

Department of City and Regional Planning

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



CRP students participate in a Memphis 3.0 Planning Workshop

Driven by
doing.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS

Our Mission is

**to educate the next generation of inspired urban planners and scholars,
conduct research that influences planning policy and knowledge,
and engage with partners in innovative local planning efforts.**

January 2018

Dear Friends,

The Department of City & Regional Planning recognizes the importance of maintaining relationships with our graduates and local planning professionals. This Annual Report allows us to reflect on our accomplishments from 2017 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.



Our success in these endeavors has not gone unnoticed by our peers. **Planetizen's 2017 Guide to Graduate Urban Planning Programs**, which is the only comprehensive ranking of programs in the field, listed our program among the top 15 in three categories: **#10 among programs in the South, #10 among programs without a PhD, and #14 among small programs.** The rankings are based on the opinions of educators, program characteristics, faculty characteristics, and student characteristics.

In 2018, we are excited to continue our involvement with the city and community stakeholders to develop the Memphis 3.0 comprehensive plan to guide Memphis into its third century. Our motto, "Dream of a City" is our call for students of planning to be visionary – to think beyond planning as a technical exercise and engage in planning as a creative and just endeavor. We hope you'll join us in inspiring students, community partners, and planners alike to recognize that we don't have to settle for the faults, shortcomings, and injustices of our neighborhoods and places – that change is possible where there is vision.

Sincerely,

Charlie Santo
Chair and Associate Professor

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By the Numbers: Student Enrollment and Graduation Trends

Interest in the Master of City and Regional Planning program remains strong. In 2017, our graduate program enrolled 12 new students; total enrollment for the 2017 academic year was 29; and we awarded 6 master's degrees.

We continue to attract students from a widening 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. Current students are pursuing dual degrees in Anthropology, Social Work, Geography, and Architecture.

Our new undergraduate concentration had its first graduate, with a bachelor in professional studies, in 2017.



CRP students celebrate a successful semester

Placement: Fellowships, Assistantships, and Alumni Job Notes

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

New collaborations with planning agencies and local professionals have allowed us to expand the number of students with GA placements to 22!

Externally-funded GA placements include:

Neighborhood Preservation, Inc.
Christina Crutchfield

Memphis Area Transit Authority
Susan Steffenhagen

Downtown Memphis Commission
Patrick Besselievre

City of Memphis Housing and
Community Development
Cameron Taylor

Memphis and Shelby County
Office of Resilience
Dana Sjostrom

Memphis and Shelby County
Office of Planning & Development
Katie Flynn
Bradyn Carson
Jennifer Marshall

During 2016-2017, four of our students participated in the HCD Fellowship program, funded by the City of Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Our 2017-2018 Housing and Community Development Fellows are:

Clayborn Reborn
Lauren Kirk

BLDG Memphis
Jackson McNeil

Clean Memphis
Aubrey Toldi

Frayser CDC
Dustin Shane

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

School of Urban Affairs and
Public Policy
Sydney Hall

McWherter Library
Will Frieman

Office of the Provost
Tracy Hicks

The following four GAs are working with faculty in the Department:

Margo Jordan
Jim Carpenter
Leslie Ferguson
Nick Wiggins

Congratulations to our 2017 Graduates:

Brian Crooks
Lauren Crosby
Meredith Duvall
Jessica Mason
Trey McCarter
Elizabeth Treat

Class of 2017 Job Placement

Elizabeth Treat
District Planner
Dept. of Community Development
Rogers (AR)

Trey McCarter
Planning Technician
Community Development
St. Charles (MO)

Jessica Mason
Planning Coordinator
Self-Tucker Architects
Memphis (TN)

Brian Crooks
Neighborhood Planner
Richland County
Columbia (SC)

Lauren Crosby
Planner
Designing Local
Columbus (OH)

Meredith Duvall
Planner
City of Gillette Planning Commission
Gillette (WY)

2017 was also full of career advancement for many of the program's alumni.

John Zeanah (2004) was elevated from Deputy Director to Director of the Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development (DPD). John is working closely with **Ashley Cash** (2011) who is directing Memphis 3.0 – Memphis' first comprehensive planning process since 1981 – as the Administrator of the Office of Comprehensive Planning.



Photo

Credit: Commercial Appeal



John Paul Shaffer (2010) was named Executive Director of BLDG Memphis, which rebranded in 2017, changing its name from Community Development Council of Greater Memphis. John Paul was recognized as one of the city's **40 Under Forty** by the Memphis Business Journal, who wrote “He has been a key player in expanding bike lanes throughout the city and a pioneer in creative placemaking efforts, such as MemFix, and community development with the Regional Greenprint Plan, SPARCC, and Memphis 3.0.”

At BLDG Memphis, John Paul has taken the reigns from **Emily Trenholm** (2001), who provided incredible leadership to Memphis community development industry for 17 years. Emily has moved on to new challenges, consulting on a variety of local community development projects and serving as the Community Engagement Manager for High Ground News.



Here are other transitions that we've heard about, by graduation year:

2010

Jessica Buttermore is working with University of Memphis Design Collaborative as Research Associate.

Kyle Wagenschutz, who was recognized as a White House Champion of Change in 2015, was promoted to Vice President of Local Innovation for the national bicycling advocacy coalition PeopleForBikes

2013

Sara Holloway is now the Healthy Development Coordinator for the Mid Cumberland Region of the Tennessee Department of Health. She acts as a liaison between the health and planning worlds, advocate for healthy community building in the region, while adding capacity to existing initiatives.

2014

Austin Johnson has moved to Seattle where he is working as a Valuation Analyst for Newmark Knight Frank.

2015

Ian Preston is now a Planning Specialist with TDOT, working on Tennessee's commute options program to reduce single-occupant trips and encourage alternate transportation modes to work.

Student Awards

The 2017 AICP/APA Outstanding Planning Student Award was issued to **Trey McCarter** in recognition of his demonstrated intellectual curiosity and excellence in the classroom and his contributions to community development practice.

The 2017 City and Regional Planning Community Service Award went to **Brian Crooks** in recognition of his excellence in the classroom and demonstrated leadership among his peers through service to the Planning Student Organization.

Faculty and Staff Changes

Dr. Charlie Santo has assumed a new leadership role with the University, serving as Associate Director of the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy (SUAPP). Charlie is working alongside **Dr. Katherine Lambert-Pennington**, the new Director of SUAPP. He will continue to serve as Chair of the Department of City and Regional Planning.



Photo Credit: Paula Anderson

Nicole Hoyle, our new Administrative Associate I, is a welcome addition to the City and Regional Planning team. Prior to joining us, Nicole worked for the University's Disability Resources for Students. She earned a Bachelor's of Professional Studies degree from the UofM.



Jessica Buttermore left her positions as the department's Administrative Associate for a new challenge as Research Associate with our University of Memphis Design Collaborative (UMDC). Jessica is putting her planning skills to work, collaborating with faculty and students on UMDC's many community engagement projects, including coordinating our involvement in the Memphis 3.0 comprehensive plan.



Photo Credit: makememphis.org

The Department added local planning expertise and knowledge in 2017 by bringing in two highly regarded alumni as adjunct faculty members. **Paul Young** (2005), Director of the City of Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development, shared his experienced perspective with students in Community Economic Development. **Cameron Cooper** (2015), Urban Planner and Designer with Dalhoff Thomas design studio, imparted technical skills in our Site Planning class.



Paul Young



Cameron Cooper

Community Engagement and Outreach

Faculty and students in the Department of City and Regional Planning continue to seek connections between research and practice, fostering mutually beneficial relationships between the University and its community.

Memphis 3.0

Our Department of City and Regional Planning is playing a central role in one of the most important planning endeavors to be undertaken in Memphis in decades: Memphis 3.0, the city's first comprehensive planning effort since 1981.

As the Department's research and outreach center, the UofM Design Collaborative is leading our efforts. In the fall of 2017 the UMDC was selected, along with a national firm and two other local consultant firms, to develop *Memphis 3.0's* district plans. These neighborhood-scale community character plans will build upon citywide vision and goal statements.



CRP students participate in Memphis 3.0

Our participation offers students an incredible opportunity to learn from practice while contributing to the development of policies that will guide Memphis into its third century. Students in Land Use Planning, Analysis for Community Planning, Comprehensive Planning Studio, and Design Collaborative Studio have lead stakeholder outreach and analysis, analyzed land use patterns, compiled neighborhood histories, prepared demographic profiles, and lead community workshops to contribute to the planning efforts.



North Memphis Community-University Partnerships

Faculty and students continued to contribute to neighborhood change in North Memphis through a long-term partnership with residents and institutions in Klondike-Smokey City. In the spring 2017, our Comprehensive Planning Studio was paired with the Ecology and Planning Class to enhance the neighborhood plan, with a focus on community development projects and ecosystem services enhancements.

Our students and faculty are also contributing to the work of *Memphis' Strong, Prosperous, And Resilient Communities Challenge* (SPARCC) coalition. Memphis is one of six cities selected to participate in the nationwide SPARCC program – “a three-year, \$90 million initiative to amplify locally driven efforts to ensure that major new infrastructure investments lead to equitable, healthy opportunities for everyone” (www.sparcchub.org).



Through a UofM “Team Initiation Grant,” Dr. Laura Saija has coordinated an interdisciplinary research group (with faculty partners in Civil Engineering and Earth Sciences) who are addressing urban resilience and storm water flooding issues. That team is directing students in a new “Urban Resilience to Flash Flooding” class who are working in SPARCC neighborhoods to identify low-tech, short term strategies for enhancing resilience to flash flooding while generating social, aesthetic, functional, and economic benefits.

International Community Engagement

Planning students and faculty also continued engagement with long-term international community partners in the Simeto River Valley of Sicily, as part of the Simeto River Agreement (endorsed by 10 municipalities and a coalition of more than 50 community-based organizations). Our research and summer school efforts have helped the community access 30 million Euros to fund major revitalization projects and re-naturalization efforts in the Simeto River ecosystem.

University of Memphis Design Collaborative (UMDC)

The UMDC, launched in 2015 as a joint venture with the Department of Architecture, serves as an outreach arm of the University, focusing on critical community challenges in urban design and community development. Under the direction of Andy Kitsinger, the UMDC has continued to build community partnerships and increase planning and design capacity in the region.



In addition to leading our involvement in *Memphis 3.0*, the UMDC was involved in the following initiatives in 2017:

University Neighborhood Development Corporation (UNDC) TIF Assessment

The spring 2017 Design Collaborative Studio, in partnership with the University Neighborhood Development Corporation (UNDC), performed an analysis of economic performance measurements of the University Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) District. This was done to research and document existing baseline planning data in the district including research of the existing neighborhood conditions and analysis for commercial and residential uses within the TIF district boundary.

Memphis 10K – A Collaborative Effort to Revitalize and Redevelop Memphis Neighborhoods

United Housing, Inc.'s late director, Tim Bolding, outlined the original vision for the Memphis 10K Housing Initiative: a coordinated strategy seeking to align the development of single-family urban infill housing and expand ownership of single-

family workforce housing in the City of Memphis. Throughout 2017, the UMDC led the facilitation of the initiative's Steering Committee, whose goal is to build a coalition of nonprofit and for-profit land developers, new home builders, home remodelers, lenders, credit counselors, and governmental agencies to carry out the initiative's strategy. UMDC has conducted data analysis using different locational factors for land use regulations, market conditions, and ongoing neighborhood initiatives with the goal of identifying potential areas that could be targeted for 10K's development strategy. UMDC also developed a comprehensive best practices report to help frame a potential structure for the coalition and identify prospective policy reforms and programmatic innovations.

Accelerating the Culture of Planning

With Memphis at a turning point toward its third century, the UMDC and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) established a partnership to help develop public and neighborhood capacity to engage in the planning process. The goal of the partnership is to build and support a culture of planning and implementation in our community through the following three objectives:

- Build community engagement and awareness around the value and benefits of planning and design,
- Leverage the UMDC with ULI members' professional credibility to demonstrate neighborhood planning and ensure planning momentum during the comprehensive planning process, and
- Make planning and implementation a part of the local community conversation.

With funding support from the Hyde Family Foundations and the Pyramid Peak Foundation, this partnership initiated a speaker series in 2017 and helped bring the UrbanPlan training curriculum to Memphis.

You can read more about the UMDC's community partnerships and research outcomes at <http://www.memphis.edu/umdc>.



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.

Expanding its institutional collaboration in 2017, the program partnered with the Graduate Program in Urban Planning and Community Development at University of Massachusetts-Boston and released a call for participants through the Association of European Schools of Planning Young Academics Network.

The primary research focus for summer 2017 was to develop a Zero Waste Management Strategy for the Simeto Valley, inspired by the principles and the practices of the circular economy. The CoPED research team used a variety of data collection methods including literature and best practice research, field trips and study tours, community asset mapping, local interviews, and three participatory events held in three different towns of the valley. The program produced a bilingual report with prescriptions on how short-term action can lead toward the long-term goal of eliminating the non-reusable and recyclable portion of solid waste produced in the Valley.

A short documentary film highlighting the work of the Summer 2017 Summer School is available on our web page: www.memphis.edu/planning

Our faculty continues to have an international presence in research as well. Dr. Laura Saija lectured on action-research and its relevance in planning research at the Politecnico of Milano as part of the Café' san Siro speakers series. She also led a workshop on action-research as part of the 5th Winter School on Research Methodology in the Field of Planning and Urban Studies, organized by the University of Florence and the Gran Sasso Science Institute, in partnership with the network of Italian PhD Planning Programs.



Invited Speakers

As part of the effort to accelerate a culture of planning in Memphis, and in coordination with the launch of Memphis 3.0, UMDC and ULI hosted a speaker event titled, “Why Comprehensive Planning is Good for Business” in February, featuring Mitch Silver, Commissioner of New York City’s Department of Parks and Recreation, and Tim Keane, Commissioner of Planning and Development in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Planning Matters speaker series emerged out of the UMDC-ULI partnership with the intent of initiating dialogue with national planning experts that would enhance the Memphis 3.0 planning process and help demystify comprehensive planning for the broader public. The series kicked off in the fall semester of 2017 and will continue through the spring 2019 semester.

The 2017 sessions were as follows:

Planning as if People Mattered

Jeff Tumlin

Principal at Nelson\Nygaard and former Director of Oakland California’s Department of Transportation



Walking + Diverse Urbanism: The Complications of an Ideal

Emily Talen, PhD

Professor of Urbanism at the University of Chicago.



2018 sessions include:

Investing in Place by Investing in People

Jake Hodesh

Vice President of Operations, People’s Liberty
(a Cincinnati-based philanthropic lab)



Economic Uncovery

Kevin Wright and Joe Nickol

creators of the Neighborhood Playbook (Cincinnati, Ohio)



Kristen Jeffers

founder and editor-in-chief of *The Black Urbanist*



Faculty Scholarship and Shared Research Highlights

Throughout 2017, our planning faculty continued their contribution to the profession's field of knowledge through publications, interdisciplinary research partnerships, grant funded research, hosted conferences, and conference presentations.

Charlie Santo, *Chair and Associate Professor*

Dr. Charlie Santo has partnered with researchers across the university to explore the potential of “Smart Cities” and how emerging technologies and data analytics can be used to improve urban quality of life. As co-chair of the FedEx Institute of Technology's Smart Cities Research Cluster, Santo is leading the UofM's involvement in the national MetroLab Network and coordinating university-community research partnerships that focus on technology solutions to urban issues, ranging from public safety to suburban sprawl. Santo is also principal investigator on a \$100,000 Research Investment Fund grant to seed a Smart City Innovation Hub. This team, which includes faculty from Civil Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Economics, is developing metrics to understand how cities can prepare for and utilize autonomous vehicle technology to improve transportation networks.



Reza Banai, *Professor*

Dr. Reza Banai and Dr. Youngsang Kwon (Earth Sciences) are principal investigators and recipients of a Smart Cities Research Grant with funding from the City of Memphis. Their research has developed a geospatial simulation model for land and land cover change to support comprehensive planning in Memphis. Reza has presented research at the Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International. He also published new research on the



In Memoriam

Gene Pearson, founding member of the Department of City and Regional Planning, and longtime director, passed away on May 23, 2017. As a founding member (in 1967) of what would become the Department of City and Regional Planning, Gene helped prepare generations of planners over his 40-year career at the University of Memphis. Gene Pearson would often open his classes with a question, drawn out in his gentle southern drawl: “What do y’all want to learn about today?” And no matter what the answer might be, he would have a lesson at the ready – pulled from a deep well of institutional knowledge and finely honed understanding of his craft. And his work had an indelible impact on the Memphis region. From the trolleys downtown, to the gem of Shelby Farms, to smart annexation policies that helped prevent the city from being smothered by surrounding tiny towns, Gene shaped Memphis for the better. The familiar scent of his cigar still lingers in McCord Hall, where he is missed but not forgotten.



What's Ahead

We are excited to be part of a growing planning momentum in Memphis and look forward to ongoing contributions to the Memphis 3.0 Comprehensive Plan and other community endeavors in partnership with the outstanding alumni of our program who are having a course-changing impact on our city.

We also expect to be introducing at least one new team member in 2018, as we look to wrap up a faculty search soon.

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:

City & Regional Planning
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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