

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

SCHOOL OF URBAN AFFAIRS & PUBLIC POLICY

2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT





VISION

The School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy is an innovative, national leader for building academic and community collaborations that address urban challenges.

MISSION

The mission of the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy is to assist in identifying and implementing policies and programs that enhance quality of life, well-being and prosperity in metropolitan settings. As a hub for collaboration, SUAPP creates a diverse range of resources and disciplinary perspectives necessary for effective comprehensive metropolitan action.

WELCOME MESSAGE



Katherine Lambert-Pennington
Director

Dear Friends,

We have missed you! We have missed the chance encounters in the hall, the chatter before classes, the connections made while lingering a while after meetings and the latest ideas brewed over coffee. We are excited to get back to those important exchanges, and soon we will see many of you in our newly renovated space in Browning Hall (with renovations to McCord Hall to follow shortly after).

As our society continues to recover from the lingering pandemic, we have become more acutely aware of the deep, systemic inequalities that exist in our communities at the local, national and global level. COVID-19 has had a compounding impact on historically marginalized communities. In the U.S., cases and deaths were disproportionately higher in communities with larger minority populations, while minorities make up a disproportionate share of the essential workforce. Recovery and vaccines have been slower to reach vulnerable developing countries.

SUAPP faculty, students and partners have remained committed to addressing barriers to equality and justice in our city and beyond. In pursuit of equity, our research, teaching and community partnerships have focused on improving urban education, tackling housing inequality, ensuring equitable provision of broadband internet access and improving childhood and family health. We look forward to additional capacity in these endeavors with the launch of our new interdisciplinary PhD program in Urban Affairs this coming fall.

As we prepare for the future, this annual report highlights some of the accomplishments of SUAPP faculty, students and community partners from the 2020-21 academic year.



Charles A. Santo
Associate Director

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The top signature is 'Katherine Lambert-Pennington' and the bottom signature is 'Charles A. Santo'.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY



INTERDISCIPLINARY & COMMUNITY ENGAGED PARTNERSHIPS

TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOLING

Now in its second year, the Geeter-UofM Partnership brings together school leaders at Geeter K-8 and an interdisciplinary network of faculty from across the University to explore the intersections of trauma, schooling and academic performance. With seed funding from the Division of Research and Innovation, Dr. Todd Zoblotsky and Dr. Carolyn Kaldron (Center for Research in Educational Policy) completed a baseline study of the impact of Geeter's trauma-informed interventions and the academic and social well-being of students. Additionally, Dr. Chris Mueller (Counseling, Educational Psychology and Research) and Dr. Lilya Jiang (Temple University) launched a longitudinal study focused on how students in grades 5-8 feel and think about their lives and what positive factors may help them overcome obstacles. With an eye toward students' health, Dr. Sohye Lee (Loewenberg College of Nursing), **Dr. Minhae Cho** (School of Social Work) and Dr. Shameka Plamer (College of Health Sciences) developed online educational modules in preparation for a health fair that will be held in fall 2021. Finally, Dr. Michelle Brasfield (Counseling, Educational Psychology and Research) and **Dr. Susan Elswick** (School of Social Work) are poised to launch an intervention and assessment of trauma training for teachers at Geeter in the fall semester. These pilot projects will generate data and findings to support larger scale, externally funded projects that will enhance Geeter's approach to supporting students and their families.



PARTNERSHIP ON HOUSING INEQUALITY

SUAPP and the Hooks Institute for Social Change are partnering to advocate for policies to address housing inequality in Memphis. Over the last year, we brought together community development corporations (CDCs) and faculty from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law,

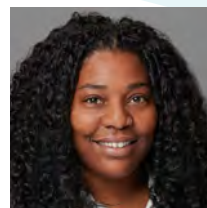
City and Regional Planning, Anthropology, the School of Social Work and the School of Public Health to better understand the impact of Land Installment Contracts (LICs) and other forms of contract for deed (CFD) in Memphis. In fall 2020, SUAPP and the Hooks Institute collaborated with Neighborhood Preservation, Inc., City of Memphis Public Works Department, Frayser CDC and Apperson and Crump Law Firm to host trainings on CFDs for staff of Code Enforcement and CDCs. Additionally, a team of researchers, including

Dr. Andy Guthrie (City and Regional Planning), **Dr. Katherine Lambert-Pennington**, (SUAPP/Antropology), Dr. Courtnee Melton-Fant (School of Public Health) and Charia Jackson, deputy director of Frayser CDC, launched a pilot project on the impact of CFDs in Frayser. The goal of this pilot is to assess the prevalence of CFDs using GIS maps drawn from publicly available data and to explore the personal, social and contractual dynamics that contribute to the use and consequences of CFDs for home buyers. With support from the Hooks Institute, this study will serve as a building block for a housing policy advocacy campaign and a citywide research project on CFDs.



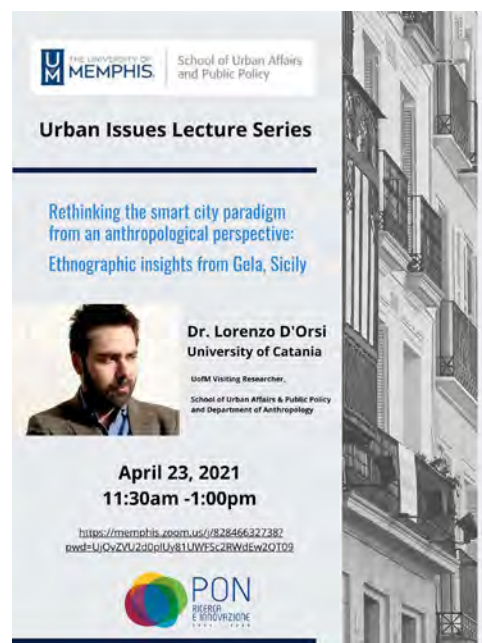
Dr. Charlie Santo, associate director of SUAPP and associate professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning, is coordinating an effort

bridge the digital divide in Memphis' most vulnerable neighborhoods. In partnership with the City of Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development (HCD), Start Co., Knowledge Quest, Code Crew and Urban Strategies, the project includes provision of broadband internet and "digital literacy" training to selected households and advanced "digital education" training for selected youth participants. Using a social envelope approach that links digital inclusion efforts to existing case management work and employing digital mentors, the project enables households receiving broadband service to use the technology to its fullest capacity. **Dr. Greg Washington** and **Christy Peterson** (School of Social Work) are leading a team of 12 Social Work student interns who serve as digital mentors after receiving training from Everyone On, a national expert in internet expansion efforts. By midsummer 2021, 75 students had participated in Code Crew's digital education and 100 households had begun working toward earning their "digital passports."



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In spring 2021, SUAPP welcomed **Dr. Lorenzo D’Orsi** as a virtual visiting researcher from University of Catania, Department of Political and Social Sciences. D’Orsi received his PhD in cultural anthropology at the University of Milano Bicocca and is a former research fellow for the Institute for Research on Population and Social Policy (IRPPS) at the Italian National Research Council (CNR). His project, “Practicing the Smart City: New policies and urban imaginaries in Sicily,” is funded by the European Union and Italian Ministry of Education and focuses on the smart city agenda and its implementation in the post-industrial city of Gela in southern Italy. During the spring, D’Orsi engaged with City and Regional Planning students in **Dr. Jae Chin’s** Smart Cities Seminar and he presented on his research in Gela during the Urban Issues Lecture series. He will return to SUAPP as a virtual researcher in fall 2021.



BY THE NUMBERS

There are four academic units affiliated with SUAPP: City and Regional Planning, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Public and Nonprofit Administration and the School of Social Work. Student internships, course-based service learning and community-based research partnerships support student learning and enhance faculty research. Across the departments, there are over 95 full-time and part-time faculty and staff that assist, advise, mentor and teach more than 980 students in five graduate, two undergraduate degree programs and two graduate certificate programs. Between summer 2020 and spring 2021, departments awarded 88 master's degrees, 170 bachelor's degrees and 11 graduate certificates.

SUAPP serves as a hub for collaboration and interdisciplinary research on vital social issues, including transportation and housing equity, policing technology, opioid treatment, mental health, adverse childhood experiences, child welfare, HIV care, restorative justice and interprofessional training. Many projects involve interdisciplinary teams of faculty, as well as community partners. In 2020-21, faculty submitted 32 applications to state, federal and local agencies including U.S. Department of Justice: National Institutes on Justice, U.S. Department of Education, National Science Foundation and Health Resources and Services Administration, as well as foundations like Spencer Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Annie E. Casey Foundation and Urban Child Institute. Faculty were awarded \$1,117,134 in external funding. Additionally, components of 18 previous awards were implemented during 2020-21, representing more than \$3 million in research activity.

88

**MA DEGREES
AWARDED**

170

**BA DEGREES
AWARDED**



11

**GRADUATE
CERTIFICATES**

\$1.1

**MILLION IN NEW
EXTERNAL FUNDING**



\$3 MILLION

IN CONTINUED FUNDING



NEW FACULTY AND STAFF



Dr. Elizabeth Gillespie earned her doctorate in public administration from the University of Nebraska Omaha. Her teaching areas include nonprofit management and leadership and resource development. Prior to her academic career, Gillespie spent a decade working in the nonprofit field primarily in a leadership position at a human services nonprofit based in Des Moines, Iowa.

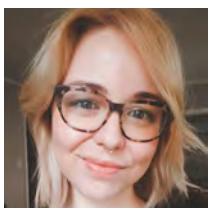


Dr. Joseph A. Hafer received his PhD in public administration from the Pennsylvania State University and his MS in psychology from Villanova University. He has over 15 years of public service experience in state and county government, nonprofit and public sector consulting. His research interests include interorganizational collaboration and governance in state and local contexts and self-consistency theories in organizations.



Dr. Stephen Diko, who joined the Department of City and Regional Planning as a visiting assistant professor in 2019-20, will begin a tenure-track role in January 2021.

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice welcomed several new instructors. **Michael Gurley** is currently completing a PhD in Psychology with a focus in Trauma from Northcentral University in Arizona. As a full-time instructor, he brings extensive military, law enforcement and corrections experience to his teaching. He teaches Introduction to Criminal Justice, Forensic Sciences and Ethical Dilemmas in Criminal Justice. **Mark Williams** received an MA in Sociology from the University of Memphis and a BA in Criminal Justice from the University of Tennessee at Martin. He served as a police officer for 27 years. He brings 13 years of experience teaching in institutions of higher education, including at the UofM where he will teach Constitutional Criminal Procedures, Introduction to Criminal Justice and Criminology.



MK Webb is the newest instructor coordinator in Criminology and Criminal Justice. She earned her BA and MA in Criminology at the University of Memphis before going on to earn a JD from St. Louis University School of Law. Following her academic career, she worked with the Missouri State Public Defenders Office representing indigent clients. Her areas of expertise include criminal law, juvenile delinquency and justice system and mental health representation in the criminal justice system.



Additionally, units affiliated with SUAPP welcomed several new staff members this year. **Valerie Wince** and **Monica Crawford** joined the School of Social Work as administrative assistants. Wince comes to the University from Travelennium, where she was the dedicated travel agent for the

University for 17 years. Crawford comes to the University from Southwest Tennessee Community College where she was a dedicated staff member for 14 years. **Stephen Tomasco** joined the Department of City and Regional Planning as an administrative assistant. Tomasco comes to SUAPP after spending more than a year with Conference and Event Services.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

For over a decade, SUAPP has partnered with the City of Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to host a fellowship program for graduate students. The competitive HCD Fellowship Program places highly qualified graduate students with government, nonprofit and community organizations that are leading community development efforts in Memphis. The program supports the important work of community development agencies while enabling the fellows to integrate their coursework into the work of local community development organizations. Profiles of the 2020-21 HCD fellows are below:



Lydia Babcock, a dual-degree Master's of Anthropology and Master of Public Health student, worked with United Housing where she explored how programs might be expanded to address housing and health disparities exacerbated by COVID-19. She conducted interviews and surveys with alumni of the homebuyer education program and assisted with grant writing and Memphis Affordable Housing Trust Fund policy advocacy campaign.



Eslie Djemmal is a Master's of Social Work student with a concentration in children, youth and families. She was placed with Memphis Children's Health Law Directive (MCHiLD) at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, a collaborative partnership between the University of Memphis Law School, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital and Memphis Area Legal Services. Djemmal assisted with case management services to identify housing and assist families with relocation, connected families to rental and income assistance programs, and prepared documentation to prevent unlawful evictions.



Reagan Gough, a Master's of Anthropology student, was a fellow at the Center for Transforming Communities. She assisted with data management and analysis to develop interactive maps of assets, constituents and social networks within neighborhoods. She also worked closely with connectors to help ensure that residents are connected to the right resources and organizations for support.



Thomas Green, a Master's of Public Administration student, worked with The Works Community Development Corporation in south Memphis. Their focus areas include alleviating food deserts by supporting a farmers' market and grocer, as well as providing affordable housing, housing repairs and community activities. Green's work focused on assisting with streamlining data collection and improving database management processes.



Tyson Hairr, a Master's of City and Regional Planning student, supported Community LIFT with the development of small area plans for the South City and Uptown neighborhoods. His projects have included creating maps to display current conditions in the neighborhoods, evaluating which interventions would be most appropriate and developing implementation plans.



Charles Layne, a Masters of City and Regional Planning student, worked with BLDG Memphis on housing initiatives related to COVID-19 resiliency and recovery efforts. Layne led an advocacy campaign for reinvesting in the Memphis Affordable Housing Trust Fund – which was cut from the municipal budget as a result of the fiscal impacts of the pandemic.



Suzanna Marshall, a dual-degree graduate student in the Master's of Anthropology and Master's of City and Regional Planning programs, worked with the Blight Authority of Memphis to conduct property and policy research. Additionally, she developed the Adopt-A-Lot program that will temporarily activate vacant lots through engaging the communities near them in ways that will benefit the neighborhood overall.



DaNaysia Ross, a Master's of Anthropology student, was placed with the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. In collaboration with 20 local and state partners, Ross managed the Master Home Environmentalists program leading a team to address unhealthy and unsafe housing across the Mid-South.

HCD FELLOWS SCREEN “IN THE ABSENCE”

As part of the curriculum, HCD fellows participate in monthly student summits that highlight a range of topics. This year, students explored the theme of affordable housing by participating in a series of online screenings of the nine-part docuseries, “In the Absence.” The docuseries follows the work of local community development organizations, like Neighborhood Preservation Inc., The Works, Inc., and Knowledge Quest, to highlight the housing challenges throughout Memphis, which have been exacerbated by disinvestment and the 2009 financial crisis. Filmed over a two-year period, the docuseries also focuses on change agents working on an individual, organizational and community level to combat blight, the effects of red-lining and persistent housing inequality. Following each viewing session, fellows engaged in dynamic conversations with guest panelists who offered their insight into various aspects of the docuseries and ongoing efforts to address the housing crisis in Memphis. Through this experience, fellows learned about the history of housing in the city, the collaborative projects taking place among various interest groups to address issues and how they can get involved by being future leaders and active participants in housing and community development.


Participating panelists included: Joe Schilling, senior research associate with The Urban Institute; Imani Jasper, program manager for Neighborhood Preservation Inc.; Danny Schaffzin, associate professor of Law and co-director of the Neighborhood Preservation Clinic at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law; Steve Barlow, executive director of Neighborhood Preservation Inc.; Brittany Williams, code enforcement prosecutor for the City of Memphis; Jeffery Higgs, executive director of the South Memphis Renewal Community Development Corporation and LeMoyne-Owen College Community Development Corporation; Roshun Austin, executive director of The Works CDC; Melanie Neal, senior administrator of Neighborhood Improvement with the City of Memphis; Jacquelyn Scruggs, program manager with Knowledge Quest; and Marlon Foster, executive director of Knowledge Quest.

**SUAPP and HCD Fellowship Program
Docuseries Screening**

In the Absence

a nine-part docuseries about housing challenges and the work of change agents in Memphis

**Chapter 6 - Affordable Housing
Friday, March 12 at 11:30 AM**






The online screening will be followed by a conversation with:

Roshun Austin
Executive Director, The Works, Inc.

Archie Willis
President, ComCap Partners

Presented by



INTERDISCIPLINARY AND COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Community connections and engaged research are hallmarks of SUAPP and an important part of the University's mission. The next sections highlight the interdisciplinary and community-facing work in three areas: healthy children and families, community safety and policing and supporting educational and nonprofit capacity.

HEALTHY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

In 2020-21 the University of Memphis Division of Research & Innovation joined with Meharry Medical College to offer seed money to fund innovative, interdisciplinary research to teams comprised of faculty from both institutions. **Dr. Seok Won Jin** (School of Social Work) and Dr. Heather Brandt (School of Public Health) are partnering with Dr. Jennifer Cunningham-Erves and Dr. Mauren Sanderson from Meharry to study vaccine hesitancy in Tennesseans. They will specifically focus on seasonal influenza, human papillomavirus and COVID-19 vaccines by studying populations in Davidson, Hamilton and Shelby counties.

An interdisciplinary group of UofM researchers partnered with the Memphis Public Library to provide access to COVID-related information to underserved populations in the Memphis area. The project, led by Dr. Irma Singarella (University Libraries), included two School of Social Work faculty, **Dr. Susan Elswick** and **Dr. Seokwon Jin**. The project was funded by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Elswick provided training and developed measures as part of the project. Jin assisted with study design, data collection and analyses, and dissemination of results.



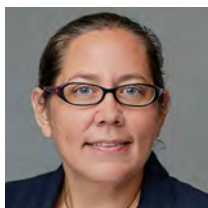
Dr. Seok Won Jin (Social Work) is leading a project to examine disparities in HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccinations in the Mid-South. Funded by the West Cancer Foundation, this project features a mixed-methods approach featuring virtual focus groups and online surveys on campus and in communities in the Memphis metropolitan area. The findings will offer important implications for developing interventions designed to increase HPV vaccinations and reduce HPV-related cancers in the Mid-South.



Dr. Susan Elswick and **Dr. Elena Delavega** (School of Social Work) received an award from the Memphis Rotary Foundation Youth Initiative to deliver services and conduct research through a community-based project addressing adverse childhood experiences. The team is assessing and addressing family needs through a number of supportive programs and processes, including direct service delivery and referrals. Additionally, they are assessing the effectiveness of the Clarity Wellness measurement in identifying needs of participants and tracking progress once the family is provided a supportive service.



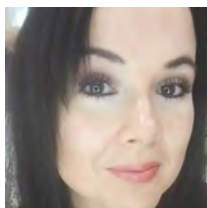
Dr. Susan Elswick and **Dr. Gregory Washington** (School of Social Work) implemented a short-term project with the Refugee Empowerment Program (REP) during the COVID 19 pandemic. When in-person programming was suspended, they worked with REP to adapt Bounce Back, an evidence-based trauma-informed intervention for children to a telehealth format to support the behavioral, social-emotional and mental health needs of REP clients by breaking down the barriers to service delivery.



Dr. Robin Lennon-Dearing and **Dr. Melissa Hirschi** (School of Social Work) have received funding from the NIH to better understand the impact that training community health workers as members of the HIV care team has on their client's HIV viral load and subsequent HIV self-management. Lennon-Dearing and Hirschi are partnering with the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Shelby County Health Department, Hope House, Friends for Life and Christ Community Health Services to complete the study.



Dr. Minhae Cho (School of Social Work) was awarded a contract from the University of Minnesota to study moral injury experienced by youth/young adults in the child welfare system. The project was funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. As part of the research team, Cho conducted data analysis and will co-author manuscripts for publication.



Dr. Paige Pirkey (School of Social Work) received funding from Compass Community Schools to implement a pilot project with students on mindfulness and self-regulation. Pirkey worked with two charter schools to teach trauma-informed yoga and mindfulness practices to kindergarteners and first- and second-graders, with a goal of improving students' self-regulation skills.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND POLICING

An interdisciplinary team is working with the Memphis Police Department (MPD) to implement and evaluate MPD's Community Oriented Policing grant to enhance mental health wellness for officers. **Dr. Randy Dupont** (Criminology and Criminal Justice) will lead one project that includes a range of training for supervisors, commanders and peer support officers, including topics related to anti-stigma, emotional intelligence and emotional survival. **Dr. Melissa Hirschi** (School of Social Work) will lead the evaluation of MPD's grant project with assistance from **Dr. Bert Burraston** (Criminology and Criminal Justice).



Dr. Melissa Hirschi, assistant professor in the School of Social Work, is leading a team to evaluate the outcomes of a state-wide Department of Justice grant. The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, in partnership with the

Tennessee Department of Correction and the Tennessee Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, have been awarded a 36-month Planning, Implementation and Expansion Grant to build on the success of the Crisis Intervention Team. The state team will focus its efforts on developing CIT in an eight-county rural region of the state, which is currently underserved by the program model. The UofM team, including **Dr. Randy Dupont** (Criminology and Criminal Justice) and **Dr. Bert Burraston** (Criminology and Criminal Justice), will evaluate project implementation and outcomes.



Dr. James McCutcheon (Criminology and Criminal Justice) has received funding to partner with the Memphis Police Department (MPD) on two projects funded by the Department of Justice. McCutcheon and colleague **Dr. Amaia Iratzotqui** (Criminology and Criminal Justice) will evaluate the MPD's Law Enforcement-Based Victim Specialist project, which is funded from the Office of Victims of Crime to improve services to crime victims. In addition,

McCutcheon will also evaluate the effectiveness of the ShotSpotter technology as part of a grant MPD received from the Office of Justice Programs and Bureau of Justice Assistance. ShotSpotter uses sensors to identify gun shots and send real-time information to police.



Under an agreement between the University of Memphis and the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, **The Public Safety Institute (PSI)** takes the lead in assessing the impact of various local Safe Community Plan objectives as they are implemented. Over the last year, PSI issued assessments of the SafeWays crime prevention program for apartment communities, data-driven policing by the Memphis Police Department, the impact of gang injunctions that apply to specific geographic areas, the FED UP media campaign to curb gun violence and the community prosecution initiative of the Shelby County District Attorney's Office. The PSI completed a process evaluation of the Shelby County Mental Health Court, with a grant from the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Tennessee Association of Recovery Court Professionals. PSI also participated in evaluation of services to domestic violence victims under a grant from the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs. Finally, the PSI continued to be involved in two grants from the U.S. Department of Justice involving opioid abuse, one with Shelby County government and the other with the Shelby County District Attorney's Office. PSI evaluations and assessments are available at memphis.edu/psi.

SUPPORTING EDUCATIONAL AND NONPROFIT CAPACITY

The **UofM Design Collaborative** developed an innovative youth planning curriculum which was implemented through a partnership with Crosstown High School. Planning students in the Design Collaborative Studio course partnered with Crosstown faculty to teach environmental planning and sustainability concepts to ninth- and tenth-grade science students. The project-based course focused on design interventions for Cypress Creek and culminated in team presentations at Crosstown's annual Yeti-Con event.



Dr. Elizabeth Gillespie (Public and Nonprofit Administration) is partnering with Rachel Ramjattan of Nonprofit Plus LLC and the Assisi Foundation to implement a continuing education course for chief executive officers of nonprofits. Through the hands-on training, participants will learn how to create a successful fundraising campaign.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

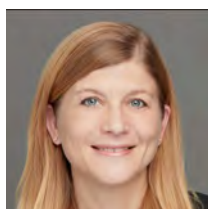
SUAPP OUTSTANDING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AWARD



Ricki Martin embodies the essence of the Outstanding Student Engagement Award with her commitment to community engagement and student leadership across seven organizations. As a Master's of Social Work student, Martin interned with Life Choices and CHOICES – Memphis Center for Reproductive Health. She brought her passion and enthusiasm for helping end racial disparities in maternal-infant health through the development and implementation of childbirth education and support groups, securing grant funding for the CHOICES midwifery program and connecting at-risk expecting families to community-based resources. Martin's drive for social and reproductive justice and equity extends to her community and student leadership roles. As a board member for the Tennessee Health Care Campaign and a pregnancy, birth and postpartum doula at Birth Strides, Martin helps to advocate for all Tennesseans to have access to high quality, affordable and equitable healthcare. Reflecting on her experiences, Martin notes, "The most important beneficiaries are the Memphis community members that I am able to reach with my engagement activities. Be it a social work student, an expecting mother or a fellow professional, I impact people with my activities by providing avenues that were not there before."



Each year the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) awards Faculty Research Grant Awards (FRGs) to faculty to support their research and creative activities and to enhance their competitiveness for external funding. Several faculty members received FRGs this year. **Dr. Shelley Keith** (Criminology and Criminal Justice) received an FRG to support her research on the role of a community-based restorative justice and nonviolent communication program on teen participants' identities, emotions and conflict management skills. **Dr. Joseph Hafer** (Public and Nonprofit Administration) will use his CAS funding to conduct a summer research project exploring the value that the public places in state and local government. He will be recruiting participants using Amazon Mechanical Turk, a popular source of human subject data collection in the social sciences. **Dr. Laura Taylor** (School of Social Work) will use her CAS funding to conduct a summer research project evaluating a community-based program that provides evidence-based psychotherapy treatment to postpartum women who are impacted by one or more social determinants of health.



Dr. Katherine Lambert-Pennington, director of the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy and associate professor in the Department of Anthropology, received a 2021-22 Fulbright-Fondazione CON IL SUD U.S. Scholar Award to Italy. Lambert-Pennington will be hosted by the University of Catania Department of Political and Social Sciences and conduct participatory-ethnographic research in the Simeto River Valley. The project, "Developing Alternatives: Transforming the Politics of Development in Sicily," investigates the potential for shared governance and citizens' collective actions to create new political spaces, collective identities of place and alternative approaches to development. Upon returning, she will apply the lessons learned from the Simeto case to questions of sustainable development, citizen engagement, and environmental justice in Memphis. Her research project is also being supported by a Faculty Research Grant from the College of Arts and Sciences.



WHAT'S AHEAD

With the return to campus in the fall, the 2021-22 academic year promises to be full of new and renewed initiatives. We will welcome **Dr. Davia Downey**, who will serve as the director for the Urban Affairs and Public Policy PhD program, and we are excited to host the inaugural cohort of students. Additionally, the Institute for Interdisciplinary Memphis Partnerships to Advance Community Transformation (iIMPACT) will move under the SUAPP umbrella. Directed by **Dr. Susan Elswick** (School of Social Work) and supported by funding from the Urban Child Institute, iIMPACT is an integrated hub for academic-community partnerships that advance healthy childhood and family development. Finally, SUAPP will partner with the Institute of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership to host a series of workshops for faculty and area nonprofit and public agencies to build their capacity to collaborate on community-based research, course-based service learning, internships and volunteer opportunities. The three-part series will culminate in a Future Partners Meet-up to bring faculty and community participants together for a match making session.



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