

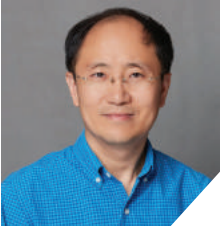


School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy

FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER



NEW FACULTY AND STAFF



Dr. Jae Teuk Chin is a visiting assistant professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning. Chin holds a PhD in City and Regional Planning from the Ohio State University. His research interests are driven by the intersection of land use planning, the built environment and sustainable development. Much of his work centers on location theory and urban spatial structure

and uses of quantitative and qualitative methods in the design of sustainable urban communities.



Dr. Andrew Guthrie is an assistant professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning. Guthrie holds a PhD in Public Affairs from the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. His research interests include transit planning, transit-oriented development, cumulative opportunity accessibility analysis, geospatial

analysis, planning for social equity and the interactions between transportation and land use. He explores these fields of research in an urban governance and economics framework and is interested in democratically controlled alternative community governance and economic structures.



Donna Haskins is an administrative assistant for the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. She began her career with the University of Memphis in 1975. Haskins worked for the College of Education and College of Engineering before taking an extended leave to raise her family. She returned in 2006 to the Department of Biological Sciences and then

worked with the Army ROTC before transferring to the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice.



Dr. Seok Won Jin is an associate professor in the School of Social Work. Jin holds a master's degree and PhD in Social Work from the University of Minnesota, in addition to a master's degree in Gerontology from the Fisher Institute at Ball State University and a master's degree in Social Welfare from Kyung Hee University in Seoul, South Korea. His research interests

include advancing health equity by eliminating disparities in health-related behaviors, particularly cancer screenings and Internet addiction among vulnerable populations.



Maggie Landry is the Master of Social Work admissions coordinator and an instructor in the School of Social Work. Landry is a two-time alumna from the University of Memphis and holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Social Work. She is a licensed master social worker in the state of Tennessee with a professional background in prevention and early intervention child

behavior modification.



Dr. Jerry Watson is an assistant professor in the Social Work Department. He holds a PhD in Urban Higher Education from Jackson State University and a master's degree in social work from the Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Watson researches issues affecting African American males, particularly biopsychosocial health, youth

and fatherhood, offender re-entry, violence interruption and prevention, and personal and community trauma.

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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Criminal Justice Inside Out Class

Criminal Justice Inside Out Class

Dr. Haley Zettler, assistant professor in Criminology and Criminal Justice, is teaching the first course in the newly initiated UofM Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program. The course meets in the Shelby County Correctional Center where University of Memphis students work alongside incarcerated students to study issues related to crime and justice through collaboration and dialogue. UofM student Emily Hart, says "The program has far exceeded my expectations. Although the class only meets once a week, the connections I've established with those involved have great depth and substance. It's a humbling experience to have gained the trust of these individuals and to hear their thoughts and opinions. They've impacted my life in ways they will never fully understand, and I'm grateful." The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program was founded by Lori Pompa at Temple University in 1997 and now operates in over 100 correctional and higher education institutions across the world. A similar course will be offered again in the spring semester. For more information, contact Zettler at hzettler@memphis.edu.

Transit Academies Coming to Memphis

Dr. Andrew Guthrie, assistant professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning, will offer a series of Transit Academies, in partnership with Innovate Memphis beginning in February. Modeled on a process employed in Denver and Baltimore, the Transit Academies will offer weekly courses for local leaders and community members that explore the benefits, characteristics and implications of an effective, attractive transit system. Transit Academies will help inform a bottom-up reform of the MATA transit system. A citywide conversation on the value of transit will be crucial as the needed overhaul is dependent on a 50 percent increase in annual funding. Innovate Memphis plans to recruit influencers from local government, the business community and community groups to participate in two separate six-week academies. For more information, contact Guthrie at guthrie1@memphis.edu.



Health and Poverty in Cuba & Puerto Rico

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Dr. Sharon Wrobel, associate professor and chair of the Department of Public and Nonprofit Administration, has been working on several comparative projects on health and social policy in Puerto Rico and Cuba. The first explores differences in Zika virus-related outcomes in Puerto Rico and Cuba following the 2016 outbreak. She compared infection rates and public health responses in the two countries and found that Puerto Rico suffered significantly higher rates of infection than Cuba. Her findings suggest Puerto Rico's delayed, disjointed and under-funded Zika plan, caused in part by bureaucratic conflicts between U.S. and Puerto Rican agencies, contributed to Zika infection rates. In contrast, the highly-regarded public health system in Cuba, which features centralization, preventative strategies and community participation, helps explain the low incidence of Zika on the island. Wrobel presented her findings at the 2018 Latin American Studies Association annual meeting in Barcelona. Additionally, she and **Dr. Elena Delavega**, associate professor of Social Work, visited with scholars at the University of Puerto Rico - Rio Piedras to establish a research collaboration, which will allow faculty at both institutions to undertake a comparative study of the perceptions of poverty among residents of Puerto Rico and Cuba.

Kudos to Social Work Faculty

Dr. Susan Elswick received funding to evaluate a SAMHSA grant awarded to the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. She will assess community programs for outreach and intervention with youth and young adults at clinical high risk for psychosis. Other SUAPP faculty associated with this sub-award include **Dr. Susan Neely-Barnes** and **Dr. Elena Delavega** from Social Work. Additionally, Delavega, director of the Master in Social Work Program, was invited by the Lumina Foundation to present a master class in their headquarters in Indianapolis. The presentation focused on issues of racial equity in Memphis and throughout the country, and featured an experiential activity recently developed by Delavega (patent pending). Delavega talked about gains in education for African Americans and the inequities that remain. In addition to the master class, she met with various officials throughout the day to discuss strategies for closing achievement gaps and increasing educational equity.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Housing and Community Development Fellows

The HCD Fellowship program, funded by a partnership between the City of Memphis-Division of Housing and Community Development and SUAPP, places highly qualified graduate students from City and Regional Planning, Social Work, Public and Nonprofit Administration and Anthropology with government and nonprofit agencies and organizations in Memphis. The program supports the work of selected placement agencies while enhancing the education of selected student fellows. Below are some examples of the work these students are engaged in:



Lindsay Dolan (City and Regional Planning) is working with Frayser Community Development Corporation (FCDC), a non-profit organization that specializes in purchasing

condemned homes and vacant lots and redeveloping them into affordable housing. Dolan focuses on code enforcement related activities, which include serving as a point of contact for local stakeholders and maintaining a list of all houses in Frayser that are in violation of various codes. She says, "It is my responsibility to make sure they are reported to the proper officials and oversee the correction of the violation."



Matthew Hein (Social Work) is working with United Housing, a nonprofit affordable housing agency that targets its services to families that are under-served by the traditional homeownership

industry. He is developing a geospatial analysis of the organization's impact and says, "I have also been able to learn grant-writing and research skills while we work on creating a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) coalition."



Suzanna Marshall (Anthropology) is a fellow with the Hospitality Hub, a Memphis organization serving the homeless population by connecting clients to resources with the goal of ending the

individual's homelessness. Her work centers on assessing and building tools to enhance the intake process, including identifying what programs and resources are available in the city. Additionally, she is researching trauma informed care to see how this approach might be adapted to improve the intake process.



Barber Shop Talks

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The Lifelong Initiative for Family Empowerment (LIFE) project hosted a series of Barber Shop Talks during fall 2018. The events included free haircuts, food and each talk featured a theme such as kindergarten readiness, economic development, social justice, fathers' rights, voter registration and health screenings for conditions like depression and HIV. These events united a host of multigenerational men to engage and support each other as peers and created opportunities to discuss issues such as perceptions of manhood, personal growth and how to be a good father. The LIFE project is a community-based initiative led by Dr. Gregory Washington, professor of Social Work, that engages parents and caregivers of youth ages 0-3 in health promoting activities. It is funded through Institute for Interdisciplinary Memphis Partnerships to Advance Community Transformation (IIMPACT) at the University of Memphis, with support from the Urban Child Institute. For more information or to volunteer, contact Washington at gwsnngt1@memphis.edu.