Faculty Senate: Profiles & Contact Information 2020-21

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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.

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Prof. 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.

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Anthony Shiu, Professor, Department of English. 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.”

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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.

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Peter Morello, Associate Professor of Journalism, Department of Communications Studies. He specializes in broadcast and digital journalism, media ethics, cross-cultural journalism and international reporting. As a Fulbright Scholar and a Fulbright Senior Specialist, Peter taught at universities in Ethiopia (Addis Ababa Graduate School of Journalism,) Russia (Togliatti State University,) and Swaziland (University of Swaziland, southern Africa.) Peter also conducted US Embassy sponsored workshops for practicing journalists in those countries. As a contributing correspondent for Kansas City Public Television (KCPT) and regional PBS, Peter has produced several award-winning documentaries. They include: “The Missouri Senate Race: The Post 911 Contest,” “Cambio de Colores: The Changing Face of America’s Heartland,” “Profiles of Black Success: Kansas City’s Untold Stories,” and “Haiti & the Resurrection.”

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SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL & CHEMICAL SCIENCES

J. David Van Horn, Associate Professor of Chemistry.
Dr. Van Horn is currently working in the area of materials science and is leader of the Positron Science Laboratory (PSL) at UMKC. The lab studies all types of materials including biological minerals and materials, and bio-compatible materials, and have special interest in exploring the
interface between materials and their surface properties. A key research project is investigating the interactions of positrons (e+) with chiral (asymmetric) materials, and positron techniques are also used to investigate changes in the nano- and microstructures of polymers, hybrid materials, minerals, etc.

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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.

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BLOCH SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

William R. Keeton, Ph.D. Assistant 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.

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Bryan Boots, Assistant Teaching Professor, Henry W. Bloch School of Management is the Managing Director for Venture Creation, Regnier Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. In his responsibilities with the Regnier Institute, Professor Boots leads the RIEI’s portfolio of programs aimed at helping rising entrepreneurs start new business ventures of all types. This portfolio includes the E-Scholars program, UMKC’s chapter of Entrepreneur Quest, pitch competitions, incubator space, mentorship opportunities, and more. He teaches undergraduate and graduate entrepreneurship courses in areas including product development, technology entrepreneurship & management, and others.

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UMKC CONSERVATORY

DeeAnna Hiett , Associate 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. Hiett 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. Hiett 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.

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Charles Robinson is Professor of Choral Music and Music Education and Area Coordinator for Music Education and Music Therapy at the UMKC Conservatory. Robinson conducts the Conservatory Concert Choir, supervises graduate research, and teaches choral/vocal pedagogy and methods, choral conducting, and various courses in music education. He is an active conductor/clinician for honor choruses throughout the United States.
and a frequent presenter of workshops for music educators. An active member of the American Choral Directors Association, he has served as Southwestern Division chair for Ethnic and Multicultural Perspectives, College and University Choirs, and Research, and he has served as president of the Missouri Choral Directors Association. Robinson’s music research has focused on choral performance evaluation, choral conducting, aesthetic response to music, and inclusion in music settings, and has been presented and published at regional, national, and international levels. The Missouri Choral Directors Association presented Robinson with the 2000 Luther T. Spayde Award of Excellence for significant contributions to choral music in Missouri. He earned a master’s degree from California State University-Long Beach, and bachelor’s and doctoral degrees from Florida State University.

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SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Lance Godley, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Dentistry.
Lance W. Godley, D.M.D., M.Ed. is the Vice Chair of the Restorative Clinical Sciences Department and the Director of the Somers Clinic at the UMKC School of Dentistry. He received his Doctor of Dental Medicine degree at the University of Florida in 1997. He worked in private practice in Naples, FL until he moved to Kansas City to become an Assistant Clinical Professor at UMKC. In 2017 he went back to school and received his Masters of Education in Integrated Curriculum degree from the American College of Education. He has received numerous teaching awards and was honored in 2018 as a Fellow of American College of Dentists. He is a board member of the Greater Kansas City Dental Society and is a delegate to the Missouri Dental Association House of Delegates. He has served as a test constructor for the National Boards Part II and for the Dental Licensure OSCE for the ADA.
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Eric Gottman, D.D.S., Clinical Professor, School of Dentistry, is a prosthodontist and Team Coordinator at the UMKC school of Dentistry. He received his Doctor of Dental Surgery in 2001 from UMKC and a Certificate in Prosthodontics in 2004 also from UMKC. He previously served as the director of the UMKC Oral Oncology clinic and continues to treat oral oncology patients in the faculty practice. He is a member of the American Dental Education Association and serves as the UMKC Faculty Representative on the ADEA Council of Faculties.
He has received multiple distinguished teaching awards and was presented the 2020 Elmer F. Pierson Good Teaching Award for the School of Dentistry.

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SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

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.

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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.

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SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Michelle Maher, is Professor and Chair of the Division of Educational Leadership, Policy, and Foundations in the UMKC School of Education. In her research areas Dr. Maher explores graduate student research, teaching, disciplinary writing skill development as well as higher education access and equity issues.

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Dr. LaVerne Berkel, Associate Professor, Department of Counseling and Counseling Psychology. Dr. Berkel is a graduate of Oakwood College (now Oakwood University), New York University, and The Pennsylvania State University. A Brooklyn native, she has been a member of the faculty at the University of Missouri – Kansas City for over 20 years. During this time, she has taught several courses, including counseling theories and methods, introduction to counseling, career development, consultation, practicum, internship, and group counseling. Her research has examined various aspects of health from an integrated lens. Along with nursing colleagues, her recent scholarship examined the deployment and reintegration experiences of women in the National Guard, with an emphasis on emotional (e.g., depression, PTSD), family (e.g., parenting), and spiritual health. Her interests also include the role of counseling psychologists in integrated healthcare; the effect of the built environment on health outcomes; and diversity issues in general, with a particular interest in religion and spirituality, counseling and health.

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SCHOOL OF LAW

Timothy Lynch, Associate 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
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.

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Julia Pluta, Director of Research and Instructional Services
School of Law. Joshua Pluta was previously the Head of Reference and Instructional Services Librarian at Texas Tech School of Law, and before that, the Emerging Technologies Librarian at Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law. Josh is the Reference and Instructional Librarian in the UMKC Law Library, creating research content for 1L and upper-level courses. Josh has taught a variety of courses in the past, including basic and advanced legal research.

Josh has taught a variety of courses in the past, including basic and advanced legal research,
legal writing, business and transactional law research, and real estate transactions. In his spare time, Josh is a huge nerd, enjoying reading, movies, and board and card games. 
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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

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.
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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.
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Mark Patterson, Associate Professor, School of Pharmacy. Dr. Patterson’s specialization areas include 1) exploring the role of health information technology to improve communication, prescribing patterns, and medication reconciliation within post-acute care settings; 2) managing and building large datasets that are used to build predictive models for health outcomes studies, and 3) facilitating focus groups and conducting qualitative analysis on focus groups transcripts. Dr. Patterson was a recent recipient of a 2016 New Investigator Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) on a project entitled “Workflow impact on medication errors occurring during transitions of care between rural facilities”. Mark was recently named as an implementation co-lead for a recently established and unique Kansas City regional collaborative –the Kansas City Quality & Value Innovation Consortium (QVIC) – focusing on heart failure readmissions and opioid management. Dr. Patterson works with on QVIC heart failure readmissions project team.
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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

James Wooten, Professor, Department of Internal Medicine.
Dr. Kathleen Kilway, Curators’ Professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Department of Chemistry (Inter-Faculty Council). Dr. Kilway’s research interests include conformational analysis; synthesis of twisted polycyclic aromatic compounds; molecular assembly of organonitriles and silver salts; synthesis and studies of cyclopropanes; experimental studies of dental-relevant monomers; bone cement, spacer, and antifungal/antibiotic materials development; theoretical modeling of carboxylates on copper surfaces; and theoretical and experimental measurements of hydrogen bonding.
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Dr. Viviana Grieco is Associate Professor of History & Latin American and Latinx Studies (Chair-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.
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Stephen Dilks, Professor of English, College of Arts & Sciences. (Past-Chair, Faculty Senate). Born in Lincolnshire to a military family, Dilks attended school in Cyprus, worked on farms and in factories, busked for money in the Paris Metro and across Europe, and has traveled to every state in the USA except Hawaii. Dilks has research interests in Irish modernism, discourses of civil rights, and relationships between art, commerce, and politics. He is currently writing a book about coverage of the Irish Independence movement in nineteenth-century Dublin newspapers. Dilks plays indoor soccer and hosts a music trivia night.
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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