

**Graduate Program in City and Regional Planning  
School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy  
The University of Memphis**

**2011 Program Highlights**

**Student Enrollment, Graduations, and Job Placement**

The current academic year has been a very successful one for our program in terms of both student enrollment and graduations! Thanks to the efforts of Charlie Santo, our new Graduate Program Coordinator, and Jessica Buttermore, our new Administrative Associate, we currently have thirty full-time students enrolled in our degree program. With the assistance of our faculty, we were able to support eleven students in completing their capstone projects and comprehensive exams during the 2011 calendar year – a department record! Furthermore, the overwhelming majority of those who graduated last year were able to find challenging employment close to their intellectual and professional interests. **Ben Requet**, who recently married, is now the newly appointed Sustainability Coordinator with the Gulf Regional Planning Commission. **Ashley Camper Cash**, also recently married, is a new Program Officer with Community LIFT. **Erich Miller**, back from his service in the Middle East, is currently teaching Military Science at Ole Miss's Army ROTC Program. **Tommy Pacello**, a long-time adjunct faculty member in our program and recent graduate, has joined the Bloomberg Urban Innovations Team in Memphis as the Small Businesses Growth Manager. **Kasey Talbott** is serving as a Program Director with Cumberland Region Tomorrow. Finally, **Karen Thornton** is working as a Community Planner with the Mississippi River Corridor – Tennessee coordinating their Shelby County Trail Plan Initiative.

**Faculty News**

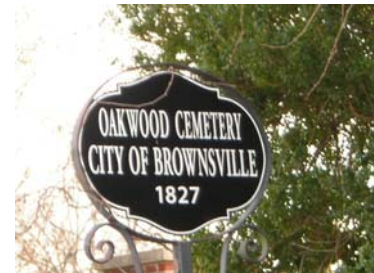
In January of 2011, **Professor Laura Saija** of the University of Catania joined the University of Memphis Graduate Program in City and Regional Planning as a Marie Curie Research Fellow. This European Union funded research fellowship is one of Europe's most prestigious faculty development awards. It will enable Professor Saija to pursue her interests in community-based planning and development as a Visiting Professor in our program until December 31, 2012. Professor Saija's work research is well known and highly regarded throughout Southern Europe. She has published on a wide range of planning issues including: historic preservation, farmland protection, municipal corruption and organized crime, and resident-led urban revitalization

efforts. Her latest edited book, *Comunita e Progetto nella Valle del Simeto: La Mappa Partecipata Come Practica Perlo Sviluppo Locale*, has been very favorably reviewed by both Italian and European planning scholars.

In May of 2011, the Graduate Program was delighted to celebrate the promotion of **Charlie Santo**, from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor, with tenure. Charlie's outstanding teaching and advising record along with his empirical research on the economic benefits of sport-related municipal investment and music-oriented revitalization have earned him a well deserved national reputation. Following his promotion, Charlie agreed to serve in the position of Graduate Program Coordinator responsible for student recruitment, first-year advising, and course scheduling.

In January 2012, Professor **Antonio Raciti**, a colleague of Professor Saija from the University of Catania, will be joining the Graduate Program to teach our Special Projects and Seminar in Urban Design courses. Professor Raciti, who was a Visiting Scholar in our program during the 2009-2010 Academic Year, recently completed his Ph.D. in Architectural Engineering and City Planning. His dissertation examined the opportunities and challenges of participatory planning in politically contested communities.

The Graduate Program was also very fortunate to be able to draw upon the talents of several area professionals during the past year who taught one or more graduate planning classes as adjunct faculty. Among these were: **Josh Whitehead**, Director of the City of Memphis/Shelby County Office of Planning and Development; **Robert Barber**, Director of Planning for the City of Hernando; and **Tom Fox**, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; **Nate Ron-Ferguson**, Senior Project Coordinator, Center for Partnerships in GIS; and **John Paul Shaffer**, Planner II, Metropolitan Planning Organization.



## Funded Research

Our faculty has been very successful in securing externally funded grants and contracts to pursue a wide variety of applied research and technical assistance projects. Despite the closing of the Program's Regional Economic Development Center, which Steve Redding so ably directed for many years, the Program has generated more than \$250,000 to undertake the following projects:

- **Vance Avenue Choice Neighborhoods Initiative** (City of Memphis, Division of Housing and Community Development) – Data collection and analysis required to produce a transformation plan for this historic African American Community
- **Brownsville Comprehensive Planning Project** (City of Brownsville) – Community-based research and community engagement needed to produce a master plan for this important County Seat
- **Housing and Community Development Policy Research Fellowship Program** (City of Memphis, Division of Housing and Community Development) – Support for graduate student interns working with community-based organizations and public agencies advancing innovative housing and community development policies and projects
- **Vance Avenue Data Project** (Memphis Housing Authority) – Development of a web-based database containing critical information documenting past and current conditions within the Vance Avenue community
- **Urban Transformation Initiative** (Hyde Family Foundations) – Design and implementation of an advanced leadership development program for local neighborhood leaders, institutional representatives, and elected and appointed officials
- **South Memphis Implementation Grant** (Saint Andrew A.M.E. Church) – Continued support for The Works Inc. efforts to strengthen the South Memphis Farmers Market
- **Shelby County Trail Plan** (Mississippi River Corridor - Tennessee) – An analysis of the current state and future improvement possibilities for the Shelby County portion of the ten-state Mississippi River Corridor Trail
- **Frayser Safe Routes to School Project** (City of Memphis/State of Tennessee) – A program to encourage children, teachers, and staff to walk and bike to school for health, safety, and community building purposes
- **Memphis Music Magnet** (University of Memphis/Community Foundation/United Way/Division of Housing & Community Development/Hyde Family Foundations) – An examination of arts-based revitalizations strategies for the Soulsville neighborhood



## Professional and Scholarly Conferences

Nearly four hundred community leaders, professional planners, local government officials, and urban scholars from throughout the United States and abroad participated in four conferences organized by Graduate Program faculty and staff during 2011. We especially want to recognize the extraordinary effort **Jessica Buttermore**, our new Administrative Associate, made in helping plan and staff these events. Among the forums organized by the Graduate Program during 2011

were: the Annual Planners Network International Conference, the 2011 Mid-South Planning and Zoning Institute, The Memphis Conversation on Local Democracy and Citizenship at the Highlander Center for Education and Research, and the Evolution Institute's Memphis Conversation on the Quality of Urban Life.

- **2011 Planners Network International Conference-** Two hundred and twenty-five citizen leaders, professional planners and urban scholars from twenty-five states and five foreign countries participated in this event that focused on "Promoting Economic Development through Regional Cooperation and Planning". Among the highlights of the conference were three community-based, resident-led charrettes focused on planning issues identified by local neighborhood organizations and CDCs; a plenary session examining race in the American city featuring remarks by **Peter Marcuse** (Columbia), **Bill Goldsmith** (Cornell), **Leonie Sandercock** (British Columbia), and **Chester Harman** (George Washington); a wonderful cultural evening at STAX Museum of American Soul Music; and a moving presentation by four leaders of the 1968 Sanitation Workers Strike which was accompanied by the showing of the award-winning film, "I Am a Man".
- **2011 Mid-South Planning and Zoning Institute-** Sixty area planners, planning commissioners, and board of zoning appeals representatives attended this year's Institute. The program explored the consequences of the state's recent decision to eliminate its Local Planning Services Office, changes in planning and administrative law, and the pros and cons of form-based codes. Participants also had the opportunity to attend sessions of the Planners Network Conference. Many Institute attendees opted to sit in on the North American premier of Leonie Sandercock's newest film, **Finding Our Way**, which examines the impact of provincial and federal planning in Canada on the nation's indigenous peoples.
- **The Highlander Conference on Democracy and Citizen Action-** Twenty-five neighborhood leaders, good government activists, and urban scholars involved in several of the University's resident-led planning efforts took part in this three day search conference. This event, which took place at the historic Highlander Center for Citizen Education and Research founded by Myles Horton where many of the civil rights leaders of the 1960s, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, were trained in non-violent organizing offered local leaders the opportunity to discuss the accomplishments and limitations of the City's current citizen organizing and empowerment efforts. The two primary facilitators for this event were **Wade Rathke**, founder of ACORN, and **Richard Couto**, Professor of Leadership Studies at Union Institute and University.
- **The Evolution Institute's Quality of Urban Life Search Conference-** The Graduate Program was asked to host this international conference focused on comprehensive approaches to revitalizing severely distressed communities. Fourteen scholars from the University of Memphis as well as several other American and European universities presented and discussed their latest QOL research. These scholars were joined by more than thirty U of M students, faculty, and local community leaders for this three-day event held at the University Center. Highlights of the conference included a panel featuring

Foote Homes residents who presented a grassroots perspective on community transformation focusing on: crime prevention, school reform, housing development, and job and business generation and a plenary that offered policy suggestions for local stakeholders involved in Memphis-based community revitalization efforts.



## Upcoming Events

### Accreditation

2012 promises to be another exciting year! Starting in the spring, the Graduate Program will be preparing for its Planning Accreditation Board site visit. Currently, the University of Memphis is the only accredited planning program in the State of Tennessee.

### CRP Goes to Italy

This summer the Graduate Program will be embarking on a ten-day environmental planning and design study tour in Sicily. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners are invited to participate in this once in a lifetime experience. Co-led by Professors Peara Busacca, Filippo Gravagno, and Laura Saija of the planning faculty at the University of Catania, this program will expose participants to the extraordinary beauty and innovative planning and design initiatives underway in Sicily, which have contributed to the preservation and enhancement of some of the world's most celebrated landscapes, historic sites, and environmentally fragile habitats.

For more information regarding this exciting program, please contact Jessica Buttermore, CRP Administrative Associate, at: 678-2161 or [jbuttrmr@memphis.edu](mailto:jbuttrmr@memphis.edu) or visit the CRP website at: [www.memphis.edu/planning](http://www.memphis.edu/planning).



## Spring Speakers

This spring the Graduate Program will be hosting talks by Professor **John Hopkins** of the University of Pennsylvania. John, an internationally recognized architect and planner, served as the Design Director for the 2012 London Olympics and the Environmental Planner for the UK's celebrated Thames Gateway East Initiative. He is currently working with the leadership and staff of the Shelby Farms Conservancy to evaluate the environmental, economic, and social impact of the first phase of their recently implemented master plan.

In addition to Professor Hopkins visit, the Graduate Program will be hosting a talk on disaster planning by Professor **Rob Olshansky** of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign whose recent book on Post-Katrina Disaster Planning, ***Clear as Mud: Planning for the Rebuilding of New Orleans***, has become a "must read" for planning students and faculty.

Finally, **Steve Casey**, one of the initial founders and organizers, of Chicago's Fresh Moves – mobile farmers market will be coming to the department to discuss issues related to food access and security. One of the projects the Graduate Program has been most involved in an effort to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to the City's poorest neighborhoods through the use of a retrofitted MATA transit bus. This project conceived of by St. Patrick Church member Cathy Winterburn was inspired by Steve's work in Chicago.

## **Special Thanks**

The students, faculty and staff of the Graduate Program wish to thank the following individuals and organizations for contributing, in a variety of ways to advancing our efforts to promote excellence in city planning research, education, and outreach in our region during the past year.

## Funders

Bouchillon Institute

City of Brownsville

City of Memphis, Division of Engineering

City of Memphis, Division of Housing and Community Development

Community Development Council

Community Foundation of Greater Memphis

David Westendorff

European Union

Evolution Institute

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Memphis Branch

Healthy Memphis Common Table

Hyde Family Foundations  
Memphis Housing Authority  
Memphis Regional Design Center  
Mississippi River Corridor - Tennessee  
Saint Andrew African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Association  
West Tennessee Division of the American Planning Association  
United Way  
University of Memphis, School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy  
University of Memphis, VP Business and Finance, Complete Streets, Andrew Trippel  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

#### Housing and Community Development Research Fellows Supervisors

This 20 hour a week internship program has been made possible through the ongoing support of Robert Lipscomb, Director of the Memphis Housing Authority, and the City of Memphis, Division of Housing and Community Development. We wish to thank the following professionals for serving as supervisors and mentors for the graduate students participating in this program.

Nancy Jane Baker, Manager, Memphis Landmarks Commission  
Felicia Harris, Program Coordinator, Memphis Housing Authority  
Steve Lockwood, Executive Director, Frayser Community Development Corporation  
Luretha Phillips, HOPE VI Program Coordinator, Division of Housing and Community Development. City of Memphis  
Fr. Timothy Sullivan, CSP, Pastor, Saint Patrick Church  
Curtis Thomas, Associate Executive Director, The Works, Inc.  
Emily Trenholm, Executive Director, Community Development Council  
Josh Whitehead, Director of Planning, Office of Planning and Development, City of Memphis/Shelby County

#### Supporting Faculty

We also want to thank the following U of M, UT, and Rhodes College faculty who have contributed, in significant ways, to our department's research, teaching, and outreach activities during the past year.

David A. Cox, Professor of Public Administration and Non-Profit Management and Special Assistant to President Shirley Raines  
Marion Donohue, Professor of Nursing, University of Tennessee

Katherine Hicks, Assistant Professor in Anthropology, U of M

Stanley Hyland, Professor of Anthropology and Director of the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, U of M

Heather Jamerson, Visiting Scholar, Urban Studies, Rhodes College

Katherine Lambert Pennington, Assistant Professor in Anthropology, U of M

Wayne Pitts, Associate Professor, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, U of M

### Other Supporters

Connie Binkowitz, Healthy Memphis Common Table

Kyle Wagenschutz, Mayor's Office of Pedestrian and Bike Planning

Jimmie Tucker, Principal, Self-Tucker Architects

Bill Ferguson, Principal, Askew, Nixon, and Ferguson Architects

Reverend Kenneth S. Robinson, Pastor, Saint Andrew A.M.E. Church

Chooch Pickard, Director, Memphis Regional Design Center

Karen Hundt, President, Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Association

Joe Birch, News Anchor, Channel 5 TV

John Gemmill, Director, Memphis Office, U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development

Cathy Cowan, Director, Community Affairs Program, Federal Reserve Bank of Saint Louis, Memphis Branch

Jerome Lieberman, Chairman of the Board, The Evolution Institute

Thomas Skehan, Senior Planner, West Tennessee Office, Economic Development District

### **Graduate Program in City and Regional Planning Faculty and Staff**

Kenneth M. Reardon, Professor and Director

Charles A. Santo, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator

E. Eugene Pearson, Professor and Emeritus Director (Full-time instructor)

Reza Banai, Professor

Susan A. Roakes, Associate Professor

David Westendorff, Associate Professor and Director of the Mid-Sized Cities Institute

Laura Saija, Visiting Associate Professor and Marie Curie Research Faculty Fellow (European Union, on leave from the University of Catania)

Antonio Raciti, Visiting Assistant Professor

Jessica A. Buttermore, Administrative Associate

Vickie Peters, Business Officer, School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy