hargrove was an IRE Award finalist last year.

WILLIAM HARTNETT is a CAR specialist at *The Palm Beach Post*. He has spent most of the past year producing a series of special sections on South Florida's real estate boom. Among other recent stories was an investigation of private juvenile prison operators, which was a finalist for IRE's 2004 Freedom of Information Award.

BRAD HEATH is an enterprise reporter and CAR specialist at *The Detroit News*, where he has covered subjects ranging from public education and demographics to transportation and national security. He joined the *News* in 2002. Before that, he was an investigative reporter for the *Press & Sun-Bulletin* in Binghamton, N.Y.

TIM HENDERSON has been a reporter and database editor at *The Miami Herald* since 1999. Previously he was a reporter, online editor and systems editor at *The* (White Plains, N.Y.) *Journal News*, and a freelance reporter for *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

DAVID HERZOG is an assistant professor at the Missouri School of Journalism, where he teaches CAR. He also serves as the academic adviser to NICAR, and is managing editor of *Uplink*, the institute's newsletter. He is the author of Mapping the News: Case Studies in GIS and Journalism. He has been an investigative reporter for *The Providence* (R.I.) *Journal* and the editor for CAR at *The Morning Call* in Allentown, Pa.

TAWNELL HOBBS is an education reporter at *The Dallas Morning News*. She has covered the Dallas school district, the 12th-largest in the nation, for nearly five years. Hobbs received an award for fair reporting from a state school board association and shared in the 2002 EWA special section award. She worked as a reporter at the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. Prior to that, she served nearly 10 years in the U.S. armed forces.

BRANT HOUSTON is executive director of IRE and NICAR and a professor at the Missouri School of Journalism. He is author of Computer-Assisted Reporting: A Practical Guide and co-author of the fourth edition of The Investigative Reporter's Handbook. He previously was managing director of NICAR and he was a daily journalist for 17 years. He worked at *The Hartford Courant*, *The Kansas City Star* and several news organizations in the Boston area. His experience includes stints on the investigative and projects desks at the *Courant* and the *Star* and several beats, including city hall, courts, health, politics and general assignment.

SPENCER HUNT is the environment reporter at *The Columbus Dispatch*, where he has used CAR to develop stories about urban sprawl, pollution along the Ohio River and abandoned Appalachian coal mines. As a state government reporter for *The Cincinnati Enquirer* he tapped government databases for stories on state hiring practices, and Ohio's mental retardation, Medicaid and mental health programs. He has worked for Gannett News Service and the *Rockford* (Ill.) *Register Star*.

LINDA J. JOHNSON is the CAR coordinator at the *Lexington* (Ky.) *Herald-Leader*.

TOMMY KAAS is an editor and co-founder of DICAR, the Danish International Center for Analytical Reporting. He has trained journalists in Denmark and abroad for the past four years and has worked with several Danish media organizations on CAR-based stories. He previously was assistant managing editor at the Danish news agency 4S. A textbook about advanced Internet research he has co-authored will be published in the fall.

DAN KEATING is a database editor in *The Washington Post* library. He writes about the wisdom employed by our nation's capital in dispensing its funds. He is still working mostly in SAS, struggling to keep up with phperl or the pig latin upgrade to asp.net. He has worked at *The Berkshire* (Mass.) *Eagle* and *The Miami Herald*, where he reported from Key West for four years.

AARON KESSLER is deputy director for the Virginia Public Access Project, a nonpartisan tracker of money in Virginia politics. VPAP maintains a searchable campaign finance database online and serves a consortium of newspapers active in Virginia. Kessler previously covered state and local government for the *Joplin* (Mo.) *Globe*, and worked on freelance investigative projects for *The Kansas City Star* and the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. Kessler worked for IRE and NICAR in the resource center.

JENNIFER LAFLEUR is the CAR editor for *The Dallas Morning News*. She went there after a media law fellowship with The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. She has directed CAR at the *San Jose Mercury News* and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. She was IRE's first training director and is co-author of Mapping for Stories: A Computer-Assisted Reporting Guide. She has won awards for her coverage of disability and freedom of information issues.

DANIEL LATHROP is database editor at The Center for Public Integrity, where he has worked on numerous award-winning projects. He joined the Center in 2003 as a senior researcher for the Center's *New York Times*-bestseller The Buying of the President 2004. In 2004 he joined the Center's CAR unit and became database editor with a focus on lobbying, state politics and the telecommunications industry. Previously, he was a reporter at The *Daytona Beach News-Journal* and The (Ames, Iowa) *Tribune*.

PAULA LAVIGNE is a reporter and CAR specialist for *The Dallas Morning News*. She has completed several in-depth projects, including a series in 2005 on the fallacy of wealth in the most affluent, yet debt-ridden, suburb of Dallas. She worked previously as a reporter for *The* (Tacoma, Wash.) *News Tribune*, and the *St. Joseph* (Mo.) *News-Press*.

ANDY LEHREN is a project editor for CAR at *The New York Times*. He was previously a Dateline NBC investigative producer specializing in CAR. He has covered stories ranging from terrorism to insurance to racial profiling, and has won a Peabody, Polk, IRE and two duPont awards, among others. Before joining NBC, he was NICAR's database administrator. Lehren has written for the *Philadelphia Daily News*, Reuters, the *Philadelphia Business Journal,* and other publications.

BENJAMIN LESSER is one of two CAR specialists at *The* (Hackensack, N.J.) *Record*. Lesser has been a part of several award-winning projects since joining the paper. Prior to *The Record*, he worked at the Albany, N.Y., *Times Union* and APBnews.com. He worked at NICAR while attending the Missouri School of Journalism.

TOBY A. LYLES is a news researcher with *The New York Times*. She has presented at IRE, Special Libraries Association and American Library Association conferences. You will see her credit line on the A1 story, "Ruling is Awaited on Death Penalty for Young Killers," by Adam Liptak, along with Tom Torok and Margot Williams. Previously, she worked at *The* (Raleigh, N.C.) *News & Observer* and at several academic libraries.

JOHN MAINES is assistant news editor for CAR at the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He has worked as a reporter at the *Sun-Sentinel* and other publications, including the Massena, N.Y., *Observer*, *The Ithaca* (N.Y.) *Journal*, and *The Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, Miss. Maines has been a contributing writer for *Washington Technology* newspaper and *American Demographics* magazine.

MONIKA MATHUR is a news researcher for The Associated Press. She is responsible for backgrounding people and companies and conducting other research. She has been credited for data analysis on stories involving the Iraq War, including U.S. military deaths and car bombings. Mathur previously worked at *The* (Hackensack, N.J.) *Record*. She is on the board of the South Asian Journalists Association.

JOHN MCCORMICK has been a general assignment reporter and database specialist at the *Chicago Tribune* since June 2002, working for the metro, national and projects desks. Prior to joining the *Tribune*, he was the CAR coordinator at *The Des Moines Register*, where he helped cover the 2000 Iowa presidential caucuses and wrote Iowa Poll stories. He previously reported for the Rochester, Minn., *Post-Bulletin* and Minneapolis *Star Tribune*.

DAVID MCCRAW is senior counsel at The New York Times Company, specializing in First Amendment and other newsroom legal matters. He has represented *The Times* in FOIA lawsuits against the federal Department of Labor, which had refused to release data on worker safety, and against the City of New York Fire Department, which tried to withhold its records showing how its units responded on Sept. 11, 2001. He was deputy general counsel for the New York *Daily News*.

JO CRAVEN MCGINTY is a projects editor for CAR at *The New York Times*. She has been a reporter for *Newsday*, an academic adviser to IRE and NICAR and she taught CAR at the Missouri School of Journalism. She is author of an IRE beat book, Home Mortgage Lending: How to Detect Disparities, and won the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for public service with a team of reporters from *The Washington Post* for its series about the use of deadly force by police. She has been an editor and reporter at *The* (Burlington, N.C.) *Times-News*, *The Durham* (N.C.) *Sun*, *The* (Durham, N.C.) *Herald-Sun* and *The Raleigh* (N.C.) *Extra*.

TOM MCGINTY is a staff writer on *Newsday*'s investigative team. He was part of a team of reporters that investigated *Newsday*'s false inflation of its circulation figures. The coverage was a finalist for an IRE Award in 2004. As *Newsday*'s energy reporter, he was a leader on the team that covered the 2003 blackout that darkened large swaths of the United States and Canada. The coverage was a finalist for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news. He was the training director for IRE and NICAR and a reporter for *The* (Trenton, N.J.) *Times*.

DUNSTAN MCNICHOL covers state government for *The Star-Ledger*. McNichol was awarded two Association of Capitol Reports and Editors awards for stories last year that revealed widespread waste and mismanagement at two of New Jersey's largest publicly funded institutions. McNichol was awarded the John B. Oakes Award for Environmental Reporting and the National Press Club's Environmental Reporting award in 1996 for a series that documented the environmental and economic fallout of future EPA Commissioner Christie Whitman's fiscal policies on New Jersey.

TED MELLNIK is database editor at *The Charlotte Observer*. He contributed to "Foreclosing on the American Dream," a recent series about rapidly rising home foreclosures and their effects on neighborhoods; "Hard Truth in Lending," a 2005 series about racial differences in who gets high interest rates on home purchase loans; and "DWI: Sobering Acquittals," a 2004 series on N.C. judges who ignore the state's DWI law and acquit drivers whose blood tested an illegal 0.08 percent or higher alcohol.

JASON METHOD has been an investigative projects reporter for the *Asbury* (N.J.) *Park Press* since 1999. He was a member of the team that wrote "Profiting from Public Service," the series that was awarded the 2004 Selden Ring, was a finalist for Harvard's Goldsmith Award, received a National Headliner award, and other national honors. Previously, Method covered politics and transportation issues for the Gannett State Bureau in Trenton.

PHILIP MEYER began his newspaper career in 1944 as a substitute carrier for *The Clay Center* (Kan.) *Dispatch*. After graduation from Kansas State University, he served in the Navy, did reporting and editing for the *Topeka Daily Capital*, then studied and taught political science at Chapel Hill. After 23 years with Knight Ridder in Washington and Miami, he returned to Chapel Hill in 1981 as a Kenan professor. He now is a Knight Professor in Journalism.

STEPHEN C. MILLER is assistant to the technology editor at *The New York Times*, where he oversees the training of reporters and editors in new technologies. He also writes about computers and consumer electronics for the paper. He has been a consultant and writer, a contributing editor for *Seybold's Outlook on Professional Computing* and *Home Office Computing*, and spent 17 years at CBS News. He is a member of IRE's board of directors and past-president of the New York Association of Black Journalists.

NILS MULVAD is executive director of the Danish International Center for Analytical Reporting. He has trained people around the world in investigative journalism, CAR and interview techniques. He is co-author of two Danish textbooks on CAR and researches electronic access in Denmark. He is co-founder of the Global Investigative Journalism Network, is on the board of a project to support investigative journalism in South East Europe and Ukraine and is a board member of the Danish Association for Investigative Journalism. He previously worked at *Jyllands-Posten* newspaper.

RON NIXON is a projects editor on *The New York Times* CAR team and is assigned to the paper's business desk and Washington Bureau. Prior to joining the *Times*, he was CAR editor for the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, assigned to the projects team. Before joining the *Star Tribune* in 2003, he was training director for IRE, where he trained hundreds of reporters around the world in CAR and investigative reporting techniques. Nixon was an investigative reporter at *The Roanoke* (Va.) *Times*.

TIM NOSTRAND is assistant managing editor for projects at *The* (Hackensack, N.J.) *Record*, where he has led award-winning investigations on subjects ranging from government corruption and pay-to-play to attempts by neo-Nazis to recruit youngsters via heavy metal music. Nostrand manages *The Record*'s two-person CAR lab. In an earlier life, he led the newsgathering effort for the publication's heralded coverage of the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

COLLEEN O'DEA is a general assignment reporter at the Parsippany, N.J., *Daily Record,* where she handles all the paper's CAR work. O'Dea was a Journalism Fellow in Child and Family Policy at the University of Maryland, has won numerous New Jersey Press Association Awards and was part of the Gannett New Jersey team that won the 2003 Farfel Investigative Reporting prize and Selden Ring. She has worked at *The* (Hackensack, N.J.) *Record* and United Press International.

PAUL OVERBERG is a database editor at *USA Today* and helps train its 400 journalists. He has been a science and environmental reporter and editor at Gannett News Service. He started his professional career at *The* (Bridgewater, N.J.) *Courier-News,* where he held editing and reporting posts, including business editor.

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STEVE SUO has worked at *The Oregonian* since 1994. Suo is the winner of IRE's first Phil Meyer Journalism Award, to be presented this week. His five-part series "Unnecessary Epidemic," written with Erin Barnett, was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in national reporting and for the Goldsmith Award in Investigative Journalism. It was also the subject of a Frontline documentary that aired Feb. 14.

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