

Faculty Senate: profiles & contact 2022-2023

BLOCH SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT



William R. Keeton, Ph.D. Associate Teaching Professor, Finance.

Areas of expertise: Banking, payments. Prior to joining the Bloch School in 2012, Keeton served as an assistant vice president and economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, where he provided policy advice to senior management and conducted research on banking, regional economics, and payments. During his last two years at the Bank, he headed the Bank's Payment Systems Research Group and served as chair of the Federal Reserve System Research Committee on Financial Structure and Regulation. While at the Kansas City Fed, Keeton wrote over two dozen research articles for the Bank's Economic Review. With a colleague at the Bank, he also developed the Kansas City Financial Stress Index, which continues to be published monthly. Earlier in his career, Keeton served in the Peace Corps in Colombia and taught undergraduate and graduate economics at Yale University. Since joining the Bloch School, he has published in the Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking and helped teams of undergraduates achieve top finishes in an annual banking competition sponsored by the Conference of State Bank Supervisors. keetonw@umkc.edu



Alan Weber, MBA, Assistant Teaching Professor of Marketing. With over twenty-five years of management and consulting experience, Alan's expertise includes the full range of Database Marketing Management activities, Strategic Direction in multiple data-driven business projects, Not-for-Profit, individual and department training, and valuing the customer base as an asset. Alan's experience includes 25 years in the direct/database marketing industry, focused on data-driven analytical roles, including all facets of Acquisition, Retention, Growth through cross-sell/up-sell, Marketing ROI, Segmentation, Targeting, Campaign Measurement, Social and Mobile Media. He has over 23 years of experience teaching for-credit courses to graduate and undergraduate students at accredited institutions. weberal@umkc.edu

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



John Ball, DDS, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Restorative Clinical Sciences. He teaches in both the clinical and preclinical laboratory settings, as well as

serving as a director for two courses. Dr. Ball is a prosthodontic consultant for the Kansas City V.A. Dental Service. Dr. Ball retired in January 2013 after serving 37 years in the Department of Veterans Affairs-Department of Dentistry. He was the Director of both VA Central Dental Laboratory (CDL) locations (Dallas and Washington, D.C.). He also maintained a clinical practice as a prosthodontist in the Dallas VA Dental Service. Dr. Ball is a Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists and International College of Dentists. He is an ADA member and was a former V.A. delegate to the ADA House of Delegates. He was President of the American Prosthodontic Society in 2013-2014. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the American College of Prosthodontists. balljd@umkc.edu



Dr. Dallas is the Lee M. and William Lefkowitz Endowed Professor in the UMKC School of Dentistry, Department of Oral and Craniofacial Sciences. Dr. Dallas has been continually funded by NIH since 2001. Her research has focused on the role of the extracellular matrix in regulating growth factor actions and the dynamic mechanisms by which bone extracellular matrix is assembled. More recently she has been studying the dynamic interactions of bone cells and the role of osteocytes in regulating osteoblast function as well as the effects of aging and bone-muscle crosstalk on the skeleton. Her work employs live cell and intravital imaging approaches, together with protein and molecular biology and mouse genetic approaches. Dr. Dallas has served as a reviewer for NIH and other national and international funding agencies, as well as for numerous research journals and serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research. She is the Director of the Confocal Microscopy Core at UMKC and the muscle and bone phenotyping core, which support the research of several investigators at UMKC. Her work is nationally and internationally recognized and she has helped launch the careers of a number of trainees, several of whom have received young investigator awards under her mentorship. dallass@umkc.edu

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WORK and PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES



Dr. Tiffani Riggers-Piehl is an Assistant Professor of Higher Education and Program Coordinator for the Higher Education Masters and Doctorate (EDD) programs. Having previously served across multiple functional areas in academic and student affairs at Baylor (TX), UCLA, and Greenville University (IL), Dr. Riggers-Piehl focuses her efforts to help and understand students in three ways. First, Dr. RP advises doctoral and masters students in their academic and career endeavors, drawing upon her varied experience in higher education administration and faculty development. She also advises the Higher Education Student Association (HESA), a student-led organization that provides professional development and community building for students in the HEA programs. Second, Dr. RP researches the ways that students develop meaning and purpose in college across multiple identity dimensions. While earning her Ph.D. at UCLA, she studied college student spirituality and student-faculty

interactions. Her dissertation, “Enhancing Classrooms and Conversations: How Interactions with Faculty Predict Change in Students’ Spirituality in College” identifies ways that faculty can be more involved in students’ meaning-making and spiritual development. Since then she has focused her research on topics including spiritual and moral development, research and teaching, and gender differences in education. Third, Dr. RP teaches future higher education and student affairs professionals using innovative and collaborative pedagogies that help them apply their learning to their professional experience. riggers-piehl@umkc.edu



Dr. Nora Peterman is an Assistant Professor in SESWPS, serving as the Coordinator of the Master of Arts and Educational Specialist programs in Language and Literacy degree and the Graduate Certificate in Reading Intervention. Research Areas are Children’s and young adult literature; Digital literacies; Cultural, political, and intergenerational dimensions of youth literacy and language learning. Ph.D. in Reading/Writing/Literacy is from the University of Pennsylvania.

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES and SOCIAL SCIENCES



Dr. Erik Olsen is an Associate Professor, department chair and the MA Advisor in Economics.

Academic credentials: Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Research Interests: Political Economy, Microeconomics, Urban and Regional Economics, Economic Methodology. olsenek@umkc.edu



Dr. Theresa Torres, Associate Professor, Department of Race, Ethnic, and Gender Studies and Sociology Department. Dr. Torres’ areas of expertise are Latinx Studies, Gender Studies, Immigration Studies, Black and Ethnic Studies, Religious Studies, and Anthropology. She authored a book, *The Paradox of Latina Leaders in the Catholic Church: Las Guadalupanas of Kansas City* and is completing a book on Transformational Resistant Leaders based on the interviews of Latina leaders. Recently, she published several articles below listed below. She was co-curator of a major exhibit *Kansas City’s Guadalupe Centers: 100 Years of Service in the Community* at the Kansas City Central Public Library that received a national award and regional honorable mention. torresth@umkc.edu



Brenda Bethman has served as Director of the Women’s Center since January 2007 and as Associate Teaching Professor in the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program (WGS) since August 2019. She has published two books: a co-edited volume, *University and College Women’s and Gender Equity Centers: The Changing Landscape*, and a monograph, “Obscene Fantasies”: *Generic Perversions in Elfriede Jelinek*. Dr. Bethman teaches WGS courses in the Race, Ethnic, and Gender Studies department as well as a variety of general education courses and serves as co-director for UMKC’s study abroad program in Senegal. bethmanb@umkc.edu

SCHOOL OF LAW



Timothy Lynch, Professor of Law. A struggling Spanish guitar and didgeridoo playing former naval officer, he joined the faculty as an associate professor in summer 2011. Prior to joining the faculty, Professor Lynch taught as a visiting assistant professor at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. His scholarship is principally in the areas of global migration, financial derivatives, and international capital markets. He teaches the courses Contracts, International Law, Immigration Law, International Business Transactions, International Trade Law, and Conflicts of Law. lynchte@umkc.edu



Kenneth D. Ferguson is a Professor of Law at UMKC School of Law. He is recognized nationally for his bankruptcy law and sports law scholarship. His bankruptcy law scholarship has evolved from preferential transfers and applying linguistic theory to bankruptcy law to proposing an innovative two-part *business in-fact* and *business in-law* analytical process that courts should consider in determining whether a debtor can avoid the reorganization process of Chapter 11 bankruptcy by instead selling their business under Bankruptcy Code § 363. Ferguson’s sports law scholarship considers application of assumption of risk theory to distinguish liability for injuries to athletes in amateur and professional sports. His sports law scholarship also focuses on achieving gender equity under Title IX for girls from economically disadvantaged, rural, urban, and minority communities. Ferguson has served as the Chair of the Sports & Law and the Debtors’ & Creditors sections of the American Association of Law Schools. Professor Ferguson has employed his sports law expertise in shaping national athletic policy while serving as a member of the Board of Directors USA Track & Field – the National Governing Body for the United States Olympic Track & Field Program and on various national

committees for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Before joining the faculty of UMKC's Law School, Professor Ferguson was a member of the Corporate and Bankruptcy division of the law firm of Shughart Thomson & Kilroy PC (now Polsinelli). Before entering the private practice of law, Professor Ferguson served as the Law Clerk for the Honorable Dennis Stewart, Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the US Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Missouri. Fergusonk@umkc.edu

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



James Wooten, Professor, Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. Wooten is in the section of clinical pharmacology for the UMKC School of Medicine. His responsibilities include teaching pharmacology to medical students, as well as students in both the Anesthesia Assistant and Physician Assistant Programs. Dr. Wooten has been a faculty member with the UMKC School of Medicine since 1998. His professional interests include all aspects of internal medicine and medication use in the elderly. WootenJ@umkc.edu



Dr. Karl Kador, Assistant Professor, Department(s) of Biomedical Sciences, Ophthalmology. Dr. Kador's research focuses on injuries and diseases of the retina and optic nerve. His laboratory is developing novel tissue engineered models for studying glaucoma and methods for transplanting new cells to restore vision in patients suffering from end stage diseases related to retinal ganglion cells. kadork@umkc.edu

SCHOOL OF NURSING



Jamie Hunt, Teaching Assistant Professor, UMKC School of Nursing and Health Studies. Jamie Hunt has been a faculty member at UMKC since August 2012 in the Bachelor of Health Sciences program. She has served as the BHS program director and internship coordinator since 2015. In her previous work, Dr. Hunt conducted research area in cancer prevention and control, with a focus on nicotine dependence and smoking cessation. Specific projects included direct observation of substance abuse treatment facilities to identify what they do (and don't do) to help clients quit smoking, investigating telemedicine as a vehicle for tobacco treatment in rural primary care, and comparing methods to refer hospitalized patients to

the state quitline for tobacco treatment. She is particularly interested in efforts to improve smoking cessation treatment and adolescent/young adult sexual health. huntja@umkc.edu



Amanda Grimes, Assistant Professor, UMKC School of Nursing, joined SONHS faculty in 2013 teaching in the Bachelor of Health Sciences program and began a tenure-track position in 2018. Dr. Grimes's area of focus is on the health and social factors associated with bicycling throughout the lifespan as well as the promotion of active transportation. She has conducted research on several bicycle-focused research projects that engage diverse rider populations; an assessment of the barriers and motivators for middle to older-aged cyclists in the Kansas City metropolitan area, an in-depth exploration of the impacts of earn-a-bike programs among homeless men in Kansas City and impacts of earn-a-bike programs among low-income South African citizens. Dr. Grimes serves on the board of BikeWalkKC since 2014 and is currently the Board President for Bike Share KC – both are nonprofits active in this arena. Other research interests include social isolation and fall prevention in older adults. She is an active member of the UMKC Aging Consortium. GrimesA@umkc.edu

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



Hari K. Bhat, Ph.D. Professor: Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Fellow: Royal Society of Medicine. Editor-in-Chief: Journal of Biochemical and Molecular Toxicology. Research interests include: a) elucidating biochemical and molecular mechanisms of breast cancer, b) understanding the role of oxidative stress in breast cancer progression, c) developing new chemotherapeutic agents for prevention/inhibition of breast and other cancers, and d) therapeutic use of antioxidants in prevention of other diseases including HIV/neurodegenerative diseases. bhath@umkc.edu



Andrew Smith, Clinical Professor in the School of Pharmacy. Dr. Smith's specialty is cardiology medicine. He graduated from UMKC in 2000 and completed his post-doctoral training at the VA Medical Center in Iowa City, Iowa in 2001. He worked as a clinical pharmacist at KU hospital specializing in cardiology for seven years. Dr. Smith's clinical practice site is with the cardiology service at University Health at Truman Medical Center, where he rounds with the inpatient cardiology service. His current projects include medication optimization in patients with coronary artery disease and increasing participation to cardiac

rehabilitation. He is currently serving as the chair of the ACCP Cardiology PRN and national president-elect of the Rho Chi Society. smithandr@umkc.edu

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE and ENGINEERING



Da-Ming Zhu, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy. One of Dr. Zhu's areas of research is the study of the thermodynamic properties of glassy materials. In his lab he has been carrying out a systematic study of silica doped with different elements. Some of these systems are important materials for building fiber optic networks. He is also studying possible correlations between the low temperature thermal properties of those glasses and their properties when close to the glass transition temperatures. Another area of his research is in the field of interfacial phenomena. In particular, he focuses on interfacial melting and related phenomena such as frost heave. he is currently conducting a measurement of excess heat transfer associated with frost heave of ice in porous media, and the excess heat transfer of gases adsorbed on aerogel materials. The techniques he is using include thermal transport, dielectric response, electron microscopy, and atomic force microscopy. ZhuD@umkc.edu



Karyn Turla: Teaching Professor of Biological Sciences; B.S. (Pennsylvania State University); Ph.D. (University of Michigan). Dr. Turla is a renal physiologist by training. She has studied the effects of dopamine on renal hemodynamics. She worked to develop the techniques that would allow the assessment of mRNA levels from very small amounts of tissue. Using this technique, she has studied the distribution and regulation of renal mineralocorticoid and glucocorticoid receptor mRNA in different nephron segments and cell types, CFTR expression in collecting duct cells, and endothelin 1 expression along the nephron. She also has a passion for the scholarship of teaching. She is constantly analyzing what she does and how it influences the students' understanding and retention of the material being studied. turlak@umkc.edu



Deb Chatterjee, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering. Research areas include computational electromagnetics, ultrawideband arrays for application to radar and biomedical imaging, RF propagation path loss modeling for wireless communications, signal integrity, EMI/EMC analysis of high-speed interconnects, integration of sensor and platform — antenna placement analysis and applications of graphene and carbon nanotube antennas. ChatD@umkc.edu



Travis Fields, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering. He joined the UMKC faculty in 2013, teaches a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in the robotics and experimentation areas, and conducts research focused on improving unmanned aircraft and parachute systems. As director of the Parachute and Aerial Vehicle Systems (PAVS) laboratory, Instruments and Measurements Lab (IML), and the Drone Research and Teaching (DRAT) laboratory, Dr. Fields research group conducts cutting edge research on parachute, parafoil, and unmanned aircraft systems. Research spans design, construction, simulation, and experimental validation of aerospace and mechatronic systems. Research has been (or is currently) funded by the Office of Naval Research, Air Force, Natick Soldier Research Development Engineering Center, Naval Postgraduate School, NASA, University of Missouri System, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. fieldstd@umkc.edu

UMKC CONSERVATORY



DeeAnna Hiatt, Professor of Dance. She began her training at the Dance Factory under the direction of Pamela Erwin. She has danced with Ailey II, Ballet Hysell, The Jamison Project, The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Wylliams/Henry Danse Theater, Deeply Rooted Productions, Quixotic, and performed as a special guest artist with several companies including the Kansas City Ballet. Ms. Hiatt has participated in various commercial works such as videos with LL cool J and Cameo, American Express industrials, an Issey Miyake fashion show and Hanes Her Way. She has performed in the productions of "Carmen" and "The Merry Widow" with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. Ms. Hiatt has taught and choreographed for numerous universities and studios including Princeton, the University of Michigan, the University of California Berkeley, Ichibungi in Tokyo, Steps and Ailey Camp. hiettd@umkc.edu



Karen Brown, Assistant Professor of Dance. Ms. Brown (KB) is a well-known force in established dance. She is lauded at the highest levels of classical ballet for her exemplary dancing as a Principal Ballerina with the internationally renowned Dance Theatre of Harlem from 1973–1995, under the direction of founding Artistic Director, Arthur Mitchell. She was chosen as a master teacher and adjudicator for the inaugural Dance Theatre of Harlem/Kennedy Center Community Outreach Residency Program (1992–98). She served as Artistic Director of the Oakland Ballet (2000–06) and recently as the bridge Executive Director for Garth Fagan Dance, 2016–17. As an Assistant Professor at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, 2007–

13, she taught all levels of classical ballet and shared her experiences and knowledge of the business of dance. In 2017, she was invited to Ballet Wichita as guest artistic director. Later that year she was awarded the Harriet Tubman Freedom Award. Since 2018 she has returned to teaching and her research in analyzing movement. The Karen Brown International Coaching Studio dedicated to renowned ballet dancer, close friend, former dance colleague and benefactor Mel A. Tomlinson and the legacy of the late Dance Theatre of Harlem founder, Arthur Mitchell opened in 2019. The studio is designed to be used for distance learning, coaching, choreographing, master classes and workshops, teacher training intensives in accelerated learning techniques for ballet application, private career consultations and movement presentations. karenbrown@umkc.edu

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



Dani Wellemeyer, Librarian II, Head of Outreach & Engagement, UMKC University Libraries. Dani has been on the library team since 2011 when she started as a graduate assistant, and in her faculty role since 2014. In that time, she has focused on information literacy instruction, library curriculum development for the university General Education program, instructional design, the Fellowship Program at UMKC Libraries, and now outreach and engagement. Dani oversees the libraries' external communication and programming and creates opportunities for students to interact with the Libraries. Dani volunteers on conference planning committees for Educate-Organize-Advocate, the UMKC conference for social justice and advocacy, and the Library Collective, an academic library conference. She writes and presents about her student engagement work, training and onboarding library employees, and instructional and visual design in libraries. WellemeyerDM@umkc.edu



Fu Zhu is a Teaching & Learning Librarian with the rank of Librarian III. He specializes in the subjects of Education, Social Work and Psychological Sciences. zhuof@umkc.edu

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Tom Mardikes, Professor of Theatre Sound, UMKC Conservatory. (Chair, Faculty Senate). Professor Mardikes has worked on over 250 professional productions nationwide as Sound Designer for Kansas City Repertory Theatre, the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, the Dallas Theatre Center, Syracuse Stage, Coconut Grove, the Roundabout, the Alley Theatre, Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. Since 2004 he has created over six hours of audio tours for the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Mardikes served as chair of UMKC Theatre from 2001-2017. He co-founded Kansas City Actors Theatre in 2004, an artist-led, artist-driven professional theatre company performing in Kansas City's Union Station. In 2011, he led a group of eight member-schools to create the National Design Portfolio Review, where graduating M.F.A. designers are introduced to the New York theatre profession. His research project is the *Sound Mandala*, where he works with colleagues and graduate students programming the amazing motion of sounds through loudspeakers systems that vary in size from 36 up to 192 speaker channels. mardikest@umsystem.edu



Dr. Viviana Grieco is Professor of History & Latin American and Latinx Studies (Past-Elect of Faculty Senate). Dr. Grieco studies the political economy and political culture of the Spanish Empire. Her research focuses on the Viceroyalty of Rio de la Plata in the eighteenth century. She is the author of *The Politics of Giving in the Viceroyalty of Rio de la Plata. Donors, Lenders, Subjects and Citizens* (The University of New Mexico Press, 2014), translated into Spanish in 2018 by Prometeo Editorial (*La Política de Dar en el Virreinato del Río de la Plata. Donantes Prestamistas, Subditos y Ciudadanos*). Dr. Grieco is currently working on a second monograph, tentatively titled *Conflict and Voice*. Additionally, she has started a new research project on the global commerce of ephedrine, a commodity traded in both legal and illegal networks. In 2018, in partnership with Dr. Praveen Rao (MU & UMKC-SCE), Dr. Grieco started the development of a software tool for managing and analyzing Spanish American notary records. This project was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and will be developed under the UM-System NextGen Data Science and Innovation Center. griecov@umkc.edu



Anthony Shiu, Associate Professor, Department of English (Chair-Elect of Faculty Senate). Professor Shiu's previous research and publications dealt with a number of interrelated literary and cultural concerns: Asian American studies, ethnic studies, turntablism/hip-hop music, political/legal theory, international adoption, video games, and blackface/yellowface minstrelsy. His current research project deals with how Asian American science fiction—and

“ethnofuturisms” more generally--imagines alternative futures and new foundations for an America “to come.” shiua@umkc.edu



Shannon Jackson (IFC) is a Professor of Anthropology who Chairs the Sociology and Anthropology Department; she is currently a Research Fellow at the Linda Hall Library and teaches in the Anthropology Program. Her research interests include cities, technology, and embodiment. She has been conducting ethnographic and archival research on material culture and identity in Cape Town, South Africa since 1989. This work culminated in numerous articles and a book titled *Embodying Cape Town*, Palgrave Macmillan (2017). She recently received the International Award for Excellence from the Technology, Knowledge, and Society Research Network for her research on the digital divide. Her current book project is titled “The Machine in the City: Technology, Standardization, and Power.” jacksonsh@umkc.edu



Thiagarajan Ganesh (IFC), Professor in Science and Engineering in Civil/Structural Engineering/Applied Mechanics. He had practiced structural engineering for several years prior to starting his doctoral studies. After his Ph.D. at Louisiana State University, he worked both at LSU and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as a post-doctoral research scientist. He has been a faculty at the University of Missouri, Kansas City since 2002 and teaches in the areas of mechanics and structural analysis and design. His current research focuses on two main areas; a) Structural Engineering - Blast/Seismic behavior of structures and bridge structures research and b) Bone biomechanics - including orthopedic areas, experimental and numerical simulation of bone mechanotransduction, and dental structure modeling.
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