



This is a year of transition and growth for SUAPP. The School welcomes a new leadership team with Dr. Katherine Lambert-Pennington as the director and Dr. Charlie Santo as associate director. Together, they bring extensive experience in engaged scholarship and community outreach in Memphis and offer a combination of new perspectives and continuity. They will focus on strengthening internal and external collaborations by building and supporting interdisciplinary research teams, community partnerships, research support infrastructure, and program growth and expansion.

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHTS



Iris Keyes, Isabel Duarte and Chelsea Whitehead

Social Work Raises HIV Awareness through Women's Empowerment Project

Dr. Robin Lennon-Dearing and students in the Social Work Department have been working with Friends for Life to develop new ways of empowering women with HIV and increase community awareness. Using a method called photo-voice, twenty-three participants took over 500 photos to highlight their unique perspective as women living with HIV. Each woman then created a photo collage that was exhibited at the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, the Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center, and Hope House. Approximately 100 University of Memphis Social Work students participated in various activities related to this project and an estimated 350 members of the Memphis community viewed the posters during public exhibits. This study revealed how participants overcame challenges and struggles and how their HIV diagnosis provided them with opportunities and motivations to make positive changes in their lives. The Women's Empowerment Project was funded by a Strengthening Communities Initiative grant.

Criminology and Criminal Justice involved in New Campus Initiative

Dr. Amaia Iratzoqui, Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, is collaborating with University leaders in the development of the Memphis Advocacy, Resources, and Support (MARS) initiative. The goal of MARS is to connect students to resources and advocates that can guide them through the University processes related to investigating and ruling on sexual misconduct cases. Training for graduate students who will serve as MARS advisors and advocates is currently being developed. Advisors will provide broad information on advocates and University and community resources. Advocates are specially trained volunteers who will provide support and ensure the individual's interests are represented every step along the path of University processes. Dr. Iratzoqui connects her involvement on this initiative to her work on domestic violence and sexual assault, including research with the department on related issues of domestic violence within Memphis and Shelby County.

For more information about this initiative or to volunteer, please contact Dr. Amaia Iratzoqui at ratzoqui@memphis.edu.



Dr. Danielle Vance-McMullen

Public and Nonprofit Administration Collaboration with ALSAC

Over the past year, the Department of Public and Nonprofit Administration and ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital have been exploring opportunities for collaboration. One outcome of these discussions is the incorporation of ALSAC expertise in the MPA and Nonprofit Leadership Graduate certificate programs. This fall, Dr. Danielle Vance-McMullen has been working with ALSAC executives to develop new online content to enhance a course on resource development. In spring of 2018, ALSAC expertise will be used in a new course on nonprofit branding, marketing and communications. Dr. Sharon Wrobel, Interim Chair, says, "We are excited to offer our students opportunities to learn from, and work with, a world-class philanthropic organization, furthering our mission to increase nonprofit capacity and excellence. This partnership is a great opportunity to broaden our curriculum and to add a valuable new tool to our students' toolkit as they prepare for careers in the nonprofit sector."



City and Regional Planning faculty and students are contributing to the development of Memphis 3.0—the City of Memphis' first comprehensive plan since 1981. The UofM Design Collaborative has been contracted to develop district-level plans for the North, Core City, University, Westwood, and Southeast districts. Students in three classes—Land Use Planning, Analysis for Community Planning, and Design Collaborative Studio—are conducting analyses and preparing to meet with community stakeholders to help residents craft a vision for the future of their neighborhoods. "Memphis is at a turning point and it's an honor for our department to be involved," says Dr. Charlie Santo, Chair of City and Regional Planning. "When our students enter the job market, they will have the unique advantage of being able to say that they've already worked on a major comprehensive plan," Santo adds.

The City and Regional Planning program was ranked among the top 10 programs in the South in Planetizen's most recent Guide to Graduate Urban Planning Programs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



HCD Fellows Work to Restore Neighborhoods

The HCD Fellowship program is funded by the City of Memphis' Division of Housing and Community Development and facilitated by the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy. The competitive program places highly qualified graduate students with government and nonprofit agencies and organizations that are leading community development efforts in Memphis. The program supports the work of selected placement agencies while enhancing the education of selected student fellows.

Laura Kirk, a Social Work graduate student, is an HCD Fellow with Clayborn Reborn—a partnership working to restore the historic Clayborn Temple. The church served as an organizing site for the Sanitation Workers Strike in 1968 and represents one of Memphis' most significant contributions to the larger civil rights movement of the 1960s. Lauren is helping the Clayborn Reborn team pursue grant funding and plan “pre-vitalization” events that reintroduce the public to the historic structure. “I am really enjoying my experience with this nonprofit. I have learned a lot about history and the importance of understanding our past to better our future,” says Kirk.

Jackson McNeil, a City and Regional Planning graduate student, is an HCD Fellow with BLDG Memphis. BLDG Memphis (Build. Live. Develop. Grow.) is a coalition for organizations and individuals who support the development and redevelopment of healthy, vibrant, attractive and economically sustainable neighborhoods throughout the Memphis region. This is accomplished through policy and advocacy; community and civic engagement; and capacity building programs for community development organizations. McNeil says, “Building Memphis is involved with several projects.” The big project is promoting community engagement for the Memphis 3.0 comprehensive plan. “This is beneficial to my future because it is not only enhancing what I am learning in my master's but it exposes me to other organizations that are doing city planning in the city, helping to make meaningful relationships,” adds McNeil.

Learning about Regional Development in Sicily

The Sicily Study Abroad program is an annual 11-day engaged learning experience in the Simeto Valley (Sicily, Italy), led by Drs. Laura Saija, Antonio Raciti (City and Regional Planning) and Katherine Lambert-Pennington (Anthropology). Each year, students collaborate with community members to carry out research and development initiatives that contribute to the implementation of a Regional Development plan inspired by values of social and interspecies solidarity called the Simeto River Agreement. In the summer of 2017, students from the University of Memphis and UMASS Boston worked with local officials and community organizations to understand waste management practices and develop a set of recommendations based on the Zero Waste philosophy. The students and faculty members conducted resident interviews and a community workshop to gather information, developed a set of waste management recommendations and presented them to residents at a public meeting. Through the Sicily program, students have a hands-on community development experience in a different cultural context, and develop skills and knowledge that they can bring back to Memphis. Graduate students Akosua Beroke (Social Work) and Nicholas Wiggins (City and Regional Planning) shared their experiences in Sicily. Berkoe said, “My trip to Italy was life changing. It gave me a chance to explore a culture and country that I knew nothing about.” Wiggins said, “The experience gave me more tools for my toolkit. It allowed me to focus on helping to create a more sustainable world.”

Public Safety Institute's Symposium on Juvenile Delinquency

The Public Safety Institute (PSI) has entered a research-practice partnership on behalf of the University with the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission to provide deep expertise to problem solving in the areas of crime prevention, intervention, and reduction. In October, the PSI sponsored a symposium on Breaking the Cycle of Delinquency to learn about and generate support for the creation of a juvenile assessment center, which is an objective of the local Operation: Safe Community plan. The symposium, which featured national juvenile justice leader Jack Calhoun and Deputy to the Governor Jim Henry along with local community leaders and judicial officials, was attended by approximately 250 people, including Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell, Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland, District Attorney Amy Weirich, MPD Director Michael Rallings and Juvenile Court Judge Dan Michael.

In the spring, the PSI hopes to sponsor another symposium focused on ex-offender re-entry. It will bring together speakers to consider best practices such as programs that provide transitional work plus other services followed by, hopefully, placement in a permanent job.

For more information, contact Linda Russell at lrussell8@memphis.edu.

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WELCOME NEW FACULTY



Sheri Lu Jenkins Keenan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the Lambuth Campus. She received her PhD from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2011. Her research interests include juveniles, delinquency, mental illness and gangs and juvenile program population.



Melissa Hirschi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work. She received her PhD in Sociology and Social Work from Boston University. Her research interests include police responses to individuals living with mental illness, families, communities, stigma, oppression and power.



Tyrone Dooley is an Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator for the master's program in Public and Nonprofit Administration. He received his PhD in Public Policy from the University of Arkansas. His research interests include education policy, human capital, at-risk populations and technology.



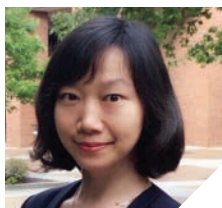
Danielle Vance-McMullen is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public and Nonprofit Administration. She received her PhD in Public Policy from Duke University. Her research interests include nonprofit organizations and philanthropic giving. She previously worked as a consultant for nonprofit organizations.



Shelley Keith is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. She received her PhD in Sociology from Emory University. Her research focuses on the social psychological causes of crime with an emphasis on the role of identity and emotions.



Brandon Williams is an Instructor and Coordinator in the Department of Social Work. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Memphis. His research interests include mental health services, community organizing, community engagement and planning.



Xia Jiang is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. She received her PhD in Sociology from Ohio State University. Her research interests include juvenile delinquency, at-risk youth and adolescents, immigration, crime and immigrant assimilation.

SUAPP LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

Katherine Lambert-Pennington, Director SUAPP | 901.678.5023 | almbtrpn@memphis.edu

Charlie Santo, Assoc. Director; SUAPP Chair, City and Regional Planning | 901.678.2161 | casanto@memphis.edu

K.B. Turner, Chair, Criminology and Criminal Justice | 901.678.2737 | kbtturner@memphis.edu

Sharon Wrobel, Interim Chair, Public and Nonprofit Administration | 901.678.3360 | swrobel@memphis.edu

Susan Neely-Barnes, Chair, Social Work | 901.678.3438 | snlybrns@memphhis.edu