

## Faculty Senate: profiles & contact

### COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



Dr. Sookhee Oh, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, joined UMKC in 2007 after working as a postdoctoral research associate in Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences (S4) at Brown University. Her research areas include urban sociology, immigration, and Asian American studies. A number of her articles on immigrant political incorporation and socioeconomic attainments among major racial/ethnic groups have been published in major sociology journals. The current focus of her research is the political incorporation of immigrant place-based entrepreneurs in the urban (re)development processes in Los Angeles. [ohso@umkc.edu](mailto:ohso@umkc.edu)



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. [ZhuD@umkc.edu](mailto:ZhuD@umkc.edu)



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, turndabism/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.” [shiu@umkc.edu](mailto:shiu@umkc.edu)



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](mailto:olsenek@umkc.edu)



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. [vanhorn@umkc.edu](mailto:vanhorn@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.  
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## **BLOCH SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT**



**Erin Blocher,** Assistant Teaching Professor of Management. Blocher's teaching emphasis has included courses in effective business communication and honors speaker-audience communication. She has overseen the development of a business communication curriculum at the Bloch School and has coordinated the opening of the Bloch Communication Center, an academic center focused on polishing students' professional written and verbal communication. She also works with students and members of the Greater Kansas City business community to apply effective business communication theory and strategy to real-world communication issues.  
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**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. [keetonw@umkc.edu](mailto:keetonw@umkc.edu)

## 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. [hiettd@umkc.edu](mailto:hiettd@umkc.edu)



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. [RobinsonC@umkc.edu](mailto:RobinsonC@umkc.edu)

## 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. [godleyl@umkc.edu](mailto:godleyl@umkc.edu)



LORI HOLT, Associate Professor, Director of Degree Completion Studies-

School of Dentistry, UMKC Campus Director-UM Faculty Scholars Program, Provosts Fellow. Lorie has been a full-time faculty member at UMKC since 1997. She has served in a number of different roles including senior clinical coordinator and currently serves as the Director of Degree Completion Studies in the Division of Dental Hygiene. Lorie serves as the UMKC Campus Director for the University of Missouri Faculty Scholars Program and has most recently served as a Provosts Fellow. She has published in several peer-reviewed journals. Her research interests include: culturally responsive pedagogy, educational pedagogy, faculty development and online learning. Lorie has received numerous distinguished teaching awards and has been recognized by Johnson County Community College as Alumna of the Year. She has much service experience both within the UMKC School of Dentistry as well as within the University itself. Lorie has served her profession as Councilor for the ADEA Section on Dental Hygiene Education, educational consultant for the Commission on Dental Accreditation, as well as serving various offices within the state dental hygiene association. Lorie completed her Associates Degree at Johnson County Community College. She earned both her Bachelor's degree and her Master's degree at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) and she is completing her I PhD in Curriculum & Instruction with a focus on faculty/professional development. [holtla@umkc.edu](mailto:holtla@umkc.edu)

## **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. [ChatD@umkc.edu](mailto:ChatD@umkc.edu)



Ceki Halmen, Associate Professor, Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Halmen received his B.Sc. degree in Civil Engineering from Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey, in 1998, the M.Sc. degree in Construction Management and the Ph.D. degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, in 2000 and 2005, respectively. In December 2005 he joined the Constructed Facilities Division of the Texas Transportation Institute, where he worked for 3 years before joining the Civil and Mechanical Engineering Department of UMKC in 2008. Dr. Halmen worked on different state and federal funded research projects. His teaching and research interests include construction materials, durability of cementitious material systems, construction methods and management. Dr. Halmen is the academic director of UMKC's Graduate Certificate in Engineering and Construction Project Management. He is a member of ASCE, ACI, and DBIA and he is a licensed Professional engineer in Missouri. [halmenc@umkc.edu](mailto:halmenc@umkc.edu)

## 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. [mahermi@umkc.edu](mailto:mahermi@umkc.edu)



Rita Barger, Associate Professor of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, taught middle school and high school mathematics, as well as gifted students in the Hickman

Mills School District before coming to UMKC as a professor in mathematics education. She earned her PhD from the University of Missouri-Columbia where she played drums in Marching Mizzou. She earned a B.S. in Education with a dual major of mathematics and instrumental music. She has an M.A. in Mathematics, and an M.S. in Gifted Education. She was a state finalist for the Teacher in Space Program – the one that ended with the Challenger disaster in 1986, has been recognized as the Outstanding Post-Secondary Mathematics Teacher in the State of Missouri, and has been recognized with the Kansas City Spirit Award. [BargerR@umkc.edu](mailto:BargerR@umkc.edu)

## 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 the courses Contracts, International Law, Immigration Law, International Business Transactions, International Trade Law, and Conflicts of Law. [lynchte@umkc.edu](mailto:lynchte@umkc.edu)



Jamila Jefferson-Jones, Associate Professor of Law, teaches courses in Property, Real Estate Transactions and Professional Responsibility. Her scholarship reflects her intellectual interest in theories of property and ownership as well as in property and wealth attainment by communities and groups on the margins of society. Her recent work has three strands: (1) the interplay between and among sex, race, status and property; (2) the intersection of property and criminal justice theory; and (3) the regulation of the housing sector of the sharing economy. [jeffersonja@umkc.edu](mailto:jeffersonja@umkc.edu)

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



Scott Curtis, Teaching and Learning Librarian, Department of Scholarly Communications. Scott Curtis joined UMKC Libraries in 2010 as a science and engineering liaison librarian. He currently works in the Scholarly Communications department, where he

focuses on Open Educational Resources, Open Access, and Open Data initiatives. He also continues to provide library instruction and reference services, and serves as the FDLP (Federal Depository Library Program) Coordinator for Miller Nichols Library. He served as the Publications Chair for the Engineering Libraries Division of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) from 2014-2018, and co-chaired the planning committee for the 2018 ASEE Midwest Section Conference with Emeritus Professor Deborah O'Bannon. He regularly leads book discussion programs in coordination with the Division of Diversity and Inclusion and the UMKC Women's Center. He was a recipient of the 2017 Chancellor's Award for Embracing Diversity, and recently served on the Community Advisory Group for the 30 Americans exhibit at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. [curtissa@umkc.edu](mailto:curtissa@umkc.edu)



Jen Salvo, Head of Resource Sharing & Graduate Student Services. University Libraries. Jen Salvo-Eaton joined the UMKC University Libraries faculty in 2013 and has served on the Faculty Senate since 2016. She and her team run the university's interlibrary loan service, which processes over 30,000 requests annually. In addition, she helped establish the UMKC Graduate Writing Initiative, a campus-wide effort to support graduate student writing through writing events, community-building, and online resources. She is a member of the UMKC Copyright Support Team and conducts library research with emphases in efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and information-seeking behavior. Her book chapter, "Interlibrary Loan and Serving Graduate Students" appears in *Transforming Libraries to Serve Graduate Students* (2018) from the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL). [salvoeatonj@umkc.edu](mailto:salvoeatonj@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](mailto:WootenJ@umkc.edu)



Jenifer Allsworth, Associate Professor, Department(s) of Biomedical and Health Informatics, UMKC School of Medicine.

Research Focus: Impact of social factors, including race, violence, and poverty, on obstetric and gynecologic outcomes; the use of social media for delivery of weight gain interventions among

disadvantaged reproductive-aged women at risk for obesity; and the impact of alterations of the vaginal microbiome on health outcomes. [allsworthj@umkc.edu](mailto:allsworthj@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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bhath@umkc.edu)



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. [pattersonmar@umkc.edu](mailto:pattersonmar@umkc.edu)

#### **FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**



Johanna Nilsson, Professor of Psychology, College of Arts & Sciences. (IFC Representative). Dr. Nilsson teaches undergraduate Abnormal Psychology and graduate courses in Professional Counseling, Counseling Practicum, Supervision and Methods, Psychopathology, Diagnosing and Classification; Supervision Practicum and Self in a Multicultural Society. Dr. Nilsson's research interests focus on International issues and populations (e.g., international students, refugees, and immigrants), supervision, and social justice advocacy. [NilssonJ@umkc.edu](mailto:NilssonJ@umkc.edu)



Jacob Marszalek, Associate Professor of Psychology, College of Arts & Sciences. (IFC representative and chair). Dr. Marszalek teaches undergraduate quantitative statistics and graduate courses in Statistical Methods, Structural Equation Modeling, Principles and Methods of Research, Latent Trait and Multilevel Modeling and Development and Evaluation of Assessment Tools. Dr. Marszalek's research interest is in translational methodology,

motivational theories in psychology and education (e.g., flow, anxiety, reactance), educational and psychological measurement, social justice advocacy, evaluation of institutional/educational programs for minority outreach and support. [marszalekj@umkc.edu](mailto:marszalekj@umkc.edu)



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. [DilksS@umkc.edu](mailto:DilksS@umkc.edu)



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](mailto:mardikest@umsystem.edu)