

## **SUMMARY**

### **Benjamin Felt, Class of 2007**

The goal of the research project was to determine the trends in development of black middle class neighborhoods in the United States. We employed the Geolytics Neighborhood Change Database to track changes in census tracts from 1980 to 2000. My specific responsibilities were to perform analyses on the Geolytics data using STATA and write reports on my findings. Unfortunately, we did not make much headway in finding trends in the development of these black middle class neighborhoods. Instead, we ran into numerous problems with the Geolytics data, including a number of different and difficult to remedy inconsistencies and deletions in the data.

On the whole, I found the experience to be an extreme disappointment. In the spring, Professor Fang and I had scheduled the project to run from mid-June to mid-August. However, due to other commitments, Professor Fang was away from New Haven from the end of June to mid-August. As such, I had only a handful of face-to-face meetings with him between the beginning and end of the summer. We communicated via email, but there were often many delays in communication between us and as a result we accomplished much less than what we had hoped. While I became a bit more familiar with STATA and learned that economics research can run into many snags, I didn't get the enriching experiences of meaningfully contributing to a piece of research or of working side-by-side with a professor, both of which I had hoped for when I signed up for SRO. I would hope that in the future there would be better guidelines for the time an SRO student and an SRO professor spend working together.