Program Faculty & Staff

The Counseling Psychology faculty consists of 11 individuals who all are engaged in various aspects and functions of the program; however, not all are involved in the advising of doctoral students and their research. Below find a list of the faculty, their research interests, and contact information.

Barber, Carolyn  not accepting students in 2016 barberce@umkc.edu
Office: Education Suite 223 Phone: 816-235-6151
Associate Professor. Ph.D., University of Maryland-College Park.
**Interests:** Secondary schools as a context for social and psychological development among adolescents. Specific areas of interest include the development of gifted and talented students and civic development of all adolescents. I use multilevel and complex sample quantitative methodologies to address these interests using large-scale survey data.

**Research Teams:**
- Social contexts of academic giftedness and advanced course-taking: We examine social perceptions and friendship networks of students who take advanced courses in high school and/or who could be labeled as academically gifted
- Development of civic engagement in educational context: We examine how formal and informal educational contexts serve to shape young people’s social justice attitudes and community participation
- Kansas City Area Educational Research Consortium: In collaboration with Dr. Tamera Murdock (UMKC Psychology Department), we engage in a variety of projects focusing on how young people in the Kansas City metropolitan area successfully transition to postsecondary education.

Berkel, LaVerne  Accepting one student for fall 2016 berkell@umkc.edu
Office: Education Suite 347 Phone: 816-235-2444
Interim Associate Dean and Associate Professor. Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University.
**Interests:** Multicultural issues, particularly religion and spirituality; also African American health, particularly factors that contribute to health promoting verses health-defeating behaviors among African Americans.

**Research Team:**
- Investigating religious and spiritual issues in counseling.

Brown, Chris  Accepting one student for fall 2016 brownchr@umkc.edu
Office: Education Suite 327 Phone: 816-235-2260
Interim Dean and Professor. Ph.D., University of Missouri-Kansas City.
**Interests:** Cultural dimensions of career development, domestic violence, sport psychology and ethical issues.

**Research Teams:**
- One research team is looking at transgender issues
- Another team is investigating battered women’s money beliefs and motivational orientations
- My third team is a qualitative examination of how experienced psychotherapists who self-identity as eclectic, integrative, or assimilative use their theory in counseling.
**Langrehr, Kimberly**  **Accepting one student for fall 2016**  
langrehrk@umkc.edu  
Office: Education Suite 220  
Phone: 816-235-2487  
Assistant Professor. Ph.D., Loyola University.  
**Interests:** Multicultural issues: Developing critical awareness, racial socialization, multicultural training issues, and international transracial adoption issues across the life-span.

**Marszalek, Jacob**  **Accepting one student for fall 2016**  
marszalekj@umkc.edu  
Office: Education Suite 223  
Phone: 816-235-2683  
Associate Professor. Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.  
**Interests:** Motivational theories in psychology and education (e.g., flow, anxiety, and reactance), psychometrics, research design and statistics, gender and minority differences in test performance, evaluation of institutional/educational programs for minority outreach and support.  
**Research Teams:**  
• I have a new research group focusing on flow, motivation, and positive psychology  
• I have a small group focused on unconscious bias in mental health and education  
• I am partnering with Carolyn Barber and Tamera Murdock on the Add-Health Research team. We are investigating education and counseling psychology topics using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. This splinters off into smaller projects depending on faculty research interests (e.g., looking at long-term volunteerism or experiences of academically gifted students, looking at sexual risk behaviors, et cetera).

**Murdock, Nancy L.**  **Accepting one student for fall 2016**  
murdockn@umkc.edu  
Office: Education Suite 215  
Phone: 816-235-2495  
Professor and Division Chair. Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University.  
**Interests:** Family systems theory, social psychological/interpersonal approaches to counseling process, and professional issues.  
**Research Teams:**  
• Current projects include explorations of differentiation of self from the family of origin such as the relations between differentiation of self and countertransference, working alliance, or cultural variables  
• We have also investigated triangulation, infidelity and eating disordered behavior  
• In the area of professional issues, projects have focused on counselor theoretical orientation, eclecticism, and sense of community in counseling psychology programs

**Nilsson, Johanna**  **Accepting one student for fall 2016**  
nilssonj@umkc.edu  
Office: Education Suite 223  
Phone: 816-235-2484  
Professor and Director of Training. Ph.D., Western Michigan University.  
**Interests:** International issues and populations (e.g., international students, refugees, and immigrants), supervision, and social justice advocacy.  
**Research Teams:**  
• Refugee and mental health  
• A study on international students’ experiences

**Watson, Laurel**  **Accepting one student for fall 2016**  
watsonlb@umkc.edu  
Office: Education Suite 219  
Phone: 816-235-2489
Assistant Professor. Ph.D., Georgia State University.

Interest: Women's/gender-related themes, social justice/multiculturalism, and trauma, broadly. More specifically, I am interested in examining the influence of sexual objectification experiences upon persons' mental and physical health, interpersonal violence, body image and disordered eating, feminist identity development, LGBTQIQ-related themes, race/ethnicity, experiences of discrimination, and social justice/advocacy.

Research Teams:
- A study of lesbian women's body image and disordered eating, examining the moderating effects of feminist identity
- A qualitative study of women's experiences with anger
- A study investigating the impact of sexual minority male's sexual objectification experiences and friendships
- A study investigating anti-fat attitudes on sexual assault victim blame
- A study examining African American women's sexual self-efficacy

Woodard, Debra  
woodardd@umkc.edu  
Office: Education Suite 215  
Phone: 816-235-6368

Associate Teaching Professor.

Interest: School counselor preparation and the development of professional leadership. The role of the school counselor in small, professional learning communities. The elimination of barriers to student success, especially in urban settings. The relationship of school counseling to the learning and leadership potential of all students. Cultural and multicultural issues and the celebration of diversity. Social advocacy. Ms. Woodard does not serve as an advisor for PhD students.