Welcome to Spring Semester 2015!

It is my pleasure to welcome both new and returning students to the new academic semester. I hope you had a restful holiday break and now find your classes are going well and that you are learning lots of new things.

As you know, in fall semester 2014, Dr. Chris Brown moved from the CEP chair position to the Interim Deanship of the School of Education. We are very proud that Dr. Brown was chosen for this very demanding job. As a result, I am serving as Acting Chair of the Division until September 1, when Dr. Brown will return to the position of Chair. We hope to welcome a new Dean to the SoE in July of 2015.

As Acting Chair, I am aware of lots of great things that are going on in our division but don’t want to steal anyone’s thunder, so will simply encourage you to read on to find out. On a personal note, I will tell you that I am working on the 4th edition of the *Theories* book, a milestone I thought I would never reach.

The faculty continue to work on improving our programs, although you will see from other reports in this newsletter that our outcome data are pretty shiny! We continue to keep things up to date by attending national and international conferences and staying on top of the latest research and training literature.

We thank you for choosing UMKC for your studies. Please feel free to stop by to see me any time, and particularly, to forward any suggestions or comments you have about your programs.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Murdock, Ph.D.
Acting Chair
Greetings!

Life is as hectic and full as always in the Counseling Psychology program! The office is buzzing with seven new doctoral students that joined our program this fall. They are from all over the country, and Wen Wen Chong joined us all the way from Malaysia. The other new students include Jenna Brownfield, Mirella Flores, Sydney Morgan, Rebekah Lee, Marina Khan, and Amanda McLarty. Welcome! We are excited that you chose to join our program.

Several students left us, nine students (Leia Charnin, Chris Davids, Tricia Hager, Suzanne Heflin, Genevieve Maliszewski, Larissa Seay, Marti Trummer, Sonya Virdi, and Jillian Wasson) went on internship, placed at fabulous sites, including University of Houston, Texas A&M University, Montana State University, University of Delaware, University of Utah, UMKC, University of Kansas Medical Center, Children’s Mercy Hospital and Truman Medical Center. We miss you and hope you are having a great year!

Several students also graduated, Chris Black, Tracey Dashjian, Sachiko Ogata, Brandy Peoples, Amy Poindexter, and Danyele Shelton. CONGRATULATIONS! We wish you all the best as you start your careers and move on with your lives. Many other exciting events took place this year in the lives of our students. For example, Young Song got married, Sachiko Ogata had her first child, and Dominick Scalise moved back from Maryland to Kansas City accepting an Assistant Professor position at Avila University. Graduates—please remain in touch with us. We love hearing from you!

Last, our students are an active group. Many traveled to APA in Washington, D.C., this past August to present their research. Several students also published, see pages 16-19 for students’ presentations and publications. Some secured funding for their studies, presentations, and research. Michelle Farrell and Alex Ross were highlighted on the UMKC News-web for their impressive commitment to developing and running UMKC’s Trans Social Group for students. As a trainees and counseling psychologists, there are so many different ways we can impact the community and world around us. I continue to be in awe of our students’ commitment to diversity and social justice both in their scholarship and practice.

Best Wishes to All!

Johanna Nilsson, PhD.
Director of Training, Counseling Psychology
This is the first year that we will be implementing the new program requirements, designed to add rigor to our program. As a reminder, rather than 20 credits, students will need to take a minimum of 26 credits to earn their degree. This change is more consistent with other EdS programs nationally. The change will not affect students who are currently enrolled, but will affect new applicants to our program. We are excited about this important change, because we believe that it provides the best fit between what students are looking for in their careers and what we are best suited to offer.

As part of this curriculum change, we are also making available to our EdS students in the general mental health option a new course that examines the roles of counselors as consultants in community agencies: CPCE 5590 Prevention, Consultation, and Program Evaluation in Community Settings. This new course provides an overview of mental health consultation and collaboration in community settings. Models and theories of consultation and considerations for ethical practice in diverse settings are reviewed. The course also introduces prevention and program development and evaluation as roles for professional counselors. As part of the course, students will review the history of prevention and develop a prevention program for a population of interest. We are very excited about this new course because it provides our students with opportunities to explore another exciting area in the field of counseling.

Each year, we highlight data collected from students from our key assessments. Although our numbers are relatively low each year, data have shown that EdS students continue to meet standards in a variety of areas in their program. For example, this year, we examined data from the final semester of practicum for general mental health students. On a 5-point scale, scores averaged 4.67 or above in the areas of personality characteristics, intellectual and interpersonal skills, professional development and professional conduct, supervisory relationship, and multicultural competence. Other areas assessed were counseling skills, consultation skills, and science–practice integration, where scores averaged 4.33 overall.

Although we are excited by these available data, we recognize the need to improve in several areas, most notably in the area of increasing response rates for our exit, alumni, and employer surveys, which are designed to provide additional information about student perceptions of their experiences in the EdS program in counseling. The program faculty, along with the assessment committee, are exploring ways to do this. In the meantime, we welcome your input, feedback, and questions. You may address them to me at BerkelL@umkc.edu. If you are interested in serving as a student representative for the EdS program at faculty meetings, please let me know. We welcome your participation.
Hello Everyone:

Here are a few items of interest about the MA program in the past year. As always, the faculty are continuously reviewing the effectiveness of the program in many ways. In the fall of 2014, we began working to bolster student representation to the faculty as well as to look at how a student organizations can contribute to the quality of students’ experiences in our MA program. Two new student representatives have joined Ping Ying Choo: Sarah O’Keefe and David Mosher. Based on the results of our recent survey of students, this dynamic trio is working on reviving the Master’s Students in Counseling Association, and looking into presentations and events that the organization might sponsor for students and faculty. If you are interested in helping, please be sure to contact one of them.

Over 40 new students were admitted to the program this academic year if you count fall and spring admissions combined. We are pleased to see the continuing interest in our master’s program and continue to work on improving it using multiple sources of information.

One source of information is the school-wide assessment system, through which we can conduct surveys of current students and exit surveys of graduates. Our most recent data indicate that those graduating from the program rated the following content areas as the strongest: counseling theory, skills, and relationship, social and cultural diversity content, diagnostic systems, and ethics. Relative areas of weakness across alumni and current students are in human growth and development and career development. Program faculty are currently discussing ways to address these issues.

One performance indicator of interest is pass rate on the national licensing examination, the mere mention of which, we are aware, raises the anxiety levels of future counselors to be. In an effort to allay some any panic attacks, I recently asked the Missouri Committee for Professional Counselors about our pass rate on the National Counseling Exam. Here are the data for the past two years: in 2013, 18 graduates of our program took the NCE with 16 passing. In 2014, all taking the test so far (N=14) have passed. That calculates out to about a 94% pass rate, and although we’d rather see 100% every year, pass rates in the 90% range are seen as acceptable.

I’d like to remind everyone about our program’s national accreditation by the Master’s in Counseling and Accreditation Council (MPCAC). It might be of interest to you that I am a member of the subcommittee of MPCAC, the Master’s in Counseling Accreditation Council, which reviews Counseling programs. I am delighted to tell you that applications from programs to be reviewed for accreditation are being submitted at a steady rate. It is exciting to see the energy behind these accreditation efforts, which demonstrates that program quality is a value shared by many across the nation. We hope that you are experiencing the fruits of our efforts in this area, and again, thanks again for choosing UMKC.
Master’s Program Student Representatives

Yo! My name is Ping Ying Choo, an international student from Malaysia. I’m a second year student in MA Counseling and Guidance, Couples and Family emphasis. I currently work in law school as an admissions assistant. If you are interested in learning more about law in relation to your area of interest, let me know and I will try connecting you with someone from the law school. I absolutely LOVE food and I enjoy spacing out, so you’d probably catch me chowing down on something or having an emotionless face as I roam around the campus. Feel free to contact me (pcm84@mail.umkc.edu) if you have any questions and/or concerns pertaining to your experience in this program. If you are more comfortable with face-to-face interaction, let me know and we can arrange accordingly.

My name is Sarah O'Keefe and I am currently in my 2nd year of the Master’s in Counseling and Guidance Program with a Mental Health emphasis. I currently have three part time jobs on top of my full-time graduate student status! You may most commonly see me working in the Student Services/Teacher Education office on the main level of the School of Education building here at UMKC. In my spare time, I enjoy long distance running, yoga, playing with my dog Miley, going out with my friends, traveling, and just about anything outdoors! I have a true passion for the mental health field and helping people. My goals for the future include figuring out where I want to move after graduation (somewhere warmer preferably) and one day being the queen of my own private practice! If you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to e-mail me (scomb2@mail.umkc.edu).

Hi! My name is David Mosher and I am currently a second year MA student in Counseling and Guidance, Mental Health emphasis. I have tons of fun working as a graduate assistant in the Multicultural Student Affairs office and as a behavioral health technician. In my spare time, I enjoy dancing as I watch sports, playing new board games with friends, and spending time with my wonderful wife. My guilty pleasure would be catching up on the latest Walking Dead episodes on a website I’m not entirely positive is legal. My future goal is to earn my PhD in Counseling Psychology in order to become a quirky professor at a university. If you have any questions and/or concerns, feel free to e-mail me (dkmxb6@mail.umkc.edu).
Welcome!

What a banner year it has been! School counseling candidates are succeeding in reaching their learning outcomes and beginning on their professional journeys. They are supporting one another by coming back to speak to beginning students about what they will face in the field and how to prepare for obstacles there; how to succeed on the assignments that will lead them to full certification; and, where and how to look for school counseling positions. They are joining professional organizations, attending professional conferences, and volunteering for positions within those organizations. They are adapting to the DESE changes in certification and assessment procedures. They are in schools working to promote the use of student-centered, data-driven interventions and to create systemic change. They are marketing their skills and finding positions as professional school counselors in diverse settings where students have unmet needs. UMKC school counseling candidates are in Missouri, Kansas, and beyond making an impact on student learning.

*If you are interested in hearing more about the assessment process demonstrating student success and job placement, please visit the School Counseling link of our website later in the spring. There should be a link to results posted under Resources.* [http://education.umkc.edu/school-counseling/](http://education.umkc.edu/school-counseling/)

**American School Counselor Association Conference, 2014**

Other highlights from this incredible year include the ASCA Conference this summer. What a privilege it was to hear the First Lady speak about the Reach Higher Initiative that the White House is supporting in conjunction with ASCA! *If you would like to hear more about this event, check out this link which includes her address on the College opportunity Day of Action* [http://schoolcounselor.org/](http://schoolcounselor.org/). During her speech in July, she made all of us feel special as she recognized our importance to students across the nation. Michelle Obama’s eloquent detailing of individual school counselors and their impact focused on the work that we are all doing to support achievement and to help students believe that they can go to college and/or find the career of their dreams. The First Lady made it clear that this project would not succeed without professional school counselors who will provide essential leadership. Also included will be counselor educators in preparation programs, school district personnel, and the students themselves. *Additional details and the actual speech can be found at* [http://schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/legislative-affairs/asca-and-reach-higher](http://schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/legislative-affairs/asca-and-reach-higher). Finally, she announced that the White House will now celebrate the School Counselor of the Year in the same way that they do the Teacher of the Year. There wasn’t a dry eye in the audience, and our own leader, Dr. Norm Gysbers, was given the opportunity to have his picture taken with Mrs. Obama. His excitement about that moment was palpable and inspiring.
School Counseling Program Update Continued

That emotion continued for me as I was given the opportunity to present the following day with Drs. Lee Bunch (Missouri School Counselor Association Executive Director), Bragg Stanley (former Director of School Counseling and Guidance at DESE), and Norm Gysbers (father of the comprehensive guidance and counseling program) on the collaboration between counselor educators, MSCA, and DESE. It was the pinnacle of my school counseling career just to be on the stage with these very special people. As we waited for the audience to arrive, Dr. Gysbers said to me, “Deb, I think that this is my last ASCA conference.” I was saddened to think that an era was ending. I was astounded to think that I had been honored with the chance to work with him at his last convention. I was proud of his service to the profession as a scholarly academic, supporter of a comprehensive school counseling program and professional school counselors, and champion of student-centered results. True to his word, Dr. Gysbers has officially announced his retirement this academic year. If you would like to thank him or send memories and/or pictures, his contact information can be found below.

Dr. Norm Gysbers, Curators Distinguished Professor
University of Missouri, College of Education
201G Student Success Center
Columbia, MO
GysbersN@missouri.edu

Also retiring is Dr. Bragg Stanley. There will be a celebration of his work on January 15, 2015. You may also want to send similar items to him in care of Tom Schlimpert at DESE. As an outstanding leader of school counselors and counselor educators in Missouri, Bragg Stanley will be greatly missed.

Tom Schlimpert
for Bragg Stanley
Guidance and Counseling
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
PO Box 480
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Deb, Lee, Bragg, and Norm at the ASCA Convention
School Counseling Program Update Continued

Professional Service to UMKC

We are so grateful to those of you have supported the UMKC School Counseling Program this year! If your name does not appear below and it should, please know that your service has benefited our students in more than you can know. We appreciate all of you for all you have done.

The following UMKC school counseling current students, graduates and allies have spoken on a variety of subjects for school counseling students since the spring of 2014: Amanda Johnson, Kelsey Carpentier, Britney Waterworth, Tammy Bunch, Joni O’Neil, Becky McIntyre, Cindy Anderson, Rebeca Chow, Tiffany Castleman, Vonda Witt, Andy Schuerman, Teresa VanGoethem, Sarah Pike, Kristi DeSelms, Casey, Blakemore, Lori Streu, and Latasha Scott. We appreciate your willingness to share your expertise with our students! Many thanks as well to those who were unable to speak recently but have done so previously!

In addition, from the spring of 2014, a large number of school counselors and administrators have given of their time to serve on the school counseling advisory committee and have reviewed a number of school counseling portfolios! They include: Kathie Mahan, Joni Rost, Jill Krickbaum, Alisha Krieg, Casey Blakemore, Lynn Leonard, Tammy Bunch, Lynn Leonard, Joni Rost, Nathan Lindsay, Lori Streu, and Susan Maaks. You will recognize many of these names as graduates of the UMKC school counseling program! We couldn’t continue without all of these people. It is both a challenging and fulfilling accomplishment to be among this number. If you are interested in becoming a part of the team, please contact Deb right away at woodardd@umkc.edu. There is a quick training available for all who are new to the process.

Many current students, graduates, and supporters of UMKC attended the MSCA conference this fall. Our own Britney Waterworth is the current graduate student representative to the Missouri School Counselor Association Board. Andy Schuerman, Kim Urenda, and I all presented individually at the conference. Andy is also serving on the MSCA Board and presented on the role of the school counselor in working with LGBTQIA students; Kim presented on using technology as a school counselor; I presented on the revised ASCA National Model and the RAMP application process. Support for these workshops was strong, and everyone I met at the conference remarked that they had gained a great deal from the sessions and keynotes that they attended.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you goes out to all of the school counseling related adjuncts (Andy Schuerman, Kathie Mahan, Lori Streu, Kim Urenda, Rebeca Chow, and Casey Blakemore) and all of the many wonderful site supervisors who are helping to model exemplary school counseling practice for our students! Your dedication to supporting the development of our candidates can never be appreciated enough.
Final News and Notes: MO
The eLearning Guidance website has been updated, can be found on the DESE website, and includes even more re-sources! Take a look at the new and improved site at: http://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/guidance-counseling. You will find resources related to all components of the comprehensive guidance program, as well as invaluable career and college readiness resources!

In addition, the Missouri Comprehensive Model Guidance Program Manual has been updated. http://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/guidance-counseling/resources-and-links#Manuels

Watch for an update of the Performance-Based Professional School Counselor Evaluation based on the MoSPE Standards. You should see it soon!

The MSCA (Missouri School Counselor Association) website—another great resource! http://www.moschoolcounselor.org/

GKCSCA (Greater KC School Counselor Association)—close conference opportunities! http://gkcsc.org/

Watch for the Guidance Digest on the School Counseling Listserv. If you have missed it, the archives can be found at: http://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/guidance-counseling/guidance-digest

If you are looking for a job in Missouri: http://www.moreap.net/

KS
KSDE: http://www.ksde.org/Agency/DivisionofLearningServices/CareerStandardsandAssessmentServices/ContentAreaM-Z/SchoolCounseling.aspx

KSCA: http://www.kssca.com/ Kansas School Counselor Association
KCA: http://kscounseling.org/ Kansas Counseling Association

If you are looking for a job in Kansas: http://www.kansasteachingjobs.com/

General resources
I have been working on a LiveBinder of public resources. If you would like access to it, please contact me at woodardd@umkc.edu.
CCAS has begun another successful academic year! With 17 new counselor trainees acquiring over 450 direct client contact hours this fall semester so far, we are serving the Kansas City community’s mental health and emotional needs. Along with the general public, CCAS continues to serve students referred from Cleveland Chiropractic University, and a new relationship with the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection and PASSAGES (LGBT Youth Center) has been developed. CCAS has also partnered with the Black Health Care Coalition (BHCC) to promote and share about our services. Counselor trainees talked to people at the Whole Person LGBT health fair and Ask the Doctor health fair at Jamison Temple this fall. And we are always looking to make new connections for serving people in the community.

CCAS continues to be known in the community for our extensive and low cost assessment services. We currently have a six month waiting list of people of all ages requesting testing for learning disabilities, ADHD, and other psychological or educational difficulties. Plans are being made so that we can increase opportunities for assessment training in order to more quickly and with quality attend to the assessment needs of our clients.

The CCAS Advisory Board, a group of faculty, community members, supervisors, alumni, and students, started gathering this fall to utilize their expertise and know-how to help CCAS. The Board has been in discussion and making decisions about important issues at CCAS, like revitalizing and updating the sliding scale, forms, and procedures for counseling services, increasing communication and the use of assessment services, researching new electronic charting, and exploring funding options. We are always looking for financial backing at CCAS, and would be happy to have any support or suggestions that can be provided.

Thanks to the counselors, graduate assistants (Jenna Brownfield, Sydney Morgan, Wen Wen Chong and Amanda McLarty), and supervisors who service CCAS and help support our clients’ needs!

Julie D. Kohlhart, PhD, LPC
Director, CCAS
Greetings from the new SAS governing board! In handing over of duties to the new officers in June, former SAS members welcomed the second year cohort to assume leadership responsibilities: Jessica Ross became chair, Mindi Gowen became communications officer, Rashida Edmondson became secretary, Monica Oh became treasurer, and Alyssa Joiner became representative to the Student Government Association of SOE.

On August 18, 2014, SAS assisted with Orientation Day, welcoming the 2014-2015 (first-year) cohort to the program by providing an assorted breakfast of bagels, fruit, juice and coffee, as well as lunch from Mr. Goodcents. We also provided the first-years with an assorted goody bag of candy, coffee/tea mug, and a USB drive. Soon after commencement of the new semester, SAS organized an informal dinner and get together with Mediterranean and Greek cuisine at Alladin’s Café. It was a fun evening of socializing among students from different cohorts of the program!

The annual SAS-sponsored CEP fall picnic was a potluck event that took place at Loose Park on September 21. Students and faculty brought a wide variety of dishes and spent the afternoon enjoying the diverse spread of food and breaking the ice, courtesy of the amazing activities planned by Dr. Nilsson. SAS would like to thank all the faculty and students who were able to make it!

In an attempt to address any concerns that the new cohort may have been facing with their new life in the program and Kansas City, two SAS board members co-facilitated an informal check-in with the new cohort on November 13. This cohort has become accustomed to the Kansas City area and have grown to become a good support system for one another. Also in November, SAS hosted the annual Fall potluck, which included several amazing vegetarian dishes, fruit, desserts (lots of pies!) and of course, lively conversation to go along with a delicious meal.

In the coming months, SAS will be in charge of the social hour for prospective students, some of the activities surrounding Interview Day, and the spring picnic. Finally, SAS hopes to continue to reach out to the community by planning and facilitating volunteer opportunities for students. If you have any comments or suggestions for SAS or for SAS events, feel free to contact Jessica at JessicaLRoss@umkc.edu.
Meet the New 2014 PhD Cohort!

Jenna Brownfield

I am originally from Columbus, Ohio but moved to Memphis for my undergrad studies and then to Denver for my Master’s in Counseling Psychology. During my time in Denver, I had the wonderful opportunity to intern at the Gender Identity Center of Colorado, which shaped my passion for advocacy work related to gender and sexual identities. The emphasis on multiculturalism and advocacy drew me into the field of Counseling Psychology and has continued to keep me captivated. My current research interests focus on transgender and bisexual identities, particularly from a strengths-based perspective. For fun, I love to incorporate music into my life in a variety of ways (listening, playing guitar, dancing, karaoke, etc.) and watching hours of Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

Wen Wen Chong

Hey hey hey! My name is Wen Wen Chong. I grew up in Malaysia and went to the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas for my Bachelor’s degree in Psychology. My research interests are acculturation, adjustment and psychological well-being of immigrants, parent child relationships, and family dynamics in cross cultural contexts, as well as social and psychological development among adolescents. I am enjoying the program, the city, my cohorts and the faculty. I love reading, cooking, baking, eating, yoga, coffee, tea, and elephants.

Sydney Morgan

I received my Bachelor of Arts at Coker College in Hartsville, SC. During my undergrad, I majored in Psychology, played softball, and worked for residence life. I had wonderful professors and mentors and was able to intern at a community center targeted at working with individuals who had experienced sexual assault and domestic violence. From there, I went on to get my Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville (SIUE). At SIUE, I found myself drawn to counseling psychologists and counseling psychology research. I joined a research team focusing on African American racial socialization and resilience. After graduation, I began working at a residential treatment center for individuals with eating disorders, and taught Psychopathology at SIUE. My positive experiences with teaching and research inspired me to continue my education. At UMKC, I am advised by Dr. Kimberly Langrehr and work predominantly on research surrounding cultural socialization in transracial adoptive families. Broadly, I am interested in how white parents can help foster a positive racial identity in children of color. I’ve really enjoyed Kansas City thus far, and have been enjoying the local coffee scene. Most days you can find me studying in a coffee shop around Kansas City, and on campus you will almost always see me with coffee in hand. Outside of coffee, I enjoy cooking (mostly cauliflower), Crossfit, quilting, reading, and Netflix.
Meet the New 2014 PhD Cohort!

Hello! My name is Mirella (pronounced ME-REY-YA)...some people have trouble pronouncing it, there is something about the r and the double l's, so that is my best attempt to help people pronounce it closer to my pronunciation. For those curious about the origin of my name, it is Italian; I just pronounce it in Spanish. Breaking it down, in Spanish mire means “to look” and ella “her;” put together it literally means ”look at her.” There is your Spanish lesson for the day! I was born in Lima, Peru and lived there until I was nine years old. At that age my family immigrated to the United States, sunny Florida to be exact. I grew up in West Palm Beach, where I attended a high school of the arts and specialized in visual arts. Lets just say I am good at drawing, painting, and printmaking. I attended the University of Florida (Go Gators!) for my bachelor’s, majoring in Psychology and minoring in Anthropology. I was fortunate to be part of Dr. Bonnie Moradi’s research team, which helped foster my interest and passion for research.

The great mentorship I received was essential in helping me decide to apply to doctoral programs in Counseling Psychology. After some applying and interviewing, I was ecstatic to accept the offer for admission from UMKC. I chose this program because of the opportunity to work and learn from Dr. Laurel Watson, and its strong multicultural emphasis. My research interests (elevator speech version) include intersectionality of multiple marginalized identities, LGBQ and trans* identities, racial/ethnic marginalized identities, resilience, coping responses, objectification, sexual assault, and domestic violence. My career goals include working in academia, and down the road, work with community organizations to implement preventive programs that benefit LGBQ and trans* individuals.

The main things I do for my self-care include: CrossFit, yoga, running outdoors (when it is 40 degrees or warmer), and watching Netflix or Hulu with a cup of hot chocolate. I also love going to art events, such as First Fridays, or your traditional visits to museums. Not only do I appreciate the arts, I also enjoy creating my own by painting and drawing. In particular, I like to paint on fabric, and incorporate prints and embroidering. I also enjoy discovering new coffee shops, reading, and sleeping.

Yo what up everyone! I’m a born and raised New Yorker and Long Island girl. My parents immigrated to Brooklyn in the 70s from Lahore, Pakistan. I’m the middle of five girls and am aware of how much I embody the Middle Child Syndrome. I attended Stony Brook University for my Bachelor’s of Science in Psychology, where I concentrated in biology and computer science. I’m a sister of Sigma Delta Tau, a National Panhellenic Council sorority. Due to my passion for living a nomadic lifestyle, I decided that I was sick of the busy New York scene and moved to Texas for my Master’s in Psychology from Houston Baptist University. Needless to say, this was quite a change for me as I was in disbelief that not all cities have subway systems and that it’s actually appropriate and normal to smile and talk to strangers. However, it was the injustices among society I witnessed that stimulated my passion for social justice advocacy. My research interests include immigrants and refugees, among other underprivileged populations. My mantra is “Do What You Feel is Right.” I enjoy going to the beach, hot weather, cilantro, spontaneity, Candy Crush, speeding, dancing, Electric/Dance/House music, pictures, Stephen Colbert, laughing, LOST, and PEOPLE. I am a complete extrovert whose energy levels skyrocket around people, hence why I’m LOOKING FOR A ROOMMATE and using this as a means to spread the word!
Meet the New 2014 PhD Cohort!

Amanda McLarty

I like to keep things short, sweet and to the point. I grew up in Arkansas, and got my B.A. in Psychology at the University of Arkansas. WOO PIG SOOIE!!! I went to Indiana University, Bloomington for my Master’s in Counseling and Counselor Education, where I did my internship at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility and found my passion for public service. I absolutely fell in love with the program here at UMKC. The faculty and my cohort are outstanding and keep me going everyday. I could not have asked for a better doctorate program. P.S. That’s my dog, Diesel, and he’s my soul mate.

Rebekah Lee

I am from all over; I was born in St Louis, grew up in the U.K, moved to Miami, FL, for 10 years, and spent two years living in India before moving to Kansas City. I studied Chemistry and Marine Science as an undergrad at the University of Miami, and graduated in 2005. After college, I lived in India for two years. It was while I lived in India that I realized I wanted to pursue a degree in Counseling Psychology. When I moved to Kansas City, I obtained my Master’s in Guidance and Counseling from UMKC in 2012. While completing my Master’s, I worked as a part of the Research Compliance Office as a Compliance Officer for the IRB (Institutional Review Board). My research interests focus on the re-entry issues of incarcerated individuals, specifically career development of felons. One of the reasons I chose to attend UMKC is because of the multicultural focus and emphasis on social justice issues from an urban perspective. My long-term goal is to work in program evaluation for felons and other marginalized members of society (addicts, the homeless, etc.). In my free time, I like to, work out, run and spend time with family and friends, especially my spouse.
Congratulations Dr. Chris Brown, who has taken on the role of Interim Dean this year!

CEP Awards

Niyatee Sukumaran
Women’s Graduate Assistant Fund

Dr. Carolyn Barber
Spencer Foundation New Civics Initiative Grant

Jillian Woodford Wasson
Donald Super Fellowship from APA Division 17

Shavern Browne
Best Graduate Student Poster Award from Division 45 at the 2014 APA Conference
Scholarship from St. Kitts and Nevis Association of Houston
Scholarship from the Sandy Point Benevolent Society of St. Kitts

Jessica Ross
Phyllis Bernstein Scholarship

Mirella Flores
Helen Stevens Scholarship
CEP Publications


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Sukumaran, N., Nilsson, J. E, & Schale, C.L., (2014). *Abuse, Adult Attachment and Life Satisfaction Among Third Culture Kids (TCKs).* Accepted poster presentation to be presented at the 122nd Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.


Woodard, D.J. (2014, November). *Ramp up your school counseling program.* Four roundtable presentations delivered at the Missouri school counselor association convention. Osage Beach, MO.

Woodard, D.J. (2014, November). *The v8 engine: The revised asca national model.* Presentation delivered at the Missouri school counselor association convention. Osage Beach, MO.

Woodard, D.J. (2014, September). *Creating a positive school climate for all: Supporting LGBTQIA students and their families, teachers, and administrators.* Workshop delivered for all school counselors in the kck public schools during professional development. Kansas City, KS.

Woodard, D.J. (2013, November). *Ramp up your school counseling program.* Four roundtable presentations delivered at the Missouri school counselor association convention. Osage Beach, MO.

Woodard, D.J. (2013, November). *The v8 engine: The revised asca national model.* Presentation delivered at the Missouri school counselor association convention. Osage Beach, MO.
Our Master’s Students

Spring, 2014
School Counseling Graduates

Spring, 2014
Mental Health & Couples and Family Graduates

Summer, 2014
Mental Health & Couples and Family Graduates

December, 2014
School Counseling Graduates

December, 2014
Mental Health & Couples and Family Graduates