

# The University of Memphis Arts & Health Symposium

## Featured Speakers

**Amy P. Nabors**, M.A. CCC-SLP, is a licensed speech-language pathologist and clinical supervisor at the University of Memphis School of Communication Sciences and Disorders. She specializes in the evaluation and treatment of individuals with voice and upper airway disorders, including singers and other voice professionals. In addition, she often works with patients who have neurological, degenerative, and functional voice and breathing disorders. Shortly after completing her graduate studies at the University of Memphis, she served as a singing voice qualified SLP at Bastian Voice Institute in the Chicago area. In addition to her academic and clinical training, Amy has a rich background in vocal performance. She earned a BA in Theatre and Speech from Wagner College in New York City, where she was trained as a singer in both classical and musical theatre genres. Prior to becoming a speech-language pathologist, Amy worked as a professional musical theatre performer.

**Andy L. Kitsinger** is first and foremost a community builder. His thirty-year career as an architect, urban designer, city planner and teacher has focused on creating authentic places that are strongly influenced by their context and have a positive impact on their community. Kitsinger chaired and served six years on the Memphis Historic Landmarks Commission and is a long-term member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He is the founding Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Farmers Market. Kitsinger teaches and serves as the Director at the University of Memphis Design Collaborative in the Departments of Architecture and City & Regional Planning. He currently serves on the board of the Midtown Development Corporation (CDC) as well as active in the Urban Land Institute. He helped form and served on the Board of the Memphis Regional Design Center as well as serving on the Memphis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Transportation Committee.

**Anne Hogan**, Ph.D. is the Dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts at The University of Memphis. Hogan previously served as the Director of Education at the Royal Academy of Dance, based in London, and as its Senior Advisor for International Partnerships, based in the US. While serving at the Royal Academy of Dance, Dr. Hogan led its 'Dance for Lifelong Wellbeing' initiative, and edited the book *The Song of the Body: Dance for Lifelong Wellbeing*. Prior to joining the Royal Academy of Dance, Dr. Hogan was an Associate Dean in the Faculty of Humanities, Arts, Languages, and Education at London Metropolitan University, where she previously held the position of Academic Leader of Performing Arts, Film Studies and Theatre Studies. A former member of the Boston Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet, Dr. Hogan holds a BA in English Literature from Harvard University, and an MA and PhD in English Literature from Brown University.

# The University of Memphis Arts & Health Symposium

## Featured Speakers

**Celeste Douglas**, MT-BC, is a music therapist at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Celeste studied at Illinois State University and completed her music therapy internship at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO. Currently, she works with the Leukemia/Lymphoma and Hematology teams and supervises interns as part of the music therapy internship. She also serves on the Integrative Medicine and bone marrow transplant caregiver support working groups. Celeste helps orient and educate new nurses about music therapy, child life services, and child development. She also creates developmentally appropriate experiences for school-age and preteen patients. She takes an integrative approach to music therapy, utilizing primarily the humanistic and biomedical orientations to best care for the needs of her patients and families.

**Fedorja Rugless**, Ph.D. is the Director of Research at Church Health and Research Assistant Professor for the School of Health Studies. In 2007, she received her B.S. in Biomedical Sciences, along with minors in both Chemistry and Music, from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. She went on to continue her educational pursuits at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and graduated with her Ph.D. in Molecular Epidemiology in 2012. Her research interests have spanned from studying exposure effects and neuromotor performance, to patient centered outcomes, cancer research, HIV behavioral surveillance, and community based participatory research. Currently, Dr. Rugless operates in a dual role as the Director of Research at Church Health, and a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Memphis School of Health Studies.

**Jennifer "Jenna" Thompson** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Architecture and a LEED accredited professional (LEED AP BD+C, ID+C). She earned a Master of Architecture Degree from the University of Memphis and both a Bachelor of Architecture degree and a Bachelor of Interior Architecture degree from Auburn University. Central to her research is the synthesis between sustainability and systems thinking. Her passion for creating awareness and action to social issues of environmental stewardship permeates her philosophy of design, adult education and teaching methodology.

**Linley Schmidt** is the Public Programs Coordinator at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens where she oversees the gallery docent program and education programming for adults. She began The Art of Living Well programs at the Dixon which includes yoga, taijiquan and meditation and oversees the museum's art therapy programs, Teen Studio and Mosaics. Outside of the Dixon, Linley is a member of Our Own Voice, a theatre troupe focusing on mental health, and enjoys attempting to play ukulele with the Memphis Ukulele Flash Mob. Linley is the mother of two incredibly smart children who are University of Memphis students.

# The University of Memphis Arts & Health Symposium

## Featured Speakers

**Miriam van Mersbergen**, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Memphis where she teaches Voice Disorders and Dysphagia. She began her academic career studying music and communication arts at Calvin College. After a brief career in music she returned to academia and studied speech language pathology and vocology at The University of Iowa and continued with doctoral studies in speech language hearing sciences and psychology at the University of Minnesota. Her research investigated emotional and cognitive influences in voice production. She maintains an active clinical career specializing in voice and breathing disorders.

**Rogean Cadieux-Smith**, AIA, EDAC, leads health and wellness initiatives at LRK, bringing active design and wellness strategies to educational, health and community projects. As a fitwel Ambassador, Rogean partnered with Crosstown Arts and ChurchHealth to earn fitwel Community 3-Star rating to leverage program and amenities to increase access, equity, and wellness. Prior to joining LRK, she worked on multiple healthcare and civic projects, notably the Shelby County Health Department, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare and Memphis 3.0. Rogean earned her degree from University of Detroit Mercy, studied abroad in Venezuela and served with U.S. Peace Corps in Jamaica. Rogean passionately advocates for quality design that incorporates biophilic and evidence-based process. She has earned a stellar reputation as a leader and collaborator, stewarding clients through the planning, programming, and design process. Rogean currently serves on the ULI Building Health Places: Health Leaders Network - Cohort 3 and is active in non-profit advocacy and urban design.

**Shawn Brasher** MS, CCLS, has 23 years of experience in the field of child life. Shawn earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Family and Child Development from Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana. Shawn began his career at Shriners Hospital for Children, Houston, Texas where he worked four years. He held various positions at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital from 2000-2006. In 2006, he accepted a child life program manager position at CHRISTUS Sutton Children's Medical Center where he worked until 2013. Currently, Shawn works at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN as the child life director where he incorporates a multidisciplinary team approach with patient programming while providing his administrative responsibilities within the child life department as well as the psychosocial service line.

# The University of Memphis Arts & Health Symposium

## Featured Speakers

**Sandra Stinnett**, Ph.D., joins us from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD where she completed her fellowship in Neurolaryngology (study of the voice box). She received her Medical Degree from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and was then accepted into the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital - Department of Otolaryngology where she completed her internship and residency training. She is a classically trained pianist and has performed in venues such as New York's Carnegie Hall and Cami Hall. She is also a vocalist with experience in performing, recording and leading worship in her local church. Dr. Stinnett joins the University of Tennessee Health Science Center as Assistant Professor and Director of the Division of Laryngology. Her areas of expertise include the full spectrum of disorders of the voice which range from management of the professional voice, treatment of neurological conditions of the larynx, benign and malignant conditions of the vocal folds, vocal fold paralysis, airway reconstruction and swallowing disorders.

**Susannah Barton** is an urban planner and manager of the Quality Public Spaces program at the Memphis Medical District Collaborative (MMDC), a community development organization focused on strengthening the communities between and around the major medical, educational and research anchor institutions. Susannah works collaboratively to create and maintain public spaces that foster connections between people and place. Her portfolio focuses on enhancing the District's streets, parks, plazas, and green spaces – building strong platforms for a vibrant public life. Susannah Barton received her Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Austin College and her Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Previously, Susannah served as the Director of Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo, research consultant for Growing Food Connections - a USDA-funded, national food systems planning project, and as the Development Director for Overton Park Conservancy.

**Susan Elswick**, PhD, obtained her Master of Social Work at University of Tennessee in 2006 and her Doctor of Education in Instructional and Curriculum leadership with a specialty in Applied Behavior Analysis at the University of Memphis in 2011. She served as assistant professor and BA Program Director from 2015-2019 at the University of Memphis Department of Social Work. She is currently an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work and has over 15 years of clinical mental health experience that includes community mental health, case management, integrated behavioral health, infant mental health, and home-based services. Her research interests include assessment and intervention for children with both academic and behavioral difficulties, the use of tiered level supports in multiple settings, improving outcomes for students through effective teacher training and supports, the use of evidence-based interventions and services to correct maladaptive behaviors in order to improve outcomes for children and families, the use of expressive art therapies/ experiential therapies, and the use of informatics and technology in the field of social work.

# The University of Memphis Arts & Health Symposium

## Featured Speakers

**Tom Bracy** is the chief executive officer of Harmony Project National Division. Harmony Project National Division is a research based public health intervention. It helps schools and communities close the achievement gap through the teaching of music. Its primary functions are network development, central data management evaluation, research and advocacy, and fundraising. Bracy manages his own consulting firm and acts as education consultant for Take Me To The River, a film produced by Martin Shore, featuring multiple generations of award-winning Memphis and Mississippi Delta musicians. Bracy is an educational clinician for Conn-Selmer, Inc. and on faculty at North Park University and VanderCook College of Music. He earned his MM, MBA, and MHRM from North Park University.

**Virginia Murphy** is the Founder and Executive Director of Playback Memphis, a nonprofit organization dedicated to using the arts as a tool for therapy. Murphy earned a bachelor's degree in Special Education from Boston College and a master's in Counseling Psychology from the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. Her entrepreneurial mindset and determination combined with her love of Memphis and its people have propelled Playback from an idea to a vibrant enterprise engaged in transformative work. Playback Memphis brings stories to life and life to communities in a safe space to unlock healing, transformation and joy.

