

CAUSES Faculty and Research Staff Profiles



Dr. Susan Schaefer Kliman, AIA, is the Chair of the Department of Architecture and Urban Sustainability and Director of the University's Architecture and Community Planning Program. Dr. Kliman is leading the department's NAAB accreditation efforts and oversees the academic programs associated with the graduate and undergraduate programs in Architecture and Community Planning. Dr. Kliman and collaborates closely with the Architectural Research Institute to ensure the successful implementation of UDC's strategic objectives in experiential and active learning. She is an experienced architect, educator and firm principal, with over 25 years industry experience, including more than 20 years as firm principal, overseeing firm financial operations, strategic planning, marketing, personnel, and managing complex architectural projects. She has taught a variety of courses, including design studio, professional ethics and practice, construction systems and internship, at both UDC and the University of Arizona. Her expertise includes sustainability and high performance architecture, urban heat island effect, quantitative methods/analysis and research methodologies. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Arizona.



Dr. Dwane Jones is the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development. He is a researcher and teaches courses in Urban Sustainability, Urban Design, Urban Planning Public Policy and Health, Research and Ethics and Low Impact Development. Dr. Jones is nationally recognized as an expert in Low Impact Development. His research interests include complete streets, active transportation, public health, and social interaction in public spaces. He has taught and conducted research in the areas of water quality management, urban planning and design, low impact development, conservation design, and urban sustainability. Dr. Jones received his Ph.D. in Urban Design from North Carolina State University.



Dr. Elgloria Harrison is the Associate Dean of CAUSES. Dr. Harrison is responsible for promoting climate change research initiatives within CAUSES. Currently, Dr. Harrison supports the coordination of the CAUSES academic programs. Dr. Harrison is the former chair of the District of Columbia Board of Respiratory Care which oversees the practice of Respiratory Therapists in the District of Columbia. She was a Research Infrastructure in Minority Institution Scholar under Dr. Connie M. Webster in 2006 where she was the subject matter expert on two asthma research grants. Dr. Harrison teaches the Frontier Capstone Courses in the Interdisciplinary General Education curriculum with a focus on urban sustainability. She received a Doctor of Management degree from the University of Maryland, University College. Dr. Harrison is a Registered Respiratory Therapist.

Ph.D. in Urban Leadership and Entrepreneurship



Dr. Matthew Richardson is the Assistant Director of Urban Agriculture Research and Coordinator of the Professional Science Masters in Urban Agriculture at UDC. His research interests include improving urban agricultural production systems, identifying high-value crops that are adapted to urban heat islands, quantifying differences in a crop's nutrients across different production systems, and understanding human knowledge about natural resources, climate change, food production, and nutrition and the effectiveness of interventions.



Dr. Tia Jeffery is a registered dietitian/nutritionist and the Project Specialist for Nutrition and Wellness in the Center for Nutrition, Diet, and Health. In addition, she teaches in the Nutrition and Dietetics program. Her research interests include nutrition/physical activity-based interventions and social determinants to address the health disparities of chronic diseases, community-based health promotion, and sports nutrition.



Dr. Kamran Zendehdel is the Assistant Director of the Center for Sustainable Development. His research interests emphasize the application of community-based decision making in environmental sustainability. Prior to joining to UDC, he served as an Environmental Scientist at Tetra Tech Inc. in Fairfax, Virginia, where he managed the Chesapeake Bay non-point source pollution control project. As a Post-Doc Researcher at Social Science Research Unit in Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research in Merilbeke, Belgium, he focused on developing participatory decision making models for land use planners. He obtained his Ph.D. in Environmental Policy Making from Ghent University, Belgium. Prior to his Ph.D. study, he served as an expert in natural resources conservation for seven years in Iran. He received the Excellence award for Ph.D. in program evaluation and the Best Expert of the year 2000 from the Ministry of Agriculture, Iran.