

Department of City  
and Regional Planning

2016  
ANNUAL REPORT



CRP at Wheland Foundry Pass - Chattanooga, TN  
\*photo credit M. Hooshyar

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 2017

Dear Friends,

The Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of Memphis spent 2016... *Making Cities Great Again!* And our accomplishments were tremendous. Believe me. No one else had bigger accomplishments than our great people. We have very great people. We had the best research. And our teaching... Our teaching was amazing. That's what people are telling me. It's true. It's true. These are not alternative facts people.

Okay, enough tongue in cheek.

The truth is that we did have another successful year, and it is worth reflecting on our accomplishments while we steel ourselves for the challenges ahead. Our mission remains: educating the next generation of inspired urban planners and scholars, conducting research that influences planning policy and knowledge, and engaging with partners in innovative planning efforts. We hope you will join us – as students, partners, alumni, friends – in solidarity in advancing that mission, which is more important now than ever.

Sincerely,



Charlie Santo  
Chair and Associate Professor  
Department of City and Regional Planning

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## By the Numbers: Student Enrollment and Graduation Trends

Interest in the Master of City and Regional Planning degree program continues to grow. In 2016 our graduate program enrolled 16 new students, which is our largest incoming class in the last ten years. Total enrollment for the 2016 academic year was 25 and we awarded 6 master's degrees.

Over the past three years, half of our new students have been from Tennessee, with increasing representation from east and middle Tennessee. On average, about 10 percent of our incoming students come from undergraduate programs at the University of Memphis. Other typical undergraduate institutions include University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi, University of Alabama, and University of Arkansas. In recent years we have attracted students from all over the country and from fine institutions including the University of Virginia, Georgia Tech, Old Dominion University, Providence College, and University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse.

## 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 Assistantship (GA) or Fellowship opportunities that allow them to gain valuable practical experience while addressing planning problems in the City of Memphis. During 2015-2016, three of our students participated in the HCD Fellowship program, funded by the City of Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

Our 2016-2017 Housing and Community Development Fellows are:

Bradyn Carson ..... City of Memphis, Office of Comprehensive Planning  
Jackson McNeil ..... Livable Memphis  
Elizabeth Treat ..... Clean Memphis

Other externally-funded GA placements include:

Christina Crutchfield ..... The Heights CDC  
Susan Steffenhagen ..... Memphis Area Transit Authority  
Cameron Taylor ..... City of Memphis, HCD  
Merritt Tollison ..... Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability

A number of our students were able to secure Assistantship opportunities across campus.

Other University of Memphis GA placements are:

Patrick Besselievre ..... Office of the Provost  
Brian Crooks ..... University of Memphis Design Collaborative (UMDC)  
Jessica B. Mason ..... Sparks Bureau of Business and Economic Research  
Sara Tornabene ..... FedEx Institute of Technology, DRONES Cluster

### Congratulations to our 2016 Graduates:

Emily Corban  
Sommer Smith  
Carly Haithcock  
Donquetta Singleton  
Merritt Tollison  
Mandana Hooshyar

Members of the class of 2016 have already put their education to use in planning positions across the US South.

## Class of 2016 Job Placement

Emily Corban ..... Assistant City Planner, City of Starkville (MS)  
Carly Haithcock ..... Engineering Analyst, Alliance Transportation Group (Austin, TX)  
Donquetta Singleton ..... Planning and Development Office, Fayette County (TN)  
Sommer Smith ..... Community Development Coordinator, City of West Memphis (AR)

The year was also full of career advancement for many of the program's alumni, including two who have taken on important leadership roles here in Memphis.

**John Zeanah** (2004), former Administrator of the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability, was appointed as Deputy Director of the Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development (DPD). John is working closely with **Ashley Cash** (2011) who was hired as the Administrator of DPD's *new* Office of Comprehensive Planning. Together they are directing *Memphis 3.0* – Memphis' first comprehensive planning process since 1981.



Ashley Cash and John Zeanah  
\*photo credit Commercial Appeal

Other graduates advancing to leadership roles include **Emily Hunter** (2007), who was appointed as the Director of Franklin's (TN) Department of Planning and Sustainability, and **Brett Roler** (2006), who was named Vice President of Planning and Development for the Downtown Memphis Commission.



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

### 2009

After a few years as a Planner in Sarasota, FL **Patrick Napier** joined some of our fellow alumni in Nashville as Planner 2 in the Land Development Division of Metro Nashville Planning. **Andrew Trippel** made a trek to the West Coast where he is working for the City of Santa Rosa, CA.



### 2010

**Senchel Matthews** continues to advance in the field of public education transitioning from her position with Tennessee's Achievement School District to take on the role of Regional Implementation and Support Officer with RyeCatcher, an educational services software platform used to ensure student success. Following on the heels of last year's recognition from the White House as a Champion of Change, **Kyle Wagenschutz** was recruited as the Director of Local Innovation with People For Bikes, a Boulder, Colorado-based national nonprofit whose work focuses on making every kind of bike ride better.



### 2011

**Tommy Pacello** was named President of the Memphis Medical District Collaborative after developing the district's Anchor Strategy with real estate and economic consulting firm U3 Advisors. **Andrew Ray** made a leap to the southeast corner of Tennessee, taking a position as Principal Planner with the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission.



**Karen Thornton**, who had been with Mississippi River Corridor - Tennessee as the Regional Coordinator for the 1 Mississippi initiative is currently serving on the board of the Sierra Club Chickasaw Group and exploring the relationship between the environment's impact on public health through a Graduate Certificate in Population Health at the University of Memphis School of Public Health.



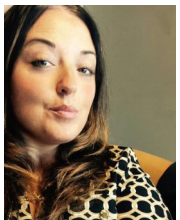
### 2012

Transitioning from the private sector, **Andrea Barbour** took a position with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) as a Special Projects Coordinator in the Office of Community Transportation, Long Range Planning Division .



### 2013

**Tracy Buckley** joined many of our other alums at the City of Memphis leaving her post as Community LIFT's Business Development Officer to take on the role of Senior Business Services Coordinator in the Office of Business Diversity & Compliance. She'll be working to increase the number of minority, women and small business enterprises with government contracts. **Gene Burse** transitioned out of the City of Memphis' Office of Planning and Development to assume the role of Planner I with the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County. **Nadia Shah** is now pursuing a PhD in Architecture in Chicago, at the Illinois Institute of Technology.



### 2014

**Robert Harper** joined fellow alum Somer Smith to fill out the team in West Memphis, AR under the direction of alum Paul Luker (1995). **Bridgett McCall**, former Associate Land Planner at Solomito Land Planning, moved in to a position with Bike Walk Memphis as the Program Coordinator.

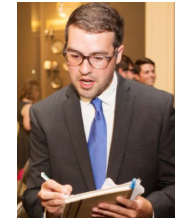


### 2015

**Travis Allen** relocated to Maryland, taking as position as Comprehensive Planner in the Washington County Department of Planning and Zoning. **Robert Baxter** is a Planner/Project



Manager in Oxford, MS with Slaughter and Associates and is helping to support the firm's work with his skills in GIS mapping and analysis. **Debbi LaRue** relocated to the San Francisco Bay area and while starting off as a consulting grant writer for County of Marin, secured a LEED Green Associate Planner position. While still at TDOT in Nashville, **Ian Preston** transitioned from a NEPA Planner to GIS Analyst. **Bennett Smithhart** advanced his career with a move to Atlanta, GA to take a LEED Green Associate position with John Gallup & Associates. **Jonathan Spencer** moved from California to Pittsburg, PA to take the Transportation Modeling Data Analyst position with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission.



*\*photo credits LinkedIn and Facebook profile pics and The Tennessean*

## Tennessee Planning Tour!

The 2016 TAPA Conference schedule unfortunately conflicted with our academic calendar. Because we were unable to send a student delegation to the annual state conference, the department, in partnership with the Planning Student Organization, organized a Tennessee Planning Tour as an opportunity for students to engage in important networking and learning activities.

The “planning tour” kicked off with a reception at the University of Memphis campus where local alumni and practitioners met with students and offered their Memphis perspective on planning policies and practices. Following the local reception, fifteen students piled into a van with the department Chair, sacrificing part of their winter break, and headed out across the state to visit three Tennessee cities (Nashville, Chattanooga, and Knoxville) in three days. Students met with planners and policymakers to discuss planning trends and responses to issues facing mid-sized cities in Tennessee. Planning visits across Tennessee included stops at the following agencies and organizations.

In Nashville, we connected with alumni Andrea Barbour, Ian Preston, Katie McKeel and talked about transportation planning with several members of TDOT's Long Range Planning Division. We also chatted with Gary Gaston at the Nashville Civic Design Center about the built environment and public health, and learned from alumna Lisa Milligan about NashvilleNext and some unique design review practices employed by Nashville's Metro Planning Department. Our Nashville day concluded with pizza and beer hosted by the local chapter of Young Professional's in Transportation.

After leaving Nashville, we headed to Chattanooga to visit with friend Teal Tibauld at Glass House – a neighborhood collective dedicated to bringing life back to the Glass Street neighborhood through grassroots community development and creativity. After a brief visit with Ann Coulter and Roy Wroth at the offices of the Chattanooga Design Studio, we met up with Karen Hundt from the Chattanooga-Hamilton Regional Planning Agency to tour sections of the Chattanooga Riverwalk. Our final planning stop in Chattanooga was at



*Cumberland River Greenway, Nashville, TN  
\*photo credit M. Hooshyar*



*Nashville Civic Design Center  
\*photo credit M. Hooshyar*

Outdoor Chattanooga, where we discussed park planning with Lori Goerlich, the City's Director of Open Space, and Noel Durant with The Trust for Public Land. To cap off the day, alumnus Tim Moreland, Chattanooga's Director of Performance Management and Open Data, joined us for dinner and drinks – and witnessed our humbling pub trivia performance.

Our final leg of the trip took us to Knoxville, where we were treated to a tour of the redeveloping South Waterfront with Dawn Michelle Foster, Deputy Director of Redevelopment, as well as walking tour of two Knoxville historic districts led by Kaye Graybeal, Historic Preservation Planner, and UofM graduate student Trey McCarter.

Here are some reflections from the students who participated in the Tennessee Planning Tour:



Glass House Collective, Chattanooga, TN  
\*photo credit M. Hooshyar

On valuable things learned ...

*"It was great and really interesting to see the wide range of professions and interests that planning can take you to." - J. McNeil*

*"The Transect can be a useful tool for land use policies and regulations that allow for appropriate development." - B. Crooks*

*"This tour taught me that no matter what company you work for the work that you do and what you will get out of it depends on the effort you put into it." - J. B. Mason*

*"There is a lot of very important planning work being done all across Tennessee from massive transportation projects to small scale neighborhood initiatives." - B. Carson*

On what impressed them most about the practitioners they met ...

*"A lot of them have gotten the opportunity to try different things before they landed in the position they now hold." - J. McNeil*

*"Each of the practitioners appeared very engaged with their work. You could tell that they are passionate about planning and advancing the field for the better within their more specific interest." - B. Crooks*

*"I loved that each practitioner expressed a commitment to serving their audience by making sure all voices and concerns are heard." - J. B. Mason*



Reviewing planning documents at Glass House  
\*photo credit M. Hooshyar



*"They were very passionate about their work. As a planning student, that was inspiring to see."* - B. Carson

Bonus quips ...

*"Riverfront development and form-based codes are all the rage with planners now-a-days."* - B. Crooks

*"I really enjoyed the opportunity to step foot in different worlds of planning. It was great to be able to see and communicate with the public sector, private sector, and grassroots firms."* - J. B. Mason

*"Just want to clarify that our group got third place in trivia and came away with a whopping \$10 gift card!"* - J. McNeil



Victorian home in Edge Park Historic District, Knoxville  
\*photo credit B. Crooks



Strong Alley (near 400 block of Gay St.), Knoxville  
\*photo credit B. Crooks

## 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.

### Klondike - Smokey City

In 2016 Drs. Antonio Raciti and Laura Saija continued to build the department's partnership with the Klondike and Smokey City neighborhood(s) of North Memphis. Their seminar and studio courses focused on the task of developing a thorough ecological analysis of the historic neighborhood to create a prescriptive guide to enhancing the overall quality of life through ecological interventions.

The continuation of this community partnership will see the development of an economic development plan. The collaborative efforts will also focus on identifying funding opportunities to implement the addition of neighborhood amenities such as parks and improved housing, and strengthen existing amenities such as community gardens. A renewed focus on urban gardens could see the development of concepts such as an indoor farm and a cooking school. These neighborhoods, and our partnership, were recently highlighted in [High Ground News](#).



Faculty facilitate a visioning exercise in Klondike - Smokey City  
\*photo credit J. Mondie

## Memphis 3.0

City and Regional Planning faculty and students are joining with alums and fellow community leaders and practitioners in contributing to the Memphis 3.0 comprehensive planning process. Dr. Charlie Santo is serving as co-chair of the Transit and Demand Management working group and Dr. Antonio Raciti is co-chairing the Design, Art and Preservation group. There are fourteen total working groups under the four pillars of Connectivity, Sustainability, Livability, and Opportunity. Thirteen of our current students are participating in the development of the plan by serving as working group members, giving them the opportunity to learn more about planning in Memphis and make important connections with professionals.

### University of Memphis Design Collaborative (UMDC)

The launch of the UMDC in 2015, as an interdisciplinary research and outreach center formed in partnership with the Department of Architecture, has increased our capacity for meaningful community engagement. Under the direction of Andy Kitsinger, the UMDC has been busy strengthening strategic, collaborative partnerships with a continued focus on **mobility** and **public health**.

The Spring 2016 UMDC Studio centered on *Building Healthy Communities*, with a focus on design and public health. Developing a case study of the developing Crosstown area of Memphis, the work looked to improve the built environment's effect on public health by addressing environmental quality, natural systems, physical activity, safety, and social connectivity through walking. Through community input, data collection, research, and public events/exhibits, the Studio addressed the critical role walkability has on quality of life and how related improvements can lead to better overall health outcomes.

The Fall 2016 UMDC Studio established a partnership with the Memphis Medical District Collaborative (MMDC) and the Memphis College of Art (MCA) focused on the theme of *Placemaking: Enhancing Public Space Through Short-Term Design Interventions*. This design-build project included community input, design solutions and a community build of the improvements for a triangular public green space located in the Medical District at the intersection of Madison Avenue and Orleans St. The initiative also included the development of a connectivity plan that will strengthen pedestrian-bike (& transit) connections between this green space and three adjacent parks in the area including: Medical Research Park, Victorian Village Park, and Morris Park.

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



Edge Triangle design build - sign installation  
\*photo credit UMDC



Spring 2016 Healthy Places Summit  
\*photo credit UMDC

## Understanding Planning, Collective Memory, and Activism in Overton Park

Dr. Susan Roakes has started a new community research endeavor to explore the foundations and motivations of citizen activism regarding the Greensward in Overton Park. Her qualitative research uses the concept of collective memory as a motivator for grassroots activism.



Memphis Zoo overflow parking on historic Greensward of Overton Park, Memphis  
\*photo credit Save the Greensward

## West Memphis Eco-Park/ Delta Regional River Park

In 2014 and 2015, Dr. Antonio Raciti and students developed the concept for a West Memphis Eco-Park to be developed at the terminus of the Big River Crossing. This work was supported by a grant from the Memphis-Shelby Office of Sustainability and was completed in partnership with the City of West Memphis. With the completion of Big River Crossing (a bike and pedestrian crossing of the Mississippi River along the old Harahan rail bridge) in October, the Big River Crossing Strategic Initiative has now shifted their focus to the development of the Eco-Park concept. Now being called [the Delta Regional River Park](#), construction began on an initial phase of the master plan, which includes a 5-mile looping trail traversing much of the floodplain between the Harahan and DeSoto bridges. Portions of the trail network will skirt Dacus Lake and the riverbank across from Downtown Memphis.



Studio site visit to West Memphis, Arkansas  
\*photo credit A. Raciti

## International Connections

First launched in 2012, the Community Planning and Environmental Design (CoPED) Summer School continues to pursue economic and community development projects contained in the Simeto River Agreement that was formalized in May of 2015. Each year, participant researchers collect and analyze primary and secondary data focused on economic and community development challenges/opportunities identified by the Simeto River communities and organizations. The primary research focus for summer 2016 was to develop an adaptive reuse plan for the long-abandoned historic San Marco Station and Orange Rail Line.

Expanding its institutional collaboration, the program initiated a partnership with the Graduate Program in Urban Planning and Community Development at the University of Massachusetts-Boston and released a call for participants through the Association of European Schools of Planning Young Academics Network. The CoPED research team used a mixed methods design incorporating a variety of data collection methods including literature and best practice research, field trips and study tours, community asset mapping, local interviews, and a day-long Open House at the San Marco Station.



Transformation of the San Marco station  
\*photo credit SUDS

The Open House was attended by a wide variety of local resident groups and civic organizations that were given the opportunity to participate in interactive research activities that drew upon the preliminary results of the program's research activities. Over 200 participants shared their memories of the station, provided "Mayor for a Day" input, voted on favorite reuse concepts, and participated in guided tours along the old rail line.

The 10-day field experience culminated in a Community Forum attended by the Mayor of Paternò where the research team presented an overall development goal, specific revitalization objectives and four signature improvement projects.

The program produced a bilingual report with prescriptions on how to activate the station and its surroundings. The rehabilitation of the San Marco historic station is being undertaken through a partnership between the city of Paternò and Simeto United Stations (SUDS), a grassroots association aiming for the revitalization of historic stations as a key strategy for implementing the Simeto river agreement. Read the full report on the [2016 CoPED Summer Abroad](#).



below CoPED - Community Forum, study tour to local agricultural production facility and community asset mapping  
\*photo credit A. Raciti

above The Reactivation of the Motto-Regalbuto Railway  
\*photo credit SUDS



## Faculty Scholarship and Shared Research Highlights

Throughout 2016, 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.

### Reza Banai, Professor

Dr. Reza Banai published "Retail Center Viability and Urban Form: A Micro Analysis" in the *International Review of Retail, Distribution and Consumer Research*. This publication was coauthored with Anzhelika Antipova, Assistant Professor in the University of Memphis Department of Earth Sciences. Reza authored "The Aerotropolis: Urban Sustainability Perspectives from the Regional City," which is forthcoming in the *Journal of Transport and Land Use*. Reza represented our Department at the 56th Annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference in Portland, OR, presenting "Is Neighborhood Walkability Good for Retail Business? A Factorial Analysis of Urban Form."

Reza was also awarded a University of Memphis Faculty Research Grant as co-principal investigator with Youngsang Kwon, University of Memphis Department of Earth Sciences, in a research project titled "Mapping the Morphology of Urban Sprawl: A Pilot Study of The Memphis Metropolitan Region." Reza and Youngsan also won a grant from the FedEx Institute of Technology's Smart City Research Cluster for their project "A Planning Support System for Comprehensive Planning and Zoning: A Geospatial Simulation Model of Land Use, Land Cover Change for the Memphis Metropolitan Region."

### Andy Kitsinger, Interim Director UMDC

Under the direction of Andy Kitsinger, the UMDC created and began implementing the "Memphis Walks" initiative in partnership with, the UofM School of Public Health, the Church Health Center, Shelby Co. Health Dept. & Office of Sustainability, Crosstown Arts, and Livable Memphis. The Collaborative hosted a public open house on "Envisioning Healthy Communities," in Crosstown and created an exhibit representing research of successful case-studies of healthy community initiatives that was displayed in the Department of Architecture Gallery. As part of the Building Healthy Communities initiative, the UMDC hosted the



Healthy Places Summit in partnership with Memphis Walks Partners, Innovate Memphis, the Nashville Civic Design Center (NCDC), and Memphis Tilt. Through community conversation, the Summit identified and defined design and policy interventions focusing on how improved walkability in the built environment and active transportation can support overall health and quality of life.

Mr. Kitsinger participated in the annual AIA Design & Health Research Consortium membership gathering in Alexandria, VA where he gained the opportunity to engage with projects and work being undertaken by the various member schools. The consortium serves as an arena for institutional support and presents potential funding and capacity building opportunities. The UMDC's paper and presentation on "Transdisciplinary Collaboration Through Memphis Walks" was published and presented at the 2016 Building for Health & Well-Being Conference, an inaugural joint Architecture (ACSA)/(ASPPH) Public Health Conference.

A new partnership with the Nashville Civic Design Center (NCDC) provided an opportunity for the UMDC to assist on a Health Impact Project for Madison County, TN that was funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Pew Charitable Trust. The UMDC also received funding from Neighborhood Preservation Inc. (NPI) and the Blight Authority of Memphis (BAM) to plan and develop a blight remediation strategy for the City of Memphis' Blight Elimination Program.

### Antonio Raciti, Assistant Professor

Dr. Antonio Raciti was invited to contribute to the *Journal of Urban Management's* special issues on "Ecological Wisdom Inspired Practice Research for Building Resilient Communities in Socio-Ecological Systems." His contribution, titled, "The Action Research Paradigm meets the Ecological Thought in the Simeto River Valley (Sicily)," is coauthored by Dr. Laura Saija. Antonio also received an invitation to participate at the 16th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference in St. Louis, MO and joined Dr. Banai in representing the department at the ACSP Conference in Portland. He received the Fall 2016 College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Travel Enrichment Award to present, "Getting the Neighborhood Back: The KSC/CRP Community University Partnership in Memphis, TN," and was asked to prepare a report on the conference by the editor of *Town Planning Review*.



**Laura Saija**, *Assistant Professor*

Dr. Laura Saija has been a major contributor to the forthcoming book, *Encounters in Planning Thought: 16 Autobiographical Essays from Key Thinkers in Spatial Planning*. With contributors such as Peter Marcuse and Patsy Healy, the book is touted as crucial reading for those interested in spatial planning. Her own book action research, *La ricerca-azione in pianificazione territoriale e urbanistica*, was published in 2016 and contains a chapter coauthored by Antonio Raciti on the research they completed on the Foote Homes public housing project in Memphis.



Laura also published, “Learning from practice: environmental and community mapping as participatory action research in planning,” in *Planning Theory and Practice* and “Ricerca-Azione: Il Patto di Fiume Simeto, tre anime e gli anticorpi” in *Sentieri Urbani*.

**Charlie Santo**, *Chair and Associate Professor*

Dr. Charlie Santo continued his research focus on culture and community development, contributing the chapter “Orchestrating Community Change through Music and Heritage: Soulsville USA,” to the *Handbook of Research on the Facilitation of Civic Engagement through Community Art*. He also developed new research related to transportation and equity in Memphis. This research includes the contribution “Transportation, Urban Form, and Social Justice in Memphis,” in [\*Race, Class, and Social Justice in Memphis: A Call to Bridge the Great Divide\*](#), the annual policy brief of the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change.



Charlie also published, “The Technology Highway,” in *Inside Memphis Business*. His chapter on urban school funding and equity issues, “Urban-Suburban Disparity and Fiscal Tension in the Schools,” will appear in the book *The Dynamics of School District Consolidation: Race, Economics & the Politics of Educational Change* in 2017. Currently in revision, look for the forthcoming, “Creativity, Music, and Community Development: Reflections on a University-Community Partnership,” in the *Journal of Planning Education and Research*.

Charlie is principal investigator on a grant by the FedEx Institute of Technology’s DRONES Research Cluster for a project titled, “Considering the Potential Impact of Autonomous Vehicles on Transportation Planning and

Equity in Memphis.” This research will culminate with the Tennessee Autonomous Vehicles Expo and Summit, co-hosted by the Tennessee Department of Transportation, FedEx Institute of Technology, and the Department of City and Regional Planning. Dr Santo is also serving as Co-chair of the FedEx Institute’s Smart City Research Cluster.



Autonomous vehicle testing in Pittsburgh, PA  
\*photo credit Wall Street Journal

**Simone Tulumello**, *Visiting Fulbright Scholar, January - June 2016*

Dr. Simone Tulumello, post-doc research fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal joined us for part of 2016 as a visiting Fulbright scholar. His work program focused on comparative research in urban security and planning. During his time in Memphis, Simone contributed to [\*Race, Class, and Social Justice in Memphis: A Call to Bridge the Great Divide\*](#), the annual policy brief of the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change. Other publications during this period include his book *Fear, Space and Urban Planning. A critical perspective from Southern Europe*, the articles “Toward a critical understanding of urban security within the institutional practice of urban planning: The case of the Lisbon Metropolitan Area” in the *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, and “Multi-level Territorial Governance and Cohesion Policy. Structural Funds and the Timing of Development in Palermo and the Italian Mezzogiorno” in the *European Journal of Spatial Development*. He also presented the papers “Neoliberalisation, austerity and the ‘end of policy’: Governing crime in Memphis through data, community, grants and the security apparatus,” at the People Place Policy conference and “Urban safety and the end of policy: Governing Memphis through data, grants, ‘community’ and the security apparatus,” at *Cities, Crime and Disorder: A Dialogue between Urban Studies and Criminology*, both in Sheffield, UK. We look forward to following the progress of Simone’s research comparing Lisbon (Portugal) and Memphis’ (US) urban security/safety policy-making.



## Awards and Accolades

**Dr. Charlie Santo** received the 2016 Alumni Association Distinguished Research Award for Excellence in Engaged Scholarship. The award recognized Dr. Santo for his long-standing collaboration with Memphis communities and his contributions to promoting engaged scholarship at the UofM. These sustained partnerships have contributed to neighborhood improvement, catalyzed local policy change and fostered a culture of reciprocal community-university partnerships.

Charlie was also appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*.

The 2016 AICP/APA Outstanding Planning Student Award was issued to **Travis Allen** in recognition of his demonstrated intellectual curiosity and excellence in the classroom and his contributions to community development practice.

The 2016 City and Regional Planning Community Service Award went to **Emily Corban** in recognition of her excellence in the classroom and demonstrated leadership among her peers through service to the Planning Student Organization.

## What's Ahead?

Looking ahead, we will continue to build on our strengths in community engagement and on our international connections as we pursue opportunities to grow our graduate program.

We are also continuing to build stronger connections to undergraduate students at the University of Memphis, building more opportunities for the University to engage with the Memphis community and exposing students to disciplines and careers that focus on understanding and addressing urban challenges through collaborative, innovative, and engaged approaches. In addition to hosting an undergraduate concentration in Urban Studies, offered through University College, next Fall we will be developing a Freshman Learning Community. Learning Communities are built on a set of courses centered around a common theme in which a set cohort of students participate together. Ours will be anchored by an undergraduate honors forum called “Rep Your City,” that will focus on understanding cities, with a particular emphasis on Memphis, and how to make Memphis better. The broader learning community will focus on *stories* – both stories *about* cities (including literature, music, film) that reflect the urban condition, as well as *storytelling* as a means for community members to express their perspectives and share their knowledge.

Finally, we have made significant progress on the development of a PhD program in Urban Affairs. The program was developed by an interdisciplinary team representing the four departments in the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy (City and Regional Planning, Social Work, Public and Nonprofit Administration, and Criminology and Criminal Justice) and three social science departments outside of SUAPP (Political Science, Anthropology, and Sociology). The Ph.D. in Urban Affairs will be an interdisciplinary degree, focused on **urban problem-solving** with a **community-engaged** approach.

As always, we'll continue to strive to Make Cities Great!

## 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  
Memphis, TN 3815

\*be sure to indicate in the Memo line that the donation is to  
Fund 20729, City and Regional Planning

## 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](mailto: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>

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## Faculty and Staff

Charles A. Santo, Associate Professor and Chair  
Reza Banai, Professor  
Andy Kitsinger, Director, UMDC  
Antonio Raciti, Assistant Professor  
Susan L. Roakes, Associate Professor  
Laura Saija, Assistant Professor  
Jessica A. Buttermore, Administrative Associate  
Vickie Peters, Business Officer, School of Urban Affair and Public Policy