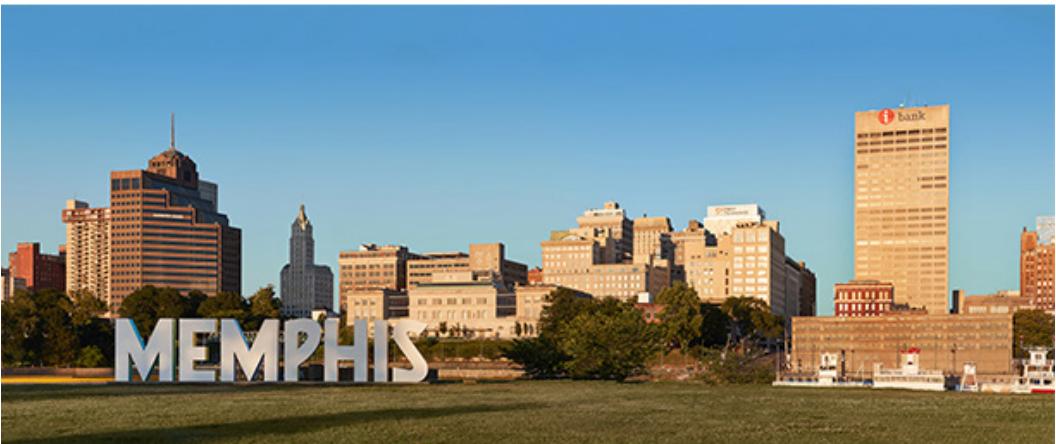


Department of City and Regional Planning

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Driven by
doing.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS.

City and Regional Planning Vision

The Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of Memphis will be nationally recognized as a program that builds on deep community ties and interdisciplinary connections to empower students, graduates, and partners in the pursuit of just, equitable, and sustainable cities and regions.

City and Regional Planning Mission

Our mission is to **educate** the next generation of inspired urban planners and scholars, conduct **research** that influences planning policy and knowledge, and **engage** in community partnerships to affect local **change**.

City and Regional Planning Values

Student Success

We provide students with opportunities to participate as members of the local planning community.

Justice, Diversity and Inclusion

We promote democratic learning through exposure to multiple perspectives and experiences. We pursue policies, plans, and projects that go beyond treating symptoms and confront systemic barriers that limit equal access to opportunity.

Collaboration and Interdisciplinarity

We seek partnerships both within and beyond the University to enhance our actions and our outcomes.

Service and Community Engagement

We engage our community, not as a laboratory, but through reciprocal partnerships in an engaged scholarship model.

Sustainability

We pursue actions and research that support long-lasting environmental, social, and economic health.

Innovation

We seek new approaches to problems to advance planning practice.

June 2020

Dear Friends,

The Department of City & Regional Planning recognizes the importance of maintaining relationships with our graduates and local planning professionals. These connections contributed immensely to the successful reaccreditation review of our Master of City & Regional Planning program in 2019. The Planning Accreditation Board awarded the program its longest possible accreditation term of 7 years.

As many of you know, the reaccreditation review relies heavily on the findings of a site visit team of planning academics and practitioners. And the site visit team was particularly impressed by our students, alumni, and community partnerships. In their report, the team said the “highlight” of our program is the commitment to creating great communities shared by students and graduates. They remarked on the impressive array of alumni serving in leadership positions throughout the Memphis metro area in both the public and nonprofit sectors and lauded the program’s integration within the city, county, and region. I am grateful to all of you who participated in the site visit, completed alumni satisfaction surveys, or provided feedback to TAPA.

We are preparing for the 2020-2021 academic year with an acute awareness that our cities and communities are at a moment of change, with great opportunities for progress toward equity and justice. As described in our Core Values, we strive to prepare our students to be part of that progress.

This Annual Report allows us to reflect on our recent accomplishments as we look ahead to the future together. We hope you’ll enjoy reviewing the highlights of our achievements in education and career placement, research, and community engagement.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Santo, Chair

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New Faces



Stephen Kofi Diko, who was hired as a Visiting Assistant Professor for the 2019-2020 academic year, will continue with the department as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Diko completed his PhD in Regional Development Planning at the University of Cincinnati. A native of Ghana, he brings expertise in environmental planning and climate change with extensive research experience in the global south.



John Zeanah (MCRP 2005), joined the department as an adjunct faculty member, teaching Land Use Controls. John has served as Director of the Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning since 2018.

Fond Farewells

Susan Roakes, Professor Emeritus

Dr. Susan Roakes retired from the University of Memphis in the spring of 2020 and was awarded the status of Professor Emeritus. Susan served the UofM for nearly thirty years and trained hundreds of students who have gone on to establish successful careers in city planning, community development, and public service.

Many of the Memphis area's senior-level planning officials learned the legislative foundations of the field in Susan's classes. In addition to her contributions to student learning and curricular development, Susan has provided tremendous service to the



broader Memphis community through engaged scholarship, applied studio courses involving community partners, and service on local organization boards. We look forward to continued interaction with Susan as an emeritus faculty member.



Jessica Buttermore

After 10 years with the Department as a student, administrative associate, and research associate, Jessica Buttermore left the UofM for new challenges in public service. Jessica is currently serving as Bikeway and Pedestrian Program Technician for the City of Memphis and West Tennessee Organizer for United Campus Workers.

By the Numbers: Student Enrollment and Graduation Trends

The Master of City and Regional Planning program enrolled 12 new students in the 2019-20 academic year and awarded 7 master's degrees.

Congratulations to the following graduates:

Isaac Asiedu Adjei

BA, 2017, University for Development Studies (Ghana)

Isaac Stephen Akers

B.Arch, 2017, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
M.Arch, 2019, University of Memphis

Jim Carpenter

BS, 2015, Middle Tennessee State University

Will Freiman

BA, 2007, University of Southern Mississippi

K. Dana Sjostrom

BS, 2003, University of Alberta

MA, 2014, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Clarke M. Shupe-Diggs

BS, 2016, Simmons College

Faria Naz Urmy

B.Arch, 2017, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

We continue to attract students from a wide geographic area. Over the past three years, about 50 percent of our incoming students hold undergraduate degrees from institutions outside of Tennessee, while 15 percent are UofM graduates, and 35 percent come from other Tennessee schools. We have expanded our opportunities to provide interdisciplinary graduate education by helping students craft dual master's degree paths, with recent graduates pairing their planning degree with degrees in Architecture, Geography and Social Work. For the first time in the fall of 2019, we enrolled a graduate of our recently created undergraduate concentration in Urban Studies.

Career Connections: Fellowships, Assistantships and Job Placement

Our active agenda of funded research and partnerships with local community development organizations enables us to support many of our students with Graduate Assistantship (GA), Internship, or Fellowship opportunities that allow them to gain valuable practical experience while addressing planning problems in the City of Memphis.

Externally-funded Internship placements in 2019-2020 included:

Memphis Area Transit Authority

Wyatt Archer

Miles Miller



Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development

Dana Sjostrom, Office of Resilience

Clarke Shupe-Diggs, Office of Planning and Development

Faria Urmy, Office of Comprehensive Planning



City of Memphis, Division of Housing and Community Development

Bradley Thomas

During 2019-2020, four of our students participated in the **HCD Fellowship** program, funded by the City of Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Those students were placed with the following agencies.

Isaac Adjei
The Works CDC



Suzanna Marshall
The Hospitality Hub



Tyson Hairr
City of Memphis,
Division of Parks and Neighborhoods



Charles Layne
BLDG Memphis



A number of our students were also able to secure Assistantship opportunities across campus. Other University of Memphis GA placements included:

Natalie Scarbrough

School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy

Will Freiman

University of Memphis Design Collaborative (UMDC)

Isaac Akers

University of Memphis Design Collaborative (UMDC)

The following two GAs worked with faculty in the Department:

Kevin Murphy

Sarah Johnson

Job Placement

Our graduates continue to find that our degree is portable, giving them access to planning jobs throughout the country. Here is where our 2019 graduates have started their planning careers:

Isaac Adjei Planning Associate, The Works CDC

Isaac Akers Architectural Associate, ArchInc

Jim Carpenter Assistant Director of Planning and Development,
City of West Memphis (AR)

Will Freiman Housing Program Manager,
United Housing

Clarke Shupe-Diggs Planning Division, City of Bartlett (TN)

Dana Sjostrom Municipal Planner,
Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability

Alumni Notes

The 2019-2020 academic year was also full of career advancement for the program's alumni.

Jim Carpenter (2019) was promoted to Assistant Director of Planning and Development for the City of West Memphis (AR), where he had been working as Community Development Coordinator. Jim works under the direction of fellow alumnus Paul Luker (1995).



Aubry Toldi (2019) was accepted to Politecnico di Milano's PhD program in Urban Planning, Design and Policy with full funding.

Katherine Flynn (2018) joined the Downtown Memphis Commission as a Development Project Manager.



Kyle Wagenschutz (2010) was promoted to Vice President of Local Innovation for the Boulder, Colorado-based bicycling advocacy organization PeopleForBikes, where he has worked since 2016.

Jessica Buttermore (2010), Kyle's former classmate, also moved into the realm of two-wheeled transportation, taking on a new role as Bikeway and Pedestrian Program Technician for the City of Memphis.

Nate Ron-Ferguson (2008) earned a PhD in Earth Sciences from the University of Memphis. Nate is a Data Scientist with the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency in St. Louis, MO.

Student Accolades and Engagement

Clarke Shupe-Diggs was selected for the **APA Outstanding Planning Student Award**. Clarke's capstone research on social vulnerability in relation to resilience and sustainability will make an important contribution here in Memphis. As an intern with the Memphis-Shelby County Office of Planning and Development, Clarke demonstrated the ability to excel as a planning professional.

Isaac Adjei was the recipient of the City and Regional Planning Community Service Award.

Isaac was selected in recognition of his efforts to engage with community partners and residents in mutually beneficial relationships. His work in the community has improved the lives of residents in South Memphis, Klondike, and the Medical District and built capacity for The Works CDC.



2020 National Planning Conference



Faria Urmy and Clarke Shupe-Diggs were invited to present research posters at the 2020 National Planning Conference hosted by the American Planning Association.



ULI Hines Student Competition



Miles Miller led an interdisciplinary team of students from City & Regional Planning (**Isaac Akers**), Architecture (Farnaz Sadeghi), and Business Administration (Shahira Aliwi) who competed in the [Urban Land Institute's Hines Student Competition](#). Each year, competition teams devise a development program for a real, large-scale site in a North American city. The team focused on redeveloping

a 15-acre site straddling the Wynwood and Edgewater neighborhoods in Miami, Florida. The team created a cohesive, mixed-use plan that considered environmental challenges and incorporated sustainability measures while accounting for the real concern of sea-level rise and high-water table. The UofM team was one of 113 that entered the contest. The team was advised by several mentors, including Jimmie Tucker of Self-Tucker Architects; Shawn Massey of TSCG; Michael Hagge, Chair of the Department of Architecture, Andy Kitsinger, Director of the UofM Design Collaborative; and Professor Mark Sunderman from the Fogelman College of Business.

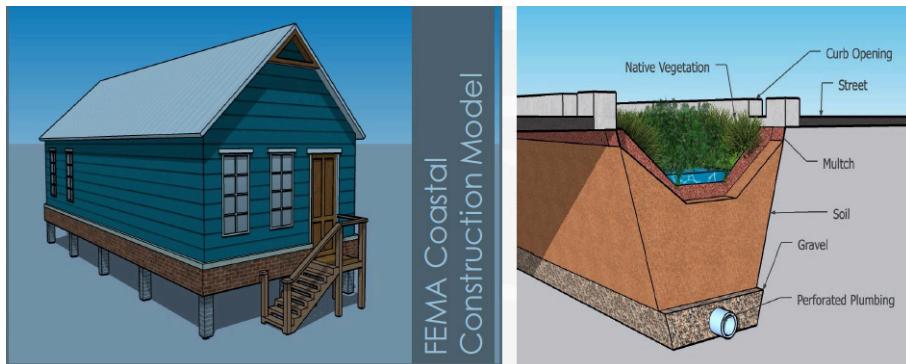


APA Student Design Competition

A second team of students, consisting of **Kevin Murphy, Wyatt Archer, and Bradley Thomas**, participated in the [2020 APA Student Design Competition](#), which seeks innovative solutions to equitable community development, sustainable urban design, housing that's affordable for all, and resilient approaches to neighborhood planning.



The task for the 2020 competition was to create a masterplan for the community of Kashmere Gardens, located in the City of Houston's Fifth Ward. The students created renderings of future land use, current flood plains, more durable housing models, and a variety of other maps and models. Recommendations were based on independent research of the area, APA policy guidelines, Kashmere Garden's Living Centers Study, and a variety Houston specific plans. The UofM team focused on health as an overarching theme, considering elements that would enhance the physical health of residents as well as giving the people of Kashmere increased access, political power, and knowledge.



PSO Professional Mentor Program

The Planning Student Organization (PSO) established a Mentorship Program to pair planning students with local practicing planners. Roger Ekstrom, Municipal Planner with the City of Memphis Office of Comprehensive Planning Office, was instrumental in developing the program and recruiting colleagues to participate. The mentor program helps provide students with access to the incredible learning opportunities that come from living and studying in Memphis. Connections to ongoing planning dialogues outside the classroom help our students

understand the culture of Memphis while experiencing its rebirth and searching for ways to make development just and equitable. Through the mentorship program, the PSO also learned that there is a desire from



practicing planners to gain student insight on relevant planning perspectives. The PSO was able to match 14 students with mentors from organizations across the Memphis community.

Community Connections, Outreach, and Accolades

Students in our **Comprehensive Planning Studio** developed a Small Area Plan for the University District neighborhoods of **Normal Station and Sherwood Forest**, under the direction of Dr. Andy Guthrie. The students worked with Community Advisory Committees and developed strategies to address challenges related to changing community character, housing market pressure, and transportation.

Dr. Jae Chin's **Site Planning** class partnered with the **Binghampton Development Corporation** to create a site development idea for the currently empty 1.1-acre lot on Tillman Street. Site Planning is intended as an urban design seminar and engaged learning course where students have an opportunity to connect theory to practice. Students created three alternative site plan proposals including a community center on the site.

Tillman Crossings



Current Conditions

Local Context



Demographic Analysis

Area	Total	White	Black	Asian	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Male	Female	Median Age	Population
Memphis	650,205	587,925	94,321	1,796	1,576	578,629	330,757	319,448	39.1%	650,205
Shelby County	650,205	587,925	94,321	1,796	1,576	578,629	330,757	319,448	39.1%	650,205

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, 5-Year Estimates. (Dr. Jae Chin, Chair)



Land Use Breakdown



Development Strategy

In order to realize both commercial and viable, the design theory of this development proposal seeks to provide a mixed-use environment as a means of leveraging the unique characteristics of the Tillman corridor to promote the scaling of economic activity through the BDC's benefit the Binghampton community.



Community Engagement

In the process of putting a specific consideration to potential land uses for the site, our team decided that it would be most useful input for engagement and feedback assessments of space activation strategies.

[Learn More](#)



Capital Access + Programming

While the BDC has potentially available micro food enterprises, it is limited in its capacity to support entrepreneurs in capital access and programming. Accordingly, the BDC could pursue opportunities to direct commercial and entrepreneurial development along the Tillman Corridor.

The Department hosted **Ken Reardon** for a guest lecture about his new book, *Building Bridges*. Dr. Reardon shared lessons learned from the East St. Louis Action Research Project – one of the nation's oldest and most recognized University-Community partnerships, and a great example of engaged scholarship. Ken is a former UofM colleague, now at UMass-Boston.



Dr. Andrew Guthrie was awarded a contract as part of a larger grant to the University of Minnesota. The overall project goal was to quantify the regional economic value of high-quality transit services. Dr. Guthrie was brought on board to conduct a multi-region analysis of transit accessibility in Memphis and St. Paul, Minnesota to other urban areas. The grant was funded by Hennepin County, Minnesota and will lead to information for use by planners and policy makers to understand the regional economic benefit of transitways.

Dr. Guthrie has continued to work with Innovate Memphis to offer **Transit Academy** courses to educate and engage civic and business leaders in an exploration of the benefits, characteristics and implications of an effective and attractive transit system. The goal of the 18-month project is to improve community engagement and activity that results in a better transit system, connects people with jobs and supports vibrant land uses. Academy participants will become community leaders and advocates to support transit and help inform a bottom-up reform of the MATA transit system.



Dr. Jae Chin received a SUAPP Summer Research Grant for his proposal, “Smart city to smart community: reconciling the issue of scale with engagement.” Dr. Chin’s research seeks to understand whether technocratic and datacentric “smart city” approaches can equitably improve quality of life for economically disenfranchised and vulnerable communities.

Dr. Reza Banai continues his important research on the location of industrial blight and its impact on sprawl, neighborhood quality, and greenspace.

Dr. Stephen Diko is working with the City of Memphis Office of Comprehensive Planning to develop guidelines for future small area plans. The office is rolling out a series of small area plans to advance the goals of the broader Memphis 3.0 comprehensive plan.

Dr. Charlie Santo was awarded a **Dunavant Professorship**. Dunavant Professorships are endowed by a generous gift from William Dunavant in honor of Dr. Ralph Faudree who was dean of the college from 1995-2000. The College of Arts and Sciences awards one to four professorships annually to faculty members who demonstrate exceptional achievement in teaching, scholarship, service, and outreach.

The Department celebrates **Memphis 3.0**, which earned the highest honor given by the American Planning Association, the **2020 Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan**.



The Memphis 3.0 plan is the city's first comprehensive plan since 1981, and provides guidance for combatting harmful urban sprawl through coordinated development. UofM City and Regional Planning Alumni **John Zeanah**, Director of Planning and Development, and **Ashely Cash**, Administrator of the Office of Comprehensive Planning, led the public planning process. The Department's UofM Design Collaborative worked as one of four local consultants to develop district-level community character plans as part of the effort. Students in four different planning classes contributed to the effort.



University of Memphis Design Collaborative

The University of Memphis Design Collaborative (UMDC), our research and outreach arm, has continued to build community partnerships and increase planning and design capacity in the region.



UMDC completed the **Somerville Town Center Redevelopment Plan** in the fall of 2019. As the seat of Fayette County, Somerville's most valuable asset is its Town Square's well-maintained historic character and charm. Incorporated in 1836, the former railroad town, is nearly as old as Memphis. 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.

Somerville Town Center Redevelopment Plan

I. Historic Town Square:

This context is at the core of the Town Center from North Street to South Street, and from West Street to East Street. This Historic Town Center includes most of government buildings and business uses surrounding the Fayette County Courthouse. It contains the highest density and greatest concentration of buildings and activities in the city.

The character of the Historic Town Square well-established, with a mix of building types and styles that provide diversity and interest, yet also with an overall sense of visual continuity that results from the repetition of similar building types and styles as well as a strong emphasis on the street and emphasis on the pedestrian. The cohesiveness is to be preserved as new infill development occurs. The underlying zoning for this context is (B-1) Business 1 or Central Business District. As the most “urban” part of the Business District, the Historic Town Center should continue to convey this highly urban character.

The objective of contextual infill development is to build on the established features of the area, while encouraging high quality, creative designs that are uniquely Somerville. This context also encompasses a key part of Somerville’s National Historic District and many of downtown’s individually listed National Register buildings. Special consideration must be given to redevelopment project, so that they are historically compatible.



UMDC partnered with lead researchers of **Iowa State University** and a network of cities along the Mississippi River on a workshop supported by funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The workshop examined the urban-rural interface – where productive commodity agriculture land uses are in close proximity to urban centers. Anchoring the approach of Sustainable Urban Systems, the research agenda explores issues within a network of smaller to mid-size cities along the Mississippi River Watershed in hopes of larger funding opportunities from the NSF. A team of Iowa State University architecture graduate students that participated in the partnership was among the winners of the sixth annual [ACSA/AIA COTE Top Ten](#) for Students competition sponsored by the American Institute of Architects Committee on the Environment (AIA COTE) and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA).



UMDC worked with the **Memphis Medical District Collaborative (MMDC)** to developed the **Linden Park Public Space Enhancement Plan**. The initiative worked closely with the residents of City View Towers, a user group with the highest proximity to the underutilized park amenity. The design process coincided with the MMDC and City of Memphis-facilitated bicycle and pedestrian improvements along Dr. M.L.K Jr. Ave. at Linden Ave whose near completion was celebrated on November 8, 2019 with City View residents, IRIS Orchestra, and the Peabody Vance Neighborhood Association. Similar to MMDC's 2017 Project, Edge Triangle, the Linden Park initiative contributes to the MMDC's Quality Public Spaces programming by serving as a next phase in the District's Placemaking and Mobility initiatives. The initiative also provided an opportunity to partner with the UofM Department of Architecture and tap the talent of students in the graduate-level Advanced Design Studio under the instruction of Jacob Davis of archimania, a nationally ranked design firm.

International Connections

First launched in 2012, our **Community Planning and Environmental Design (CoPED) Summer School** in Sicily continues to pursue economic and community development projects contained in the Simeto River Agreement that was formalized in May of 2015. Each year, Summer School participant-researchers collect and analyze primary and secondary data focused on economic and community development challenges and opportunities identified by Simeto River communities and organizations. The Summer 2019 effort focused on developing an urban solid waste prevention strategy for the Simeto Valley.





Keep in Touch

If you have a new address, or any news you would like included in a future Annual Report or newsletter, or posted on our website, please contact us at cityplanning@memphis.edu or by phone at 901.678.2161.

You can also follow us on Facebook at

<http://www.facebook.com/crp.memphis>

or join our group on LinkedIn:

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/University-Memphis-City-Regional-Planning-3960776>

Support the Department

If you would like to make a contribution to support the efforts of the Department of City and Regional Planning, you can do so online at

<http://www.memphis.edu/giving> (be sure to specify the City and Regional Planning Foundation Fund 20729) or mail your contribution, payable to The University of Memphis Foundation*, to:

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208 McCord Hall, University of Memphis
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*be sure to indicate in the Memo line that the donation is to Fund 20729. City and Regional Planning

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