



An Idea on a Napkin

Charles enjoyed being a professor. He found helping students achieve their potential and researching new and interesting problems extremely rewarding. Yet as the '80s came to a close, Charles had a realization: He was ready to relax.

Deciding to retire, Charles taught his last semester of classes in the spring of 1989. For Charles, however, relaxing meant staying busy: helping out around his department as professor emeritus, planning trips, and attending as many of the local music and theater performances as possible. As a professor emeritus, he kept his office on campus and volunteered to lead the department's weekly doctoral seminar. In 1990, he and Shirley also began serving on the boards of directors for the Triangle Opera—a Durham-based group that they had been contributing to since 1987—and for the Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle. And though Shirley was still working, the two of them continued traveling on the weekends to hear music and opera around the country.¹

Meanwhile, Shirley continued teaching and directing research as a full professor and associate research director for the Center for Urban and Regional Studies; she also coordinated research within the Odum Institute for Research in Social Science and within the Carolina Population Center.²

Shirley was especially proud of being a professor, given that it had taken so much hard work to create a space for herself in the all-male world of urban planning. But with Charles already retired, she too began looking forward to retirement. In January 1991, Shirley began teaching her last semester at UNC.

*Charles retired in 1989,
becoming professor emeritus.*



Shirley with a student at her retirement party, 1991

That May, she led the academic procession one last time.

“The hard part was convincing Shirley that it was time to relax after we retired,” Charles recalled. “She said, ‘I think I’ll go back to school and get a law degree now.’ And she was serious, too!”³

Happily, Charles and Shirley knew exactly how they wanted to spend their newfound free time. Once Charles convinced Shirley that it was time to relax and enjoy themselves, they began planning even more trips, both abroad and within the United States. Shirley and Charles were free to pursue their interests: travel, research, music, opera, art, and theater, to name a few. Their initial involvement with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City in 1977 had blossomed during the 1980s into opera subscriptions in many cities: New York; Houston; Chicago; Washington, D.C.; Des Moines; St. Louis; Santa Fe; San Francisco; and Seattle—as well as the Triangle Opera, which was based in Durham, North Carolina, until 2001. They had also become involved in several festivals around the country, in particular the Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina; the Santa Fe Opera; the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival; and the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. The Weisses loved these festivals, and visited most every summer. Longer trips to international destinations such as

Paris and London also continued, motivated by their love of opera and music, as well as their continued interest in central city planning. Sydney, Australia, quickly became one of their favorite cities abroad with its large opera house and European feel; beginning in 1991, they frequently traveled there around Christmastime to enjoy the Sydney Festival.⁴

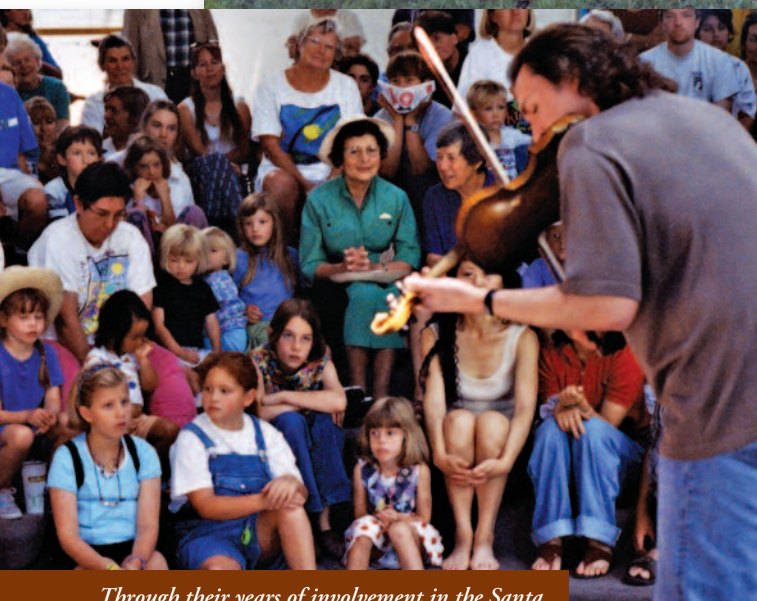
With so much music to enjoy, Charles and Shirley stayed on the move, accumulating frequent flyer miles as well as miles on their Oldsmobile.

Though she had retired from teaching, Shirley remained involved in urban research. As an active senior fellow with the Urban Land Institute, she continued attending ULI meetings, trips that also took her and Charles around the country. Wherever they went, they made sure to investigate changes in the cities they visited and learn more about the cities’ efforts toward downtown revitalization.⁵

In February 1992, while flying from Raleigh to Charlotte, North Carolina, on their way to Houston, Shirley turned to Charles and asked him an important question.

“Charles, how can we give back to our University and community?”

It was a question Charles had also been pondering. “Planning for our financial future,



Through their years of involvement in the Santa Fe Opera and the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, the Weisses came to view Santa Fe as one of their second homes.

Top left: At a Santa Fe celebration in 1991

Middle right: Enjoying Santa Fe’s artistic atmosphere, summer 1991

Bottom: Shirley, at center, enjoys music in Santa Fe along with young listeners, summer 1991.

we had set up annuities, and they seemed to be working out well. We were both retired, so our income was starting to come back to us. We were never wasteful with the handling of our joint funds, and we had no immediate family.”⁶

As he and Shirley talked, they agreed on several points. First, though they were living comfortably, they felt uncomfortable with the way their money was starting to accumulate, benefiting only them. How could they direct it for others’ benefit? Second, they wanted to give something back to the people and institutions that had nurtured their success over the years. And third, they wanted to continue encouraging others in the professional fields and interests that had so absorbed them throughout their careers.⁷

Talking further, Shirley and Charles began to see a theme: They had both loved cities from the time they were children. Shirley, in particular, had devoted her career to cities, and Charles’ water quality career, his time on the Chapel Hill Planning Board, and his travels with Shirley had brought him in close contact with city planning concerns. Both knew intimately how the quality of urban residents’ lives depended on factors such as infrastructure, transportation, and access to schools, shops, music, and the arts.

“We asked ourselves, ‘What makes a city a place where people want to come and have families?’ That is how we arrived at the term *urban livability*,” Charles explained.⁸

In addition, their years of involvement with arts, education, and civic organizations had convinced the Weisses that an interdisciplinary approach would be essential to improving quality of life in urban communities. Believing that graduate students are an invaluable resource for the future, the Weisses envisioned a program centered on supporting graduate students.⁹

Excitedly, Shirley and Charles began sketching out their idea for an urban livability fellowship at UNC on an airplane napkin.

“We couldn’t just stand on the corner writing checks and passing them out to people that look like students. So we said, ‘Let’s go talk to the dean of The Graduate School. Let’s see if we can set up a program which would provide some sort of a stipend for graduate students,’” Charles explained.¹⁰

On March 3, they brought the same airplane napkin with them into a meeting with Henry Dearman, dean of The Graduate School at UNC. The Weisses explained to Dearman that they wanted to establish a program that would support graduate students and encourage research and thinking about

Charles and Shirley began envisioning the Weiss Urban Livability Program while on a flight to Charlotte, North Carolina.



Dean Henry Dearman

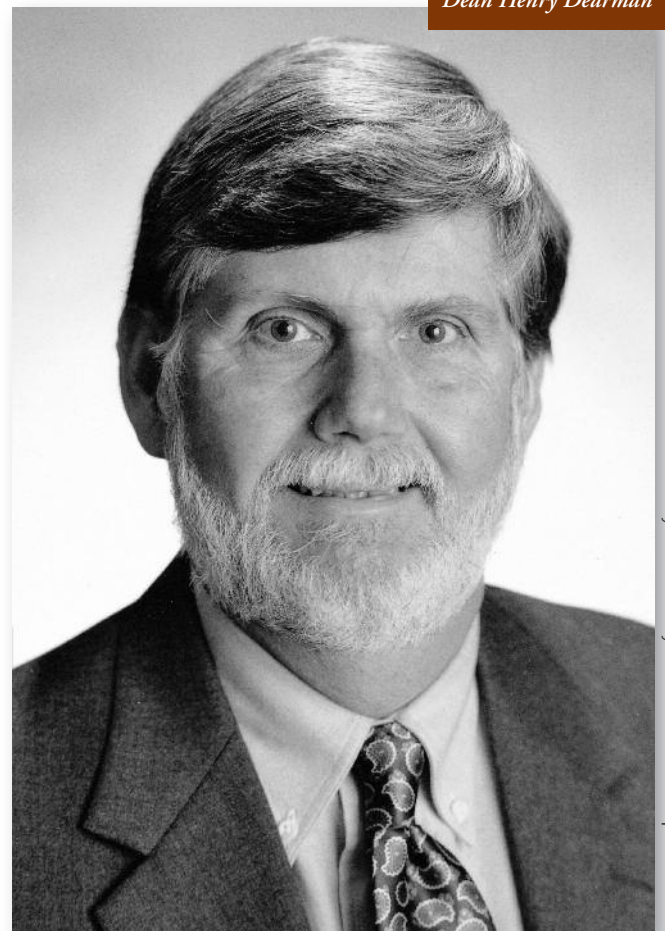


Photo courtesy of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill archives



Shirley and Charles with their longtime friend Ed Kaiser, a professor of city and regional planning and member of the Urban Livability Program's faculty advisory board

urban livability—those factors contributing to quality of life in urban environments. As they unfolded their idea, Dearman grew more and more intrigued. Though individual donors had set up fellowships through The Graduate School before, none had sought to support an interdisciplinary fellowship. What the Weisses were proposing was a completely new kind of fellowship.¹¹

Dearman suggested that the Weisses might partner with graduate programs and provide their fellowship as a supplement to stipends and tuition offered by the graduate programs. This would enable the Weisses' gift to be more effective in supporting graduate students. He also advised the Weisses to visit the Office of University Development to discuss the financial aspects of how they might structure their gift. They met with June Steele, director of Gift Services, and presented their ideas. Steele advised the Weisses on how best to structure their funds to benefit this new Urban Livability Program.

With her guidance, Charles and Shirley set aside money for an operating fund to get the program started and for an endowment, which would eventually support the program in perpetuity.¹²

Working with the Office of University Development and with The Graduate School, Charles and Shirley moved quickly to set up the necessary infrastructure. The details of the Weiss Urban Livability Program were hammered out by June 1992. The program would provide a supplemental fellowship to a small group of graduate students each year, with students nominated by their respective graduate departments and selected by a faculty advisory board.¹³

Faculty Advisory Board Members

Many distinguished faculty members have served on the Weiss Urban Livability Program's faculty advisory board. Current and former members, along with their departments, are listed below.

- **Stephen Allred**, Institute of Government
- **Ray Burby**, City and Regional Planning
- **E. Jane Burns**, Women's Studies
- **Thomas Campanella**, City and Regional Planning
- **Altha Cravey**, Geography
- **Douglas Crawford-Brown**, Environmental Sciences and Engineering and Institute for Environmental Studies
- **Donald Fox**, Environmental Sciences and Engineering
- **William Glaze**, Environmental Sciences and Engineering and Carolina Federation of Environmental Programs
- **Fred Hall**, Sociology
- **Perry Hall**, African and Afro-American Studies
- **Joanne Hershfield**, Women's Studies
- **Reginald Hildebrand**, African and Afro-American Studies
- **James Hirschfield**, Studio Art
- **Vanessa Hodges**, Social Work
- **Dorothy Holland**, Anthropology
- **James Johnson**, Geography
- **Edward Kaiser**, City and Regional Planning
- **Linda Lacey**, City and Regional Planning
- **Roger Lotchin**, History
- **Rick Morse**, Public Administration
- **Jocelyn Neal**, Music
- **Carol Mavor**, Art
- **David Moreau**, City and Regional Planning
- **William Rohe**, City and Regional Planning and Center for Urban and Regional Studies
- **Jason West**, Environmental Sciences and Engineering

The McKissick Scholars

Floyd McKissick was a native of Asheville, North Carolina, who in 1951 became the first African-American admitted to the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law. From his law practice in Durham, he argued many civil rights cases in the 1950s and early 1960s. In 1963 he became the national chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality, and in the 1970s he worked toward developing a New Town in North Carolina named Soul City. He later served as a district court judge in Oxford, North Carolina. Shirley first met McKissick when he visited UNC in the 1970s seeking guidance on New Town development. McKissick was a great inspiration to Shirley and Charles, and they counted his friendship as very dear. Honoring his memory through the Floyd B. McKissick Scholarship in Community Development, they planned for the scholars chosen to be committed to racial equality and civil rights, be experts in the theory and practice of community development, thrive in a collaborative environment, and serve as mentors to graduate students.¹⁴

The Floyd B. McKissick Scholars have included visiting scholars as well as a resident scholar:

1996-1997: **Anita R. Brown-Graham**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. *Research:* The relationship between nonprofit agencies and government in community development.

Autumn 1997: **George C. Galster**, College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs, Wayne State University. *Research:* Subsidized and public housing programs, community development, redlining, and racial discrimination.

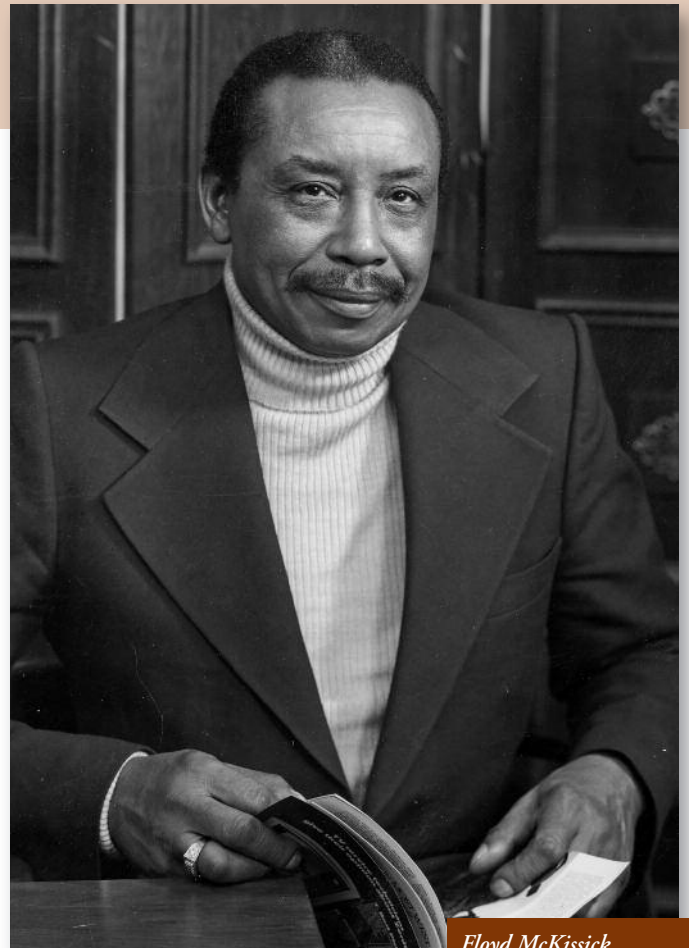
Autumn 1998: **Samuel L. Meyers, Jr.**, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota. *Research:* Racial and ethnic factors in economic inequality, educational outcomes of neighborhood poverty, unemployment, and racial inequality.

Autumn 1999: **Timothy Bates**, College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs, Wayne State University. *Research:* The formation, growth, and failure of diverse minority-owned businesses.¹⁵

“Graduate students need the money—it’s that simple,” Shirley said. “We want to encourage the best students to come to this university and see how, in their specialized field, they can create a higher level of urban livability.”¹⁶

Additionally, the Weiss Program would co-sponsor an annual Urban Livability Symposium along with departments across the campus to address urban livability issues. The Program also provided for a library of books, documents, and artifacts informing research in areas of urban livability. Charles and Shirley donated many items themselves so the library could be an ongoing resource for Weiss Fellows. Finally, Charles and Shirley envisioned supporting an annual resident scholar in community development in honor of their late friend Floyd B. McKissick.¹⁷

The Weisses also set up an advisory board to guide the Weiss Urban Livability Program; the board would select fellowship recipients, McKissick Scholars, and departmental sponsors for the annual symposia. Shirley and Charles strongly believed the board should be a diverse group, and so they instituted permanent positions on the board for representatives from African and Afro-American Studies and from Women’s Studies. In addition, they included permanent representatives from their own departments and from the Institute for Environmental Studies, the Carolina Federation of Environmental Programs, and the Center for Urban and Regional Studies. Other “at large” members would be selected from appropriate UNC



Floyd McKissick

Prolific Givers

Having wide interests across the University, Charles and Shirley Weiss also created endowments in 11 different departments at UNC, including

- The Department of City and Regional Planning
- The Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering
- The Department of Music
- The Department of Art

- The Department of Dramatic Art
- The Department of Women's Studies
- The Academic Affairs Library
- The Ackland Art Museum
- North Carolina Public Radio—WUNC
- The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History
- The Carolina Union¹⁸

Duke University had also played an important role in the Weisses' lives, Shirley having earned her doctorate in economics at Duke in 1973, and the Weisses having enjoyed music there for many years. In 1992, Charles and Shirley created the Charles M. and Shirley F. Weiss Endowment for Creativity in the Arts at Duke University.¹⁹



Charles and Shirley volunteer at a North Carolina Public Radio fund drive in April 1988.

In April 1992, the Department of City and Regional Planning honored Shirley for her 33 years of work at UNC. Below, Jonathan Howes and his wife, Mary, congratulate Shirley.



departments, and the dean of The Graduate School would serve in an ex-officio capacity.²⁰

"Charles and Shirley Weiss have only gained steam in 'retirement,'" stated one 1992 Carolina article about the pair—an accurate picture of Charles and Shirley, who had begun traveling more than ever and seeing more and more fruits of their years of work.²¹

Just after her retirement, Shirley received special recognition for her years of work and advocacy for central city revitalization. In April 1992, the Department of City and Regional Planning honored Shirley's 33 years of work at UNC with a weekend celebration that also celebrated the department's 45th anniversary. The weekend's

theme was: "The Central City: A Retrospective and a View to the Future."²²

That same weekend, Charles and Shirley's longtime friend, Mayor Joseph P. Riley of Charleston, South Carolina, honored Shirley with an official proclamation, announcing that April 4, 1992, would be Shirley Weiss Day in Charleston.

"Shirley Weiss has touched hundreds of communities throughout the United States through her students who have helped shape America," read the proclamation. "Her interest in the City of Charleston has been an inspiration to its Mayor and has improved this community....Her career as a teacher, planner, humanist and fine citizen has been exemplary and an example for all to follow."²³

By early 1993, preparations for the first Weiss Urban Livability Symposium were under way. Co-sponsored by the UNC School of Law and the Department of City and Regional Planning, the symposium was held on February 12 and 13, 1993, and explored the topic, "Race, Poverty and the American City: The Kerner Commission Report in Retrospect." Shaken by the 1992 Los Angeles riots²⁴ and

their similarity to urban riots of the '60s that had motivated the Kerner Commission Report,²⁵ Jack Boger from the School of Law and Michael Stegman from the Department of City and Regional Planning organized the symposium as a way of facing the troubling questions that the riots had unleashed. This first symposium produced stimulating conversations and brought much needed attention to conditions that many urban citizens face.²⁶

With the symposium a success, the first year of the Urban Livability Program was under way. And soon the first two Urban Livability Fellows—Mark Forlenza in City and Regional Planning and Stewart Diemont in Environmental Sciences and Engineering—began the academic year 1993-1994 with a little extra financial support. The Weiss Urban Livability Program was launched.²⁷

The next several years saw growth in both the Weisses' travel schedule and in the Urban Livability Program. Charles and Shirley continued traveling around the country and the world for musical and urban opportunities—during the height of these travel years, they were often only home in Chapel Hill about one-third of the year.

“It was not unusual for us to arrive home from one trip and spend just one or two nights in Chapel Hill before heading off again for another destination,” Charles recalled.²⁸

Shirley and Charles had both signed up for frequent flyer programs as soon as the airlines began offering them, and with such full travel schedules they soon amassed quite a lot of frequent flyer points. Often they used these points to upgrade to business or first-class seats—but then Charles noticed that the cost of an upgrade to first class was the same as an upgrade to fly on the Concorde. They first flew aboard the supersonic jet in 1995; the flight from New York to London lasted just under three and a half hours, rather than the normal eight.²⁹

In between trips, watching the Urban Livability Program grow provided Charles and Shirley much satisfaction. Though they had not had their own



In 1992, the Weisses' longtime friend and colleague Charleston, South Carolina, Mayor Joseph Riley proclaimed April 4, 1992, Shirley Weiss Day.



After retiring, Charles' and Shirley's travel schedule grew even more full than before.

Professor Perry Hall, a member of the Weiss Program's faculty advisory board, speaks with Weiss Fellow Lisa Poirier at an Urban Livability Program event.



children, interacting with students had always given them the pleasure of mentoring younger generations and helping them along. Now retired, they found they could help even more students through the Urban Livability Program.³⁰

Charles and Shirley often attended meetings of the Weiss Fellows to offer guidance and share their own experiences with urban livability issues, and to suggest scholars to address the group. But they also wanted the Fellows to have the ability to decide what issues they found relevant and interesting to explore together.

"We didn't want to get *too* involved, because we knew that these were bright people. We thought they should choose for themselves the issues they wanted to wrestle with," said Charles.³¹

In academic year 1994-1995 the Weiss Urban Livability Program supported 10 graduate fellows. Though mechanisms were not yet fully in place to receive nominations from departments across campus, the advisory committee was eager to begin funding more students, and so selected five fellows each from the Department of City and Regional Planning and from the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering. By 1995-1996,

however, the fellows were chosen from a wide range of departments: Social Work, Communication Studies, Sociology, Geography, and History, in addition to City and Regional Planning, and Environmental Sciences and Engineering.

The second Urban Livability Symposium was hosted by the UNC Program in the Humanities and Human Values in the spring of 1994, a public forum on "Cities and Civility." A student art competition was held in conjunction, with students submitting sculptures and paintings related to the symposium topic.³²

In 1995-1996, the first McKissick Scholar was selected. Anita Brown-Graham, J.D., a UNC alumna and visiting adjunct professor at the School of Government, became the first Floyd B. McKissick Resident Scholar in Community Development.³³ During the year, she gave campus talks and met with the Weiss Program Fellows, sharing her planning expertise.

With all the components of the Weiss Urban Livability Program now firmly in place, in 1996, the program gained another excellent advocate. That year, Professor Linda Dykstra became the dean of The Graduate School, bringing an enthusiasm for cross-disciplinary training and an excitement for campuswide programs like the Weiss Urban Livability Program.

"Linda Dykstra was very instrumental in the success of the program," Charles recalled.

In 1996, The Graduate School added the Senior Fellow as a regular feature of the Weiss Fellowship. Right: Ivy Sidberry became the second Senior Fellow in 1997-1998. Below: Chuck Bohl, Senior Weiss Fellow, 1998-1999



Recognition for Shirley

In the early 1990s, Shirley's many contributions to UNC were increasingly recognized. In 1990, Shirley was awarded the Mary Turner Lane Award by the UNC Association for Women Faculty and Professionals for her outstanding contributions to the lives of women at UNC. The award was named for the founding director of the Curriculum in Women's Studies, and it was a particular honor for Shirley, who spent so many years guiding women through the halls of academia at UNC.³⁴

Six years later, in the fall of 1996, the University awarded her its prestigious Cornelia Phillips Spencer Bell Award for outstanding service to Carolina. The Bell Award was given annually from 1994 until 2004 to a woman who has made outstanding contributions



to the University.³⁵ Shirley received the award in recognition of her dedication to improving the lives of women at UNC through mentoring, scholarship, research, and advocacy.³⁶

"She was so pleased at the idea of graduate students having interdisciplinary learning opportunities."³⁷

By 1996, the advisory board had had several years to figure out what parts of the Weiss Program were working, and what needed tweaking. Sandra Hoeflich, the new associate dean for fellowships, began working with Bill Rohe at the Center for Urban and Regional Studies and others on the advisory committee to enhance the effectiveness of the Weiss Program. They recognized the fellowship's potential to help attract the best graduate students to UNC, and beginning in 1997, The Graduate School offered Weiss Urban Livability Fellowships to help recruit first-year graduate students. Departments were thus able to use the fellowship to attract the best and brightest graduate students into their programs. At the same time, The Graduate School added the "senior fellow" as a regular feature of the Weiss Fellowship. The senior fellow position provided an opportunity for an advanced graduate student to receive support for the academic year, leading the first-year fellows and coordinating seminars and meetings.³⁸

In 1997, the Weiss Program's faculty advisory board decided that inviting a faculty scholar from another university for a brief visit as the McKissick Scholar would enable more intellectual perspectives to be brought to campus. That year, the Weiss Program hosted George Galster of Wayne State University as the McKissick Visiting Scholar in Community Development. While at UNC, Galster met with the Weiss Fellows and also gave talks on subsidized and public housing programs,

Charles and Shirley with the 1997-1998 Weiss Fellows



Weiss Fellows and Durham Scholars

In addition to meeting, sharing diverse perspectives from their own disciplines, and learning about urban livability, the Fellows have also typically worked together to complete a service or



The 1997-1998 Weiss Fellows engaged with middle school students through Kenan-Flagler Business School's Durham Scholars program, envisioning, "What makes a good neighborhood?"

community-based project. In 1997-1998, the Fellows engaged with 60 middle school students, all participants in the Durham Scholars, created through UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School. Begun in 1995 as the brainchild of James Johnson, a professor at the Kenan-Flagler Business School, and the late Frank Hawkins Kenan, the Durham Scholars targets at-risk youth from northeast Durham's most economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. The Fellows led workshops with the Scholars that explored, "What makes a good neighborhood?" using photographs that the middle school students took in their neighborhoods.

Building on that success, the following year's Fellows further engaged with the Durham Scholars on a project of visualizing urban livability. Through workshops at their schools, 30 middle school students were given disposable cameras and asked to photograph the spaces, places, and activities that affect urban livability in their neighborhoods and communities. Interacting with the Durham Scholars proved a highly rewarding experience for many of the Weiss Fellows, who arranged for the Durham Scholars' photos to be displayed in the Durham Public Library's main exhibit space for sharing with their families and the community.³⁹

community development, and racial discrimination.⁴⁰

Upon seeing the success of the Weiss Program, in January 1997, Charles and Shirley recommitted their financial support for the program's operating funds and for building an endowment. Wanting to foster in the Fellows a love of the arts, they also created a fund to provide the Fellows with tickets to music and theater performances at UNC. The Graduate School also committed to providing matching funds to help with the immediate costs of

the Weiss Fellows and to help ensure the success of the program.⁴¹

"The Weiss Fellowship was the very first fellowship program in The Graduate School that brought together students from different disciplines for an interdisciplinary graduate learning experience," said Sandra Hoefflich of The Graduate School. "Other Graduate School fellowship programs were subsequently created based on that highly successful model of interdisciplinary sharing and learning."

1998-1999 Weiss Fellows



The Graduate School also began experimenting with other interdisciplinary fellowships based on the Weiss Fellowship model, such as the Scholars for Tomorrow Fellowships, which focused on a number of timely issues. The Weisses' influence on graduate education continued through the interdisciplinary fellowship model they initiated.⁴²

Though still traveling frequently, in the late 1990s Charles and Shirley noticed the strains of travel increasing as they grew older. Airports and airplanes were becoming more crowded, and the streets of the cities they loved were becoming more difficult to negotiate.

"The streets of New York are built for young people—as we got older, we had to keep sticking our elbows out so we wouldn't get trampled!" Charles said. "So we knew that at some point we would have to slow down our travels."⁴³

Likewise, Charles and Shirley treasured their home in Chapel Hill, but as they looked toward the future, they realized they needed to find a place to live that would better fit their needs as they grew older. In 1998, they began looking at retirement communities in Chapel Hill.

Even still, traveling and music remained their passions. Charles and Shirley were now serving on many of the boards that helped plan their favorite summer festivals, and their summer driving trips continued to Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina; to the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis; and to Santa Fe for its opera and chamber music festivals. They also continued their frequent trips to New York for the Metropolitan Opera and the New York City Opera, and to other cities where they had opera subscriptions: Chicago, San Francisco, Houston, and Seattle, to name a few. Their numerous frequent flyer miles also made international flights somewhat easier, because often they could arrange for upgrades to business or first class.⁴⁴

While traveling, they made sure they remain connected with their campus partners. Charles always prepared detailed travel schedules—complete with contact telephone numbers—and distributed them to people who might want to get in touch with them at any time.

"Just seeing their schedule made me feel exhausted!" laughed Sandra Hoeflich. "Sometimes they'd travel every two days to another location



Senior Fellow Chuck Bobb, right, speaks with the 1998-1999 Weiss Fellows.



Shirley and Charles greet Richard Gaddes, director of the Santa Fe Opera.

to attend another cultural event. The Weisses travelled with gusto—fearlessly, and with high energy.”⁴⁵

In December 1999, Charles and Shirley exercised the ultimate in fearless travel: They boarded a flight to Australia on New Year’s Eve, the night that computers across the globe either would either click over to the year 2000 or roll back around to 1900. Though com-

puter companies had rushed to fix the glitch in their software codes that recorded the year with only the last two digits, the Y2K (“Year 2000”) bug had alarmed people around the world. No one knew whether systems that relied on computers would continue functioning after the stroke of midnight, or whether those systems would collapse.⁴⁶

Understandably, few people had booked flights for the night of the changeover. But for Charles and Shirley—always on the lookout for good fares and for the less-crowded flights—this was a deal too good to pass. They boarded the flight from Los Angeles to Sydney with a feeling of excitement for the adventure ahead.⁴⁷

“The flight was empty!” Charles laughed later. When midnight came and went without a hitch, the few people on board breathed a sigh of relief and clapped as the flight atten-

dant uncorked a bottle of champagne. With the pressure off, the captain invited Charles and Shirley to step into the airplane cockpit, where he cheerfully showed them how all the controls worked. Fourteen hours later, after crossing the international date line, they landed with no problems in Sydney, where it was already January 2.⁴⁸

1999-2000 Weiss Fellows



At the end of the century, the future shines brightly for Weiss Fellows Anthony Kolb, Patrick McMahon, and Michelle Elisberg, and for the Weiss Urban Livability Fellowship.

