DIVISION CHAIR’S MESSAGE: DR. CHRIS BROWN

Greetings! I am delighted to welcome both new and returning students to the Division of Counseling and Educational Psychology (CEP). I hope your semester is off to a great start and that you are enjoying your classes. On behalf of the program faculty, I would like to extend a special thank you to all of our students for choosing UMKC School of Education to complete their graduate studies.

As you know, our MA and EdS degrees in Counseling and Guidance have undergone a name change to “Counseling” effective fall 2017. We believe the new title more accurately describes the experiences and competencies related to these degrees. Our emphases in Couples and Family, Mental Health, and School Counseling remain the same.

Our Counseling Psychology Ph.D. program is undergoing accreditation review by the American Psychological Association. I would like to thank Dr. Nilsson for her superb leadership and the CEP faculty for their excellent assistance with the timely submission of our self-study. Accreditation review is a voluntary process designed to support and recognize program quality. Our counseling psychology program has demonstrated quality via published, professionally-accepted standards since 1985, indicating that we are effectively training competent counseling psychologists.

After returning to division chair following a two-year term as interim dean, I am extremely grateful to chair a division with hardworking colleagues who are extremely committed to preparing counseling professionals and educators to work effectively in urban settings and to demonstrate skills relevant for their future careers—it is indeed a pleasure! CEP faculty and students are highly productive scholars and researchers and this year is no different. I encourage you to read about their productivity elsewhere in this newsletter. I would also like to thank Dean Justin Perry for his leadership this past semester and for his commitment to our counseling programs. Please see his feature provided elsewhere in the newsletter.

Students, I wish you a productive and exciting year in the School of Education, Division of Counseling and Educational Psychology. We are delighted you have chosen UMKC to pursue your educational goals. I look forward to seeing you around and welcome any suggestions or comments you have about our programs. Please stop by for a chat or to schedule a time to visit.
Hello again to all. I am pleased to report that our MA program is continuing its long standing track record of success in recruiting excellent students and meeting our benchmarks for effective education and training. In fall 2016, we welcomed 22 new students to the program, and we have an additional 15 joining us in spring semester, 2017. We have three wonderful student representatives to the faculty: Justine Haukebo, Susan VanDeusen, and Amanda Wilkes. We had a wonderful town hall meeting with our School of Education dean, over 20 students, and the most of the counseling faculty in October. The Masters/Ed.S. Facebook page was also established in October; in case you haven’t yet liked us, check out the link on the last page of this newsletter.

It is one thing to say our program is excellent, another to provide evidence to support such claims. You will be happy to know that we indeed have such evidence, reported in the fall to the university, the program faculty, and to students via the program student representatives. However, I like to brag about our program, so here is a concise summary of the data. We surveyed exiting students and program alumni across all program goals/objectives, collected data on student performance on three key assignments in classes, and compiled supervisor evaluations at the end of the second semester of internship. We set benchmarks of ratings of good or better among 80% of respondents for survey data and a similar goal for class assignments. The great news is that for all objectives, we achieved or surpassed the benchmark, with one exception. Among exiting students and alumni, only 57% thought that their training in assessment was good or better. However, this finding is qualified by the observation that 100% of internship supervisors rated our interns as proficient or higher in this area. Although we are very pleased with these results, program faculty devised several ways to obtain more information about students’ perceptions in the area of assessment as well as other areas of our training, partially because the number of respondents in the assessment data was very small (only 7 alumni and exiting students responded). As a result, those of you in internship classes will soon or have already experienced a visit from program faculty in an effort to gain your perceptions.

As always, we invite your feedback in multiple ways, however, so please feel free to talk to your student representatives, program faculty, or me as your program coordinator at any time. I offer my best wishes for a wonderfully successful semester!
If you think where you go to school doesn’t matter—think again. Attending UMKC for my graduate education was instrumental in getting me to where I am today. I started the program in January 2009 and graduated in May 2011. For me, UMKC was essential in making my career goals become a reality. The optimal student-to-teacher ratio helped me to feel connected and supported during school and then post-graduation this same spirit of support has continued and enabled me to further my success. I cannot begin to recall the amount of times that I reached out to previous instructors, professors, and administrators with questions or for help and was readily responded to with care and expertise. I have not been forgotten, nor have I forgotten them.

After graduating from UMKC, I have experienced almost everything that the counseling professional world has to offer. I have worked in a variety of settings including: prison, outpatient and residential settings, in-home, private practice, inpatient psychiatric hospital, not-for-profit, for-profit, etc. and have worked in positions as varied from case manager, therapist, program manager, adjunct instructor, CEU provider, and director. I have become credentialed at the clinical level in both Missouri and Kansas in a variety of areas including: LPC & LCPC, Certified Co-Occurring Disorders Professional-Diplomate, Medication Assisted Recovery Specialist, Registered Play Therapist, and most recently as a Certified Intervention Professional.

Without UMKC, I would not be where I am today—which is why I am so passionate about giving back to the students and school by offering to speak, advocate, connect them with employment, etc. I want them to succeed, as I have. I am proud to be a graduate of UMKC’s counseling program—where support yields success.

I am passionate about working with individuals, couples and families to help them navigate through life’s challenges! My background in systems theory underlies my case conceptualizations, and I use Prepare-Enrich to gather information about the couples I work with.

Currently, I am the executive director for the American Counseling Association of Missouri, volunteer/bereavement coordinator for Shalom Hospice, and manage a small private practice.

I graduated from UMKC in 2013 with an MA in Counseling and Guidance with an emphasis in Couples and Families. The program provided a robust curriculum and an excellent emphasis on diversity. One of my favorite classes was Counseling in Pluralistic Society as it helped me to be more self-aware in my approach to my clients.

Personally, I have been married for 28 years, have two adult children, and one grandson! Boy does systems theory come in handy!
The Division of Counseling and Educational Psychology is so proud of its school counseling candidates and graduates! Candidates continue to succeed in reaching their learning outcomes and begin their professional journeys. Candidates and graduates support 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. Candidates are adapting to the DESE changes in certification procedures; most are earning high scores. Graduates are joining professional organizations, attending professional conferences, and volunteering for positions within those organizations. They are in schools working to promote the use of student-centered, data-driven interventions and to create systemic change. They are finding positions as professional school counselors in diverse settings where students have unmet needs. They are being recognized for their achievements in both KS and MO. UMKC school counseling candidates and graduates are making an impact on student learning and success, wherever they go.

**UMKC School Counselors succeed in the new Missouri Content Assessment**

As of results available by October 17, 2016, the pass rate on the MO Content Assessment (the replacement to the Praxis II) in 2015-2016 was 95% at the first attempt and 100% with a second attempt (n = 21)!

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**Educational Specialist Program**

The Educational Specialist degree in Counseling provides counselors who have a master’s degree with a unique opportunity to build upon their already existing counseling knowledge and skills. The degree is especially suited for counselors with a mental health background who would like to be certified as school counselors, or for school counselors who want to expand their experiences to focus on mental health work and earn licensure. The degree requirements can be tailored to meet each student’s unique interests and to ensure compliance with licensure and certification requirements. The EdS accepts outstanding students who reflect UMKC’s mission and values, and who promise to make outstanding contributions to the field of counseling.
Meet our Educational Specialist Students

**STACI PIZZULO**

Hometown: Liberty, MO  
Previous education: MS (Counseling) from Avila University, BA (Psychology) from Texas A&M University  
Work experience: Blue Springs HS math teacher  
Entered the program: Fall 2016  
Goals for your EdS degree: HS Counselor  
Fun Fact: It’s been a hectic year for me. Getting married, buying a house, starting ed spec program, and having a baby.

**KARA BYE**

Hometown: Wichita, KS  
Previous Education: MS (Counseling Psychology) from Avila University  
Work Experience: I held a counselor position at an adolescent residential facility and worked with research study in an adult behavioral health unit. I also worked for a nonprofit organization where I was placed at a Kansas City, Kansas, middle school to provide counseling services to students.  
Entered the program: Fall 2016  
Goals for your EdS degree: To build upon my counseling knowledge, to learn from my peers, mentors, and the new experiences in the school setting. My ultimate goal is to obtain professional licensure at the K-12 level.  
Fun Fact: I started my college education thinking I may want to be an elementary teacher. I changed my major when I fell in love with Psychology. Now I am hoping to build my career by adding counseling skills to the mixture and becoming an elementary school counselor! Isn’t life funny?

**LAURIE WALKER**

Hometown: Lenexa, KS  
Previous education: BA (Psychology and Sociology, Minors in Family Studies and Women Studies) & MA (Counseling/Mental health emphasis) from UMKC. I’m an LPC in the state of Kansas.  
Work experience: Previously I held many positions at a private adoption agency as a Counselor, Supervisor, and Director of Social Services. I’m currently employed with Catholic Charities as Manager of the Overland Park Emergency Assistance Center  
Entered the program: Fall 2016  
Goals for your EdS degree: I hope to be able to learn how to effectively transfer my counseling skills into a school counseling setting.  
Fun fact: I have 11 year old twin daughters who keep me very busy.

**ANTOINETTE PISCIO TTA**

Hometown: Kansas City  
Previous education: BA (Psychology) from Rockhurst University; MA (Counseling) from Avila University  
Work experience: Previously worked for 5 years at The Barstow School as a school counselor.  
Entered the program: Fall 2013  
Goals for your EdS degree: To improve my understanding and ability to develop and apply a successful school counseling program, to work with students at different age levels, and to be hired in as a school counselor at an elementary or middle school.  
Fun Fact: I am a huge Royals fan and have met Salvy, Hosmer, Lorenzo Cain, and Cheslor Cuthbert!
Before attending UMKC in the fall of 2010, I had no idea just how impactful the education I would receive would be. I went in simply wanting to work with kids; I came out advocating for social justice and educational equity. Since graduating, I have been fortunate to work in two school districts that allowed my new passions to flourish. I asked for data, I asked for it to be disaggregated, and I got to work. I started a Black student group aimed at closing the existing achievement gap and increasing access to college. I took students on a tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and some of those students chose to attend some of the schools visited on that trip. It has truly been an enriching experience thus far, and I cannot imagine my career without the multicultural competence that UMKC threads into every course, assignment, and conversation so seamlessly. UMKC continues to be a resource for me, as I take students there for relevant events or to hear speakers. I also have been invited back to share with current students in the program, and I continue to learn from the students and instructors every time I set foot back on campus. I am so glad that I chose UMKC, as it solidified my purpose as a school counselor and forged lasting relationships that will help me continue my journey to be a better counselor and social advocate.

My counseling philosophy has been shaped through UMKC’s MA in Counseling and Guidance with School Counseling emphasis (2013) and Ed.S. in Mental Health Counseling (2014), and Mid-America Nazarene University’s Play Therapy Certification program (2015). I am a school counselor in Kansas City, MO, and licensed professional counselor in the state of Missouri. In 2014, I was awarded Teacher of the Year by the Joshua Center for my work as a school counselor and in 2016 I was awarded a Park Hill Star for my work with students. I am passionate about my role as an advocate for all students and believe my passion and desire to continue learning stem from the rigorous education that I experienced at UMKC.
Greetings! We are in the middle of another exiting and busy year in the counseling psychology program. New students have joined our program and others have graduated. We wish our new students the warmest welcome and the biggest congratulations to our most recent graduates.

This year we have spent much time preparing for and writing our APA-accreditation self-study report, which was due September 1. In spring of 2017, we anticipate hosting an accreditation visit. A lot of effort and energy went into this self-study and I am couldn’t have done it without help from numerous students and faculty. The definition of professional psychology and standards for accreditation have changed somewhat, so our program is now training health service psychologists with a practice area in counseling psychology.

We currently have 42 students enrolled in the program, and of these 48% report being ethnic/racial minority students. Our student body is also diverse when it comes to other aspects of diversity such as gender, sexual orientation, nationality, and religion. While we are proud of and celebrate our diversity, we also face challenges. A couple of years ago, some students brought concerns to the faculty about microaggressions on campus and on practicum sites; based on these concern a committee composed of students and faculty was created. In addition to creating policy for when students’ experience microaggressions, we decided to create additional training opportunities for faculty and students. In the spring of 2016, three events were held: Dr. Lynette Sparkman-Barnes, UMKC Counseling, Health and Testing Center, talked about the Intersectionality of Race/Ethnicity, Sexual Orientations, and Religion; Dr. Lisa Flores, University of Missouri Columbia, presented An inside look of Mizzou’s Crucible of Race; and Dr. Carolyn Tucker, University of Florida, presented on Health Disparities and Interprofessional Care. This presentation series was successful and we will continue with similar programming this year. This started in December with a workshop with Dr. Z. Hall, of Fine Point, titled Disposable Lives.

Since we are on the topic of diversity, let me share some data we learned from our self-study:

- 100% of current students and 100% of alumni surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that the counseling psychology program emphasizes the study of individual and cultural diversity.
- 100% of graduates indicated that the training in individual and cultural diversity was very good or excellent
- 100% of practicum supervisors rated our doctoral students’ knowledge in social and cultural diversity was good, very good or excellent
- 94% of practicum supervisors rated our doctoral students’ knowledge of social justice advocacy as good, very good or excellent
- In the last 10 years, 45% of students’ dissertations and 68% of initial/predissertation research have focused on aspects of cultural diversity.

While we have made strides in our knowledge, training and commitment to diversity and social justice, we have more work to do and more to learn – and clearly it is our students who help us, the program faculty, to remain humble, open, and committed to continued learning.

I am so very grateful to be part of our learning community.
Meet the 2016 Ph.D. Cohort

RAMY BASSIONI

I am a first generation Egyptian-American coming from Baltimore, MD, where I completed my B.S. in Psychology from UMBC and my M.S. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Baltimore. Prior to Baltimore, I lived in New Jersey and in Florida. Moving to Kansas City was my first glimpse of the Midwest, which so far I am enjoying. The weather is much warmer than it is on the east coast! My research interests lie in multiculturalism, specifically within the Muslim community. I am interested in studying the stigma towards mental health within the Muslim-American community. I enjoy watching movies, sports, listening to music, swimming, traveling, and experiencing the outdoors.

RAQUEL CRANEY

I am originally from Springfield, Missouri but grew up in Tucson, Arizona. I attended Arizona State University for my undergrad and received a B.S. in Family and Human Development and B.A. in Psychology. My research interests center around sexual assault, gender, sexuality, and substance abuse. In my free time I enjoy going to concerts, shopping, trying new restaurants, traveling, and exploring my new favorite city, Kansas City!

KAYLOR CALDWELL

I was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. For my undergrad, I attended University of Nebraska-Lincoln (GO HUSKERS!) and received a bachelor’s in psychology with a minor in English and African American Studies. My research interests broadly lie within African American psychology, but one of my main interests is examining how racial disparities in the education system can affect the mental health of African Americans.

DAVID GWINN

I completed my B.A. in Psychology at the University of Tennessee (Go Vols!), and I recently received my M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at the University of Texas at Tyler this past summer. I am from Dallas, TX, so I am deciding whether Dallas or Kansas City has better BBQ (I do miss Tex-Mex though). Contrary to most Texans, my favorite sport is hockey. I am a huge Dallas Stars fan, and I have played hockey since I was eight. Along with hockey, I consider myself relatively active in athletic events and enjoy team activities. I am very extroverted and love meeting new people. My research interests lie in flow, positive psychology, assertiveness training, and athletic identity. My advisor is Dr. Jake Marszalek and we are exchanging ideas about how to measure flow through physiological markers and manipulating environments that can induce flow for others.
Meet the 2016 Ph.D. Cohort

AMY MARAGOS

I returned to school after working as an accountant and completed my master’s in counseling and guidance from UMKC in May 2016. My faculty advisor is Dr. Chris Brown and my research interests broadly include trauma, PTSD, and post-traumatic growth, as well as identity development, and attachment in adult relationships. I have lived in Kansas City most of my life however; I spent a significant portion of time living in New York City during childhood and adolescence. In my spare time I enjoy practicing yoga, traveling, cooking, going on walks, writing, giggling with my husband, and spending time with my family. I have two children ages 14 and 6 who keep me super busy. It’s fun experiencing the world through their eyes. My clinical population of interest includes late adolescents and emerging adults.

JAMES PARKER

Fun fact about me: I grew up as the sixth of nine children, all names starting with the letter “J”. After my first semester of college, I lived in Russia and Kazakhstan for two years. Upon returning, I completed bachelor’s degrees in both Psychology and Russian at Brigham Young University. My wife and I moved to Indiana a year after our wedding, and there I completed my master’s degree in Counseling and Counselor Education at Indiana University. We moved to Kansas City for me to complete my doctorate, where we had our first baby (a boy!) three days before the semester started. Coming from a large family, my research interests concern the influence of the family on all areas of life, and my advisor is Dr. Nancy Murdock. Outside of school, I love staying active and finding ways to add a little spice to life! That mostly include spending time with my family. I love playing sports—mostly volleyball, tennis, ultimate Frisbee, Frisbee golf, soccer, and pickleball—along with camping and hiking (anything outdoors, really). I also thoroughly enjoy travel, including trips to Russia, Kazakhstan, Italy, Spain, Estonia, Canada, and the Bahamas.

ABDUL RAZIUDDIN

I am a Midwesterner born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago. My mother and father immigrated here from Pakistan and India, respectively, in the 1980’s. It is in Chicago where I pursued a bachelor’s degree in psychology with a concentration in Children and Family Studies at Roosevelt University, my mom’s alma mater. I then got my master’s degree from Loyola University Chicago. My research interests are deeply rooted in prevention psychology and community applications of these concepts. I really want to help immigrant and refugee families with the knowledge I can gain in this doctoral program. In my spare time, I like to read for fun, stretch and do yoga, play video games, bike, play tennis, cook, swim, and of course, watch scary movies.
- Favorite Color: Ruby Red
- Favorite Animal: Penguin
- Dream Occupation: Scuba Instructor
CCAS runs on the fuel of our counselor trainees and clients! Last year, 45 practicum students conducted 1390 intake and counseling sessions (accumulated direct client contact hours), making it so clients’ mental health needs were assessed and cared for, and practicum students gained valuable experience and training. New clients utilizing services at CCAS increased by 38%. The average client at CCAS paid around $18 per counseling session, and the sliding fee scale was extended thanks to input from the CCAS Advisory Board. The new sliding scale ranges from $5 to $50 per session depending on the client’s income and number of dependents.

The most exciting news at CCAS, which was launched this fall, is our new video system! This system is in place thanks to funding from a private donor, alumni, and the CEP division. It includes updated computers for counselor research and paperwork, and was placed in 7 of our 10 counseling rooms so that counselors can video record their sessions. The videos are then accessible to them and their supervisors via CCAS’ secure server for training and review. For 2017, projects like a new electronic medical record system (EMR) and group therapy availability for clients will continue to be explored.

Through funding from the School of Education and the work done by last year’s graduate assistant, Luke Allen, CCAS started advertising services on the popular Psychology Today, Find a Therapist website: https://therapists.psychologytoday.com

A client satisfaction survey also was launched last year, so CCAS gained valuable feedback on the services provided. This data is currently being used for training and improving overall operations. For example, our clients requested to shorten the time between the intake session and assignments to their counselor. It now just takes one week!

Thanks to the testing specialists, who are doctoral students who have completed the assessment practicum at CCAS, we also were able to reduce the waitlist time from 6 months to 1-2 months on average for ADHD and Learning Disability evaluations.

CCAS counselors participated in various outreach events. Some of these events included: regular community health fairs coordinated by the Black Health Care Coalition, presentations related to mental health for Phoenix Family, a community healing event coordinated through Kansas City’s Anti-Violence Project, and other community gatherings. In all these events totaled 81 hours of CCAS community outreach. Roughly, 571 community members are estimated to have made contact with CCAS through our outreach efforts.

Overall, CCAS is moving forward and making improvements. In 2017, I am looking forward to continuing the work of CCAS with practicum students, their clients, the supervisors, faculty, graduate assistants, and members of the Advisory Board, who make it a vital place for learning and growth!
This year’s SAS committee is comprised of three co-chairs; Leslie Stapley, Sarah Middleton and Sathya Baanu Jeevanba. We are all part of the 2015 cohort and are all 2nd year students in the Ph.D Counseling Psychology doctoral program. We have truly enjoyed what SAS has done in the past and wanted to be a part of it when it came time for our cohort to take over. We decided to all share the role of SAS chairperson and to not have a designated treasurer or secretary position but to share the responsibilities of being in the SAS committee as needed.

We had planned the First Year Cohort Dinner at the KC Kitchen and Pizza to welcome our newest members to the program. We invited all the other cohorts to attend so that everyone would have a chance to get to know one another. Though it was a small event, we had a great time meeting the first year cohort in a smaller, intimate setting with good food!

We also planned the annual Fall Picnic at Loose Park for our program’s students, faculty and their partners and pets. It was a very successful event as we had a lot of the new and older students attend along with our wonderful faculty members. It was done potluck style and so we were guaranteed no shortage of good food. To ensure we had fun and gave everyone a chance to mingle, we organized a Photo Scavenger Hunt and played the Human Knot. It was great to see everyone have a blast and work together to be the winning team. It was the perfect weather to be outside and the location of the event made the picnic a truly enjoyable one!

This year’s Research Day celebration was held potluck-style on November 11, in order to honor the hard work of our students who have completed their pre-dissertation research. Also, this day gave Counseling Psychology doctoral students an opportunity to share their recent work and allowed us to recognize their scholarly achievements. SAS assisted the organizing committee with planning out the potluck. You might have already noticed, we have a special love for potlucks!

SAS also will be working towards organizing our yearly Interview Day in Spring 2017. We hope to get a comfortable location and provide good food on this day. As always, SAS is open to any suggestions or comments should anyone want us to organize a new event, better plan for our already existing annual events or just want to be involved.

All of us at SAS wish you a wonderful semester!

At the annual Fall picnic. Includes SAS Co-chairs Leslie Stapley (top left), Sarah Middleton (top second from the right), and Sathya Baanu Jeevanba (bottom second from the right)
The Counseling Psychology Research Day recognizes Ph.D. students who have completed research projects within the past year, and especially, those who have finished Initial/Pre-dissertation Research. Clockwise from top left: Dean Justin Perry with Wen Wen Chong; Monica Oh; Sydney Morgan; Leslie Stapley with Dr. Murdock; and Soo Whan Choi with Dr. Murdock.

The following is a summary of the interview I had with Dean Perry. It was very enjoyable getting to know him better, as he is certainly excited and enthusiastic about his role within the School of Education, and seems to genuinely care about our students’ needs and desires.

**Background.** Dean Perry mentioned his interest in psychology stemmed from his personal experience with counseling growing up. Dr. Perry recalled that his father suggested the profession to him. When Dr. Perry went to Tulane University for his undergrad, he explored the subject of psychology through various classes and research. His undergraduate mentor, Dr. Melanie McGrath, happened to know Dr. Maureen Kenny at Boston College, which led Dr. Perry to BC for his master’s degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. His close relationships with the faculty there encouraged him to stay and pursue his PhD in Counseling Psychology. Interestingly enough, he moved to Boston before even having a place to live, so you could say he was fairly dedicated to his education! Dr. Perry also mentioned that one of the most gratifying aspects of counseling psychology that continued to draw him to the field was the clinical practice and preventative psychoeducation programs in non-clinical settings. Much of his training in prevention and community-based research focused around mental health and career/academic services in public school systems, where Dr. Perry established his passion for working with young people in school settings. Dr. Perry continued his career by moving to Cleveland State University in Cleveland, Ohio, where he served as a faculty and administrator for 10 years. In his role as director of the Center for Urban Education, Dr. Perry was involved in grant making. He worked on more than 70 proposals and served on 27 funded grants during his time at Cleveland State. Dr. Perry expressed that interdisciplinary work has always been a major interest for him, as the merging of differing perspectives allowed him to learn to speak different “academic languages,” expanding his own perspective in the process.

**Clinical Interests:** Clinically, Dr. Perry mentions that he has a wide range of experience with various clients, from play therapy with a four-year-old child to vocational counseling with a sixty-year-old, though his clinical interests and specialization have been focused on children. His master’s training focused on adults with dual diagnoses, but he switched to child and adolescent psychotherapy in his doctoral work, both in traditional outpatient settings and community settings. Dr. Perry mentioned that his interest in working with children came from his enjoyable experiences with youth mentoring. He also mentioned that seeing kids change in therapy actually enhanced his understanding of the process of adult therapy.

**As a Person of Color, how has your experience been in academia, particularly in administrative roles?** Dr. Perry reflected that the field has been very affirming of his own experience, and he feels very fortunate to be in a field of psychology that strives to recognize and affirm the experiences of all marginalized groups. He admitted that these (continued on next page)
experiences would vary based on not only one’s personal collection of identities and experiences, but also by institution and even department. During his time as a faculty member and administrator of higher education, he felt very welcomed and supported. While microaggressions are always present, none that he has experienced in the field have made him question his desire to continue his work. He did mention that there are stereotypes that he has had to regularly deal with throughout his life and career.

As a counseling psychologist yourself, how do you think the field should get involved during this current political atmosphere? Dr. Perry discussed the importance of the discipline’s ability to “draw an inclusive circle” in order to engage in respectful discourse across varying viewpoints. He noted that the bounds of our profession bleed into political activism, legal activism, clinical activism, and activism through research, such that we have the ability to promote change in a variety of ways. He recognized that one of the strengths of UMKC’s counseling psychology program was our ability to stand up for issues of social justice and diversity, which is also one of the strengths of counseling psychology as a whole. As long as these core values are embraced, there is no doubt that our program will involve itself in a variety of ways in order to give an empowering voice to those affected by the current political/social atmosphere.

What are some of the goals that you have for the School of Education moving forward? The first goal Dr. Perry mentioned was working from the ground up with faculty, staff, community stakeholders, alumni, donors, and students in constructing a vision and strategic plan for the school, and truly implementing that plan. He plans to do this by initiating a broad “listening tour” to fully understand the needs of the SOE. This will expand to “student listening tours,” to get a clearer view of the needs of our students specifically. Dr. Perry also indicated a goal of revitalizing the Urban Education Research Center (UERC) and the Institute for Urban Education (IUE) within the SOE. Another key initiative is embarking on a “strategic cluster-hiring plan”, including three endowed chair positions and one endowed professor position to attract new talent to the UMKC community.

What is your favorite food? This was one of the more difficult questions for Dr. Perry to answer, because he enjoys trying various cuisines. He provided a four-way tie between Thai, Italian, Vietnamese, and Korean food.

What is your favorite animal? Another tough one. His favorite household pet is a cat, but he also loves dogs! One of his favorite animals overall, very conveniently, is the kangaroo. He mentioned that there’s something about marsupials that’s just intrinsically fascinating; it might be the pouches.

What is your favorite book? His favorite of all time is Anna Karenina, because the novel is so psychologically and socially riveting in nature and the writing is amazing. He even proclaimed that it is one of the greatest works of fiction about human psychology. He also enjoyed War and Peace, but its length is certainly frustrating.

Favorite film? Dr. Perry had quite a few favorites: Heaven with Cate Blanchett and Giovanni Ribisi, the Before Sunrise trilogy: Before Sunrise (1995), Before Sunset (2004), and Before Midnight (2013) with Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy (his favorite out of the trilogy was Before Sunset). He also likes The Godfather with Marlon Brando and Al Pacino, and The American with George Clooney.

Do you have any pets? None currently, but he did grow up in a pet-friendly household with cats, dogs, rabbits, birds, turtles, frogs, snakes and gerbils!

Congratulations to Dean Perry!

Dean Perry was promoted to Professor with Tenure in Counseling and Educational Psychology and named the Ewing and Marion Kauffman Foundation/Missouri Endowed Chair. He was recognized at the UMKC Leaders in Learning celebration, a gala dinner event held in September.
CEP Student Awards

**CEP Travel Grants**
Matt Anderson, Jenna Brownfield, and Soo Whan Choi

**DaLee Awards (Supporting Research in Counseling Psychology):**
Luke Allen, Sara Aslan, Jenny Schaafsma, and Chrisy Serpe

**School of Education Scholarships:**
- Luke Allen (Dr. Phyliss L. Bernstein Scholarship)
- Kaylor Caldwell (Helen Lee Stevens Scholarship)
- Ashley Cross (Linda Hood Talbott Scholarship)
- Yahna Gibson (Dr. Ralph Parish Jr. Memorial Award)
- Gabrielle Isom (Alumni Association Scholarship Award)

**Women’s Council Graduate Assistance Fund:**
Sara Aslan, Shavern Browne, Jenna Brownfield, Wen Wen Chong, Mindi Gowen, Sathya Baanu Jeevanba, Richa Khanna (Merit Award), Joanna Maung, Monica Oh, Jessica Ross, Jenny Schaafsma, and Chrisy Serpe

**School of Graduate Studies Research Awards:**
Shavern Browne, Amanda McLarty, Alex Ross, and Jenny Schaafsma

**School of Graduate Studies Opportunity Fellowship**
Rashida Edmondsdon, Mirella Flores, Alyssa Joiner, and Joanna Maung

**School of Graduate Studies Preparing Future Faculty Fellowship**
Jessica Ross and Sydney Morgan

**American Psychological Association of Graduate Students Advocacy Coordinating Team Award for Excellence in Campus Leadership**
Sydney Morgan

*Counseling Psychology Ph.D. students at the Women’s Council Graduate Assistance Fund Reception: Monica Oh, Shavern Browne, Richa Khanna, Jenny Schaafsma, Joanna Maung, Jenna Brownfield, Chrisy Serpe, Mindi Gowen, and Jessica Ross.*

*Gabrielle Isom, recipient of the Alumni Association Scholarship Award, speaks at the School of Education’s annual Scholar-Donor Luncheon in September. Photo courtesy of Angi Landis.*
CEP Division Kudos

PH.D. PROGRAM STUDENT KUDOS

- Congratulations to the following students who graduated in 2016: Morgan Grotewiel (current position: assistant professor of Psychology, Webster University, MO) and Niyatee Sukumaran (current position: Postdoctoral trainee, University of California– San Diego)

- Best wishes for a great year of training to our 2016-2017 pre-doctoral interns: Alex Barajas-Munoz (University of Kansas), Adam Hinshaw (University of Iowa), Katie Jorgenson (UMKC), and G Wei Ng (Towson University)

- Congratulations to Rashida Edmonson, Alyssa Joiner, Monica Oh, and Jessica Ross, who received MA degrees in Counseling and Guidance at the mid-point of their doctoral study.

- Luke Allen is a student representative of WPATH (World Professional Association of Transgender Health). With his efforts, along with his colleagues’, he has successfully advocated for reducing student membership fees (from $125 to $35) and securing $1,000 in funds to assist student-initiated research on topics relevant to the transgender community.

- Shavern Browne’s poster presentation was selected as a winner at the UMKC School of Graduate Studies’ Community of Scholars Symposium in April. Her poster summarized her research on coping with witnessed racism.

- Michelle Farrell received the Jim Wasner Award, from the UMKC LGBTQIA Programs and Services Office. This award recognizes an individual who has volunteered hours of service to the UMKC LGBTQIA community or the greater Kansas City LGBTQIA community. This person has gone above and beyond in helping to create a better community for all, and has served as a model of excellence for volunteering and establishing community.

- Mirella Flores served as student representative of the APA Division 17 Section on LGBT issues from November 2015–September 2016. She is now serving a two-year term as the Section’s Programming Committee chair.

- Sydney Morgan is South East Regional advocacy coordinator of the APAGS Advocacy Coordinating Team, student representative for the Division 17 Section for the Advancement of Women, and a member of the Society of Counseling Psychology (SCP) Connect News Team.
### FACULTY KUDOS

- **Dr. Carolyn Barber** was appointed to the editorial board of *Educational Psychologist*, the flagship journal of APA Division 15.
- **Dr. Chris Brown** was elected to the American Psychological Association’s Ethics Committee. Her three-year term begins January 2017.
- **Dr. Julie Kohlhart** received the UMKC Outstanding Faculty and Staff Pride Award, awarded by the UMKC LGBTQIA Programs and Services Office.
- **Dr. Kimberly Langrehr** received a UMKC Teaching Enhancement Grant to implement the use of standardized clients in Counseling Methods courses.
- **Dr. Johanna Nilsson** was elected to the American Psychological Association’s Committee on International Relations in Psychology. Her term begins in January 2017.
- **Dr. Laurel Watson** received a UMKC School of Education Dean’s Small Grant to develop a scale of the frequency of discriminatory experiences faced by trans people.

### ALUMNI KUDOS

- **Dr. Makini King** (Ph.D.) was appointed the director of Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives in the UMKC Division of Diversity and Inclusion.
- **Emily Martinez** (MA, School Counseling) was the winner of the Five Star Service Award in the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools.
- **Melanie Sweatt** (MA, School Counseling) received a Start Teacher/ Counselor Award for 2016 from the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools for “dedication to the field of education and the example they set for others.”

### SCHOOL COUNSELING KUDOS

- **Spring 2016 School Counseling MA Graduates:** Laci Cox, Chelsea Hagan, Tara Taylor, and Liz Seely

Congratulations to our 2016 Graduates!

- **Spring 2016:** Kara Chavez, Daniel Folk, Cherish Freeman, Amy Maragos, Claire Orwig, David Walter, and Tommie Williams
- **Summer 2016:** Dena Abnos, Becky Brandt, Tyler Breshears, Dustin Dukes, LaRae Elliott – Vowiell, Rachel Graves, Katrin Gubser, Anna Phillips, and Rebecca Varaday
- **Fall 2016:** Brittany Asta, Jeff Blevins, Madeleine Cramer, Lucero Garibay Yepez, Monique Haas, Gage Herrington, Emily Kelly, Carrie King, Katie McCurter, and Yasaman Shahmohammadi

**Lucero Garibay Yepez** was awarded an American Psychological Association Minority Fellowship in Services for Transition Age Youth. She received a stipend in addition to trainings, professional development, mentoring, and lifetime access to a network of 1,700 Fellows.

- **Katrin Gubser Sweeney** was appointed secretary of the Kansas Counseling Association and president of the Multicultural Division in July.
CEP Presentations at APA
2016 Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado

- Barber, C. E., Ross, J. L., Chong, W., & Sherman, K. D. *Creating stronger communities: Fine arts participation and adolescents’ civic engagement.*

- Barber, C. E., Schaafsma, J., Chong, W., & Ross, J. L. *Bully victimization and civic engagement: An analysis of a college sample.*


- Brownfield, J. M., Flores, M. J., Morgan, S. K., Allen, L. K., & Marszalek, J. M. *Development and psychometric properties of the sexual orientation blindness attitudes scale (SOBAS).*


- Carr, A., Brown, S. D., Vera, E. M., & Gubatz, M. *Does it fit? The role of vocational hope in the social cognitive career theory.*

- Choi, S., & Murdock, N. L. *Differentiation of self, interpersonal conflicts, and depression: Mediating role of anger expression.*

- Chong, W., & Barber, C. E. *Educational attainment among children of immigrants: Transition into young adulthood.*


- Davids, C., Mendez, J., Watson, L. B., & Graham, C. *Qualitative exploration of class participation in the psychology of objectification.*
CEP Presentations at APA
2016 Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado


- Hager, P. L., & Marszalek, J. M. Flow and the five-factor model (FFM) of personality characteristics.


- Khan, M. T. The inherent connection and conflict between religiosity and social justice. In C. R. Cowl-Witherspoon and E. D. Wesselmann (Chairs), Difficult Discussions—Religion: Recognizing and Managing Religious Biases and Prejudices. (Symposium Presentation)
CEP Presentations at APA  
2016 Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado


- Mollen, D., & Watson, L. B. (Chairs.) Women in the academy: Diverse faculty members share their unique paths of success. (Symposium.)

- Nilsson, J. E., & Berkel, L. A. (Chairs.) Integrated primary care psychology training in counseling psychology doctoral programs. (Symposium.)


- Serpe, C. R. Perceptions with police and comfort with police interaction: Experiences in the trans communities. In D. P. Rivera (Chair), Transgender experiences in psychology and the criminal justice system. (Symposium presentation.)

- Velez, B. L., Watson, L. B., Cox, B., & Flores, M. J. Greater risk or greater resilience: Test of the minority stress model across racial/ethnic groups. In C. DeBlaere and C. E Green (Chairs), Scientist-practitioner perspectives on multiple minority stress among LGBTQ people of color. (Symposium presentation.)


Additional CEP Presentations


Additional CEP Presentations


- **Woodard, D.J. and Beech, S.** (2016, November). *Creating equity for gender nonconforming and transgender youth.* Presentation delivered at the Missouri School Counselor Association Annual Convention, Osage Beach, MO.

- **Woodard, D.J.** (2016, October). *The new IIR, its benefits, its issues and how to teach it.* Presentation at the fall DESE counselor educator meeting, Jefferson City, MO.

- **Woodard, D.J.** (2016, March). *Utilizing the ASCA program assessment tool for program evaluation.* Presentation delivered at the Kansas Counseling Association Convention, Manhattan, KS.

CEP Publications


CEP Publications


Soo Whan Choi presents research on differentiation of self and anger at APA 2016. This research was later published in *Contemporary Family Therapy.*

Dr. Laurel Watson and Mirella Flores present research on insidious trauma experienced by Women of Color at APA 2016. This research was published in the *Journal of Counseling Psychology.*
Come Join Us!

M.A., COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE
- Emphasis areas: Mental Health, Couples and Family
- Contact: Dr. Nancy Murdock (MurdockN@umkc.edu)

M.A., SCHOOL COUNSELING EMPHASIS
- Web: http://education.umkc.edu/school-counseling/
- Contact: Associate Teaching Professor Deb Woodard (woodarddd@umkc.edu)

M.A., COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE
- Emphasis areas: General Mental Health, School Counseling
- Contact (General Mental Health Emphasis): Dr. LaVerne Berkel (berkell@umkc.edu)
- Contact (School Counseling Emphasis): Associate Teaching Professor Deb Woodard (woodarddd@umkc.edu)

Ph.D., COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY
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SPRING 2017 INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS
- Thursday, February 2 – 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 15 – 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 6 – 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.


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