

SUAPP NEWSLETTER

School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy



DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHTS



CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING

The University of Memphis Design Collaborative (UMDC) has partnered with the town of Somerville to engage town stakeholders in the development of a Town Center Redevelopment Plan. Like many small towns, Somerville is facing transitions as sprawl continues around larger regional cities. Aiming to honor Somerville’s past while guiding it toward its future, the plan seeks to align the town’s existing regulations with new incentives and programming. The process has included research, stakeholder engagement, community visioning, strategy prioritization and plan documentation. The Somerville Town Center Redevelopment Plan will serve as a guide for the town’s leaders and stakeholders to confront the challenges of thoughtful and equitable economic development while leveraging and enhancing the significance of their historic town square.



CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Dr. Amaia Iratzoqui, assistant professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, has been recognized as one of the top 50 undergraduate faculty members at the University of Memphis. This award is given based on feedback from the Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) administered at the end of every semester. Iratzoqui teaches classes on Race, Ethnicity and Gender in America; Criminology; and Intimate Partner Violence and Victimization. Iratzoqui's new course on Intimate Partner Violence has recently been incorporated into the departmental curriculum.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Dr. Susan Elswick and Dr. Laura Taylor, in partnership with Porter-Leath, have received funding from Building Strong Brains Tennessee to identify ways to incorporate integrated behavioral health studies into children's hospitals, including Le Bonheur and Christ Community Medical Center. Drawing on the experiences of patients with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), the study is designed to create more holistic care for patients by promoting collaboration between behavioral specialists and medical professionals. The research will consider environmental factors, such as familial ties or socioeconomic status, as well as a medical diagnosis in prescribing care. Complimenting her focus on fostering holistic care in clinical settings, Elswick manages the integrated behavioral health studies training program. With partial funding provided by a multidisciplinary Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA) grant, nursing and social work student interns are being trained on a "whole person" care system in which pediatric doctors work with social workers in managing care.



Dr. Susan Elswick



Dr. Laura Taylor



PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT ADMINISTRATION

The Institute for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership (IPNL), part of the Department of Public and Nonprofit Administration, held its annual fall luncheon and hosted Susan Schmidt, president of the national nonprofit organization Nonprofit Leadership Alliance. Schmidt, an alumna of the UofM, delivered a keynote address to students, program alumni and community stakeholders about trends in the national nonprofit landscape. In her keynote, Schmidt emphasized the importance of quality

nonprofit management education in preparing the future workforce to address a rapidly changing field. Schmidt applauded professor Candace Walsh, UofM campus director for the Certified Nonprofit Professionals program, for her continued dedication in serving as a strong advocate for undergraduates interested in nonprofit careers. Attendees raised nearly \$1,400 for scholarships to send members of the Nonprofit Leadership Student Association (NLSA) to the Alliance Management Institute Conference.

NEW FACULTY & STAFF



Dr. Stephen Kofi Diko, visiting assistant professor of City and Regional Planning, holds a PhD in Regional Development Planning from the University of Cincinnati. Diko's research interests relate to sustainable development, focusing on urban green spaces, climate change, climate action and flooding. He is also interested in the international development planning aspects of these issues, especially how they intersect with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and their translation into local action in the global south. His other research interests are local economic development and GIS applications in planning.



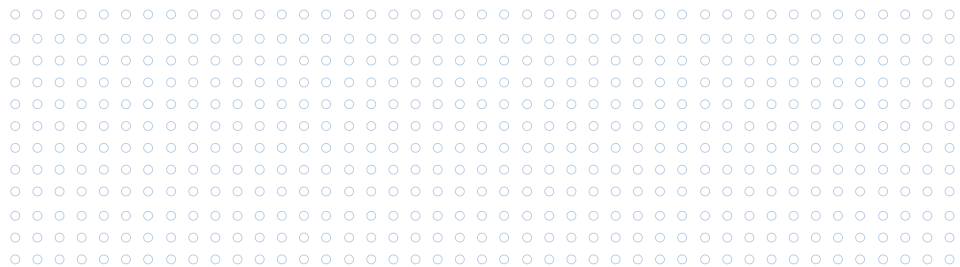
Dr. Minhae Cho, assistant professor of Social Work, completed her PhD in Social Work at the University of Minnesota. Her research focuses on better understanding culturally diverse, vulnerable children and families, especially those involved in multiple social service systems. Her research projects include maltreated children who become involved in the juvenile justice system, racial disparity in out-of-school suspension, moral injury with youth involved in social service systems, and cross-cultural study of children with disabilities.



Dr. Timothy McCuddy, assistant professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, holds a PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. His research focuses on how technology affects social processes related to crime. He is also interested in peer influence and how broader contexts (e.g., schools, neighborhoods and the internet) affect involvement in delinquency. He previously worked as the project director of the UMSL Comprehensive School Safety Initiative, a longitudinal study on the causes and consequences of school violence.



Montoya Williams, administrative associate I for the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, previously worked in the Accounting Department as well as University & Student Business Services. With 19 years of experience in higher education at the University of Memphis, she brings a wealth of knowledge to the department.



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 with government and nonprofit agencies and organizations in Memphis. The program is designed to support the work of selected placement agencies and to introduce students to critical environmental, social and economic issues in Memphis.



Julie Meiman (Social Work) is working at Methodist Le Bonheur Community Outreach in the home visitation program. The program employs nurses and community health workers to offer health services to pregnant women/mothers and their children. The goal of this initiative is to reduce the risk of poor health outcomes that result from poverty and limited access to health care. Meiman will help launch a new component of the program which entails assessing the home for structural or environmental hazards. She will have the opportunity to educate residents about health and safety issues and make referrals for housing assistance when needed.



Rachel Wilson (Criminology and Criminal Justice) is working with the Freeman Outreach Center this year. Wilson is serving as the family empowerment specialist. Throughout the semester, she has taught cognitive behavioral therapy-based anger management to a class of over 20 juveniles. She will also be participating in the Ceasefire program at Juvenile Court, which is held once a month. Wilson plans to work on grants to get funding for the Freeman Outreach Center in the future and look at ways to implement restorative justice in Memphis.



Alexis Wade (Anthropology) is supporting the Center for Transforming Communities (CTC) with program design and development and collecting data for outcome measurements and evaluation. The experience she is gaining through her work at CTC and the fellowship allows her to see how anthropology can be applied through the lens of community development.



Isaac Adjei (City and Regional Planning) is placed with The Works Inc., a community development corporation serving South Memphis and the greater Memphis area. They are dedicated to the holistic renaissance of community through the provision of services in areas of housing, economic development, education and advocacy. Adjei helps provide minor home repair services to low- and moderate-income homeowners. Adjei also participates in field activities with the inspection of properties of eligible applicants and participates in stakeholder meetings with different organizations around Memphis.



Tyson Hairr (City and Regional Planning) is working with the City of Memphis Parks and Neighborhoods Division. Hairr is helping the department implement a grant from the Urban Land Institute aimed at ensuring that all Memphis residents have access to a park within a half mile. This work includes walkability audits for several parks to see if routes to parks are safe and accessible. Hairr is also collecting data on the fixed assets in the parks across the city to identify locations that are underserved or in need of maintenance.