



Chuck Fluharty

Charles W. Fluharty is the founder, President, and CEO of the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI). Since RUPRI's founding in 1990, over 300 scholars representing 16 different disciplines in 100 universities, all U.S. states and 30 other nations have participated in RUPRI projects, which address the full range of policy and program dynamics affecting rural people and places.

A Clinical Professor in the University of Iowa College of Public Health and a graduate of Yale Divinity School, he was also a German Marshall Fund Transatlantic Fellow from 2007 to 2011. Chuck is the author of numerous policy studies and journal articles, has presented dozens of Congressional testimonies and briefings, and is also a frequent speaker before national and international audiences, having delivered major public policy speeches in over a dozen nations. He has also provided senior policy consultation to most federal departments, state and local governments, associations of government, planning and development organizations, and many foundations.



Teresa Kittridge

Teresa Kittridge is the Vice President and C.O.O. of the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) and holds a M.A. in Organizational Leadership and a B.A. in Business Administration.

Teresa's career has included service in the private, public, and non-profit sectors. She has also been elected to public office. For the first 20 years of her career she served as an elected Officer of the Minnesota House of Representatives. Following her work in the state legislature, she worked Washington DC and led National Policy Programs for RUPRI. In addition, she has over a decade of experience in building and leading national and international businesses in publishing as Executive for Coughlan Companies, and built and served as President of MNREM, the Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace.

Teresa served in public office as school board director and board chair and is an active civic and community volunteer.



Matthew Fluharty

Matthew Fluharty is the Executive Director of Art of the Rural and a member of the M12 collective. He serves on the council for Common Field, the Board of Directors for the Wormfarm Institute, and is currently a Research Fellow in the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis.

Matthew's poetry and essays have been widely published in the US and abroad and are present within the field-establishing publication *A Decade of Country Hits: Art on the Rural Frontier* (Jam Sam, 2014). His work with M12 has been featured in art spaces and universities across the country, and his multidisciplinary collaborations in the American Bottom region of the Mississippi River were the subject of an exhibition at Central Features in Albuquerque and the recipient of a Divided City grant from the Mellon Foundation and the Center for the Humanities at Washington University.

Matthew is the son of a fifth-generation farming family from the Ohio Valley.



Savannah Barrett

Savannah Barrett is the Director of Programs for Art of the Rural. She serves on the board of the Center for Performance and Civic Practice and the Robert E. Gard Foundation, and has widely published essays and interviews.

She holds a Masters of Arts Management from the University of Oregon, and is an alumnus of the Muhammad Ali Scholars for Peace and Justice at the University of Louisville and from the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts. She previously guided community programs for the Center for Community Arts and Cultural Policy, the Louisville Visual Art Association, the Oregon Folklife Network, Paul Paletti Gallery, and Salvo Collective.

Savannah was raised on a seventh-generation homeplace in Grayson Springs, Kentucky, where she co-founded a local arts agency in high school.



Sean Starowitz

Sean Starowitz is the Americorp VISTA for the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI). Sean joins the team from Kansas City, Missouri, where he was the artist-in-residence at the Farm To Market Bread Company. Notable art projects include Fresh Bread, BREAD! KC and Byproduct: The Laundromat. He has also explored curatorial projects such as The Speakeasy, and Vagabond, Kansas City's premiere pop-up restaurant.

Sean is a 2010 graduate of the Interdisciplinary Arts program at the Kansas City Art Institute and a 2012 Rocket Grant recipient with support from the Charlotte St. Foundation, Spencer Museum of Art and the Andy Warhol Foundation. More recently, he was a 2014 Charlotte St. Foundation Visual Art Award Fellow. He has contributed writings to Proximity Magazine and Temporary Art Review, and has lectured at Queens College in NY, UCLA's World Arts and Cultures Department, and at American University in D.C.

Related Staff Publications and Media

* Articles are listed by the staff person that is featured, not necessarily by author

Savannah Barrett, Art of the Rural, **Charles Fluharty**, Rural Policy Research Institute
[“Creative Urban-Rural Alliances”](#)
CommunityMatters® and Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design™, March, 2015. Video

Savannah Barrett, Art of the Rural
[“Culture in Agriculture: The Cooperative Extension Service as an Alternative Rural Arts Model.”](#)
Culturework Vol. 17, No. 3, October 2013. Essay

Savannah Barrett, Art of the Rural, **Josh May**, Appalshop
[“Breaking Down Rural – Urban Barriers.”](#)
The Daily Yonder, January 2016. Article

Charles Fluharty, Rural Policy Research Institute
[“Testimony before the Subcommittee on Rural Development Research Biotechnology and Foreign Agriculture, US House of Representatives.”](#)
RUPRI, March, 2007. Congressional Testimony

Charles Fluharty, Rural Policy Research Institute
[“ARC Fall Conference Focuses on the “Rural Advantage”.”](#)
Appalachian Regional Commission’s Appalachia Magazine, March 2006. Article

Charles Fluharty, Rural Policy Research Institute, **Matthew Fluharty**, Art of the Rural
[“Art of the Rural: Creating Thriving Places Beyond the City.”](#)
Wormfarm Institute’s Fermentation Festival Panel discussion, October 2014. Video

Matthew Fluharty, Art of the Rural
[“Changing the Face of Rural.”](#)
TEDxGullLake, December 2015. Video

Matthew Fluharty, Art of the Rural
[“Burn the Maps”](#)
MN Artists, July 2015. Essay

Teresa Kittridge, Rural Policy Research Institute
[“Statement to the Farm Credit Administration Symposium on Consolidation in the Farm Credit System.”](#)
Farm Credit Administration, February 2014. Testimony

Teresa Kittridge, Rural Policy Research Institute
[“Attracting the Next Generation Focus of Midwest Rural Assembly.”](#)
Public News Service (MN), August 2010. Radio Interview

Sean Starowitz, Rural Policy Research Institute
[“Artist’s perspective: The images of a movement.”](#)
Flatland (Kansas City Public Television Magazine), May 2015. Essay