Welcome to the latest edition of our EPC Newsletter. Inside you will find a review of recent events and changes for our department, as well as many accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

Our leadership team (Whitney Denton, Lisa Yamagata-Lynch, Merilee McCurdy, and myself), along with all staff & faculty are gearing up for a great new academic year. We welcome nearly 100 new graduate students, who bring exciting skills and talents, plus the eagerness to push their learning and careers forward! Admission to our department is generally quite competitive, often allowing our faculty to select only the best of the best to offer admission. So congratulations to each of our students! We appreciate you and you have chosen well.

In the coming months we will continue our efforts to partner with historically black colleges & universities (HBCUs), including recruitment trips to Fisk University in Nashville, Spellman College in Atlanta and the consortium of Atlanta HBCUs (Spellman, Morehouse, and Clark), continuing our new EPC Diversity Fellowship, and a partnership with Spellman which allows us to encourage their applicants by waiving their graduate application fee.

We also will be rolling out new initiatives, including resources and support for EPC faculty members’ external research grant, a new fund to support graduate student research, new fund raising efforts, plus continue our launch of new PhD concentrations in Learning Design and Technology and Applied Educational Psychology.

While she is also noted below, I want to welcome our newest staff member, Kathi Pauling. She comes to us with a wealth of skills, experience and enthusiasm. We are lucky to have her. Welcome Kathi! I wish you all the best through an excellent new academic year!

Jeff L. Cochran, PhD
Department Head

Across the Department

Big Orange Family Campaign
The Big Orange Family Campaign is a month-long initiative to promote philanthropy among UT Knoxville’s faculty and staff. In 2014, EPC’s participation rate was 25%. Since then, our participation has consistently grown reaching an all-time high this year of 96%!

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New PhD Programs
In the 2018-19 Graduate Catalog, there will be two new PhD programs under our department. The first is Applied Educational Psychology under the major of educational psychology and research with Karee Dunn,
associate professor, serving as program coordinator. The second is Learning, Design, and Technology under the major of education with Lisa Yamagata-Lynch, professor, serving as program coordinator. Keep an eye out on the EPC website for information on these new programs!

New Staff Member

Kathi Pauling, administrative support assistant III, joined EPC in early April and serves as program secretary for Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Counselor Education, and School Counseling. Pauling spent most of her career in support of top executives in the financial industry and held a securities license for that time. She said, “I’m so grateful to be a new staff member in this department. Everyone has been so helpful and kind. I appreciate their confidence in me and bringing me on board from the corporate world into that of academia. Now that the initial learning curve is mostly behind me, I believe I will be able to serve them well. My hope is to continue learning and be a valuable addition for a very long time.”

Constructing Counseling Spaces

Major renovations have been occurring at the Jane and David Bailey Education Complex (BEC), Room 502! Soundproofed offices have been created for students in the Counselor Education program, and a corridor has been built for access to the newly soundproofed conference room in 502A. When finished, the new offices will be used for our counseling students to provide individual and small group counseling.

Flooding Recovery

Over Spring Break, there was a major leak on the fourth floor of the Philander P. Claxton Education Building. This resulted in the displacement of some EPC faculty, staff, and students, as well as a substantial cleanup and remodeling. We are happy to say that the worst is behind us, and everyone is back in their own spaces!

EPC Recruitment

The department completed two recruitment trips to Spelman College in Atlanta, GA during the spring semester. The first was at the college’s First Annual Spring Graduate and Professional School Fair and the second was at the Department of Education Future Educator’s Fair.

RECRUITMENT by the numbers

- 96 Students who attended the events.
- 26 Students who had conversations with EPC representatives.
- 73% Students we spoke with who filled out an interest form.
- 99 EPC marketing and promotional materials that were handed out.
**Awarded Grants**

**Blueford, J. M.** $500 awarded, 2018, American Counseling Association Foundation. Grant was for Camp Aliya (Grief Outreach Initiative).

**Johnson, M. C.** $20,000 awarded over two-year fellowship, 2018, National Board of Certified Counselors’ Minority Fellowship Program. The Minority Fellowship Program seeks to strengthen the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally competent services to underserved populations.

**Luke, C.** $3,000 awarded, 2018-19, Tennessee Tech University Faculty Research Grant for Ethical Considerations for Counselors Integrating Neuroscience into Clinical Practice and Training.


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**Centers, Initiatives & Outreach**

**Grief Outreach Initiative (GOI)**

GOI is a service-learning course for graduate and undergraduate students in any UT Knoxville program, as well as the cornerstone of the Grief, Loss, and Trauma Graduate Certificate. This year:

- We had 11 graduate mentors and 10 undergraduate mentors provide individual mentoring and support to 26 children and adolescents grieving a loss. They met with their mentees once a week at school to talk, play, and create crafts to help with expression of grief and learning coping skills.
- **Laura Wheat**, assistant professor, presented in the fall on GOI to the CEHHS Board of Advisors, along with EPC’s other outreach programs.
- The graduate mentor class conducted a week-long social media campaign via Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to celebrate Children’s Grief Awareness Day in the fall. The campaign aimed to provide education about grief and children, as well as promote GOI activities.
- Eleven volunteers helped kick off GOI’s very first Camp Aliya for grieving elementary age children at Pond Gap Elementary School in June, 2018. Seven volunteers were past GOI mentors, both graduate and undergraduate, and three were alumni. Eleven campers participated in activities ranging from small group, arts and crafts, and music, culminating in a memorial ceremony with caregivers. **Wheat** also facilitated a psychoeducational support group for caregivers both days. Camp Aliya is named for the “little girl who started it all,” a child Dean Rider met who inspired him to create GOI in 2008. Camp Aliya is seeking grant funding for the future, and will expand to serve children in all primary and secondary grades. Watch for an article about Camp Aliya’s inaugural year in an upcoming issue of *Accolades*!

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**Possibilities in Postsecondary Education and Science (PiPES)**

PiPES is a project that seeks to make a positive difference in East Tennessee by providing opportunities for 10th and 11th grade students in regional counties to explore STEMM (science, technology, engineering, math, and medical) careers and promote college awareness. Here are some updates:

- We recently began Year 4 of PiPES and are excited for the new school year. Facilitated by current undergraduate and graduate students, the school year program provides opportunities for 10th
graders to explore their strengths and values, learn how to find information on STEMM careers, increase understanding of what it means to be a STEMM researcher, and identify potential barriers to postsecondary education and explore how to overcome them. We also have an optional program, PiPES Ambassadors, for juniors and seniors who wanted to learn more about leadership and STEMM careers.

- In June, 2018, we held our third annual PiPES camp on the campus of UT Knoxville. Over 50 high school students from six rural Appalachian communities came to campus for three fun-filled days. They heard about postsecondary options and financial aid, visited biomedical engineering labs, and explored potential biomedical careers. Campers participated in an engineering simulation competition that involved rubber bands, popsicle sticks, and marshmallows, and they heard from student STEMM researchers who shared their experiences entering into and succeeding in their chosen career paths. We also had five returning campers who completed a DNA-extraction lab designed to introduce them to microbiology. Montages of photos from our first two camps are available at: pipes.utk.edu/summer-camp/

- One new aspect to PiPES is the addition of three new schools this year. These high schools, all from Monroe County, TN, are both economically and regionally similar to our original counties. We are excited for our new partnership and the opportunity to serve more students from rural Appalachia.

- Lastly, we have begun publishing and presenting research related to PiPES. In addition to our yearly poster at the SciEd Conference, PiPES staff recently presented at the 2017 Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Annual Conference. Upcoming presentations include a symposium and two posters at the 2018 American Psychological Association’s Annual Conference. Also, we have three manuscripts related to PiPES under review for publication in peer-reviewed journals and five more in active development.

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**University-Assisted Community School (UACS)**

UACS at Inskip Elementary School has continued to provide and expand opportunities for children and their families through our many programs. This year included a multitude of fulfilling highlights:

- After-school programs served over 100 students five days a week during the school year. Students participated in traditional academic tutoring supplemented by music, art, nutrition, circus, and gardening classes, in addition to Spanish classes taught by UT student volunteers. Also, English-language learner (ELL) classes offered students and adults the chance to improve their English skills. After-school tutoring added services to approximately 40 ELL students three days a week. This tutoring targeted K-5 students at primary and intermediate levels, and supported our ELL population with vocabulary, reading, speaking, and writing. Thematic units included topics about culture, animals, space, community helpers, plants, weather, and food. UT’s Hispanic Studies concentration from the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures worked with Inskip UACS to provide volunteer support for this endeavor.

- The Inskip UACS performing arts program taught emotional and social development, confidence, perseverance, and teamwork through circus, theater, music, and dance classes. Students explored social issues though song writing, creativity, drama, and development of circus skills. This year, at the end of each semester, the performing arts program produced two major shows: a variety-talent show and an original hip-hop rendition of “Alice in Wonderland”. Students worked to write and record their own music, make props and giant puppets, as well as choreograph dances for each show. What the students’ accomplished was truly an amazing feat and their growth was awe-inspiring.

- The garden at Inskip UACS has also expanded to increase its cultivated area by 70%. The fall harvest regularly delivered produce to the Knoxville Dream Center from September through November, and this spring the first delivery alone was 45lbs of radishes, kale, salad greens, and spinach. New educational resources in the garden include a weather station and hoop house. During the 2017-2018 school year, every student at Inskip Elementary had the opportunity to engage in experiential learning and hands-on activities in the garden.

- Summer programming began in June and served 60 students on the first day of operation. Five days a week through July 20, students are offered grade-level academics along with STEM, art, music, circus,
and technology classes. Graduate art education students from UT also provide art instruction five days a week in June. The curriculum is community-based and place-based, so they often engage the students in learning about local artists, art forms, and producing art related to place. A partnership with Second Harvest also provides students with food to take home on weekends during summer program months.

On our Facebook Page

The [EPC Facebook page](#) is a social space that shares information - about our department, programs, centers, current research, tips from related professional organizations, job opportunities, and upcoming events.

We also use this format to share photos. Be sure to check out the current albums we have up and tag yourself.

If you haven’t already, now would be a wonderful time to “Like” EPC! We have over 520 likes, let’s keep it going!

Word on the Web

**Spurgeon Wins ACA Counselor Educator Advocacy Award**  
*Shawn Spurgeon*, associate professor, received the 2018 American Counseling Association (ACA) Counselor Educator Advocacy Award.

**Blueford Wins CE&S Editorial Fellow**  
*Jillian Blueford*, PhD candidate in the Counselor Education program, was selected as a 2018-19 Counselor Education and Supervision Editorial Fellow.

**Morrow Co-Authors National Report**  
Counselor Education Students Place First in ACA Competition

School Psychology Students Matched with Internships
Five School Psychology PhD candidates – Kendall B. Hauck, Pete Ignacio, Maya Mingo, Kala Taylor, and Victoria VanMaaren – were matched with APA-accredited internships.

Williams Receives Lifetime Service Award
Robert L. Williams, professor of school psychology, was awarded the Joe Johnson Lifetime Achievement Award for 50 years of service at the fall luncheon.

Spring 2018 Graduates & Certificate Recipients
The Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling wants to congratulate the graduates from seven of our programs who earned their degrees and recipients from two of our graduate certificate programs who completed necessary requirements during the spring 2018 semester.

EPC Members Commended at CEHHS Recognition Ceremony
Fourteen members of EPC were commended at the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences Faculty and Staff Recognition Ceremony on April 25, 2018.

Four EPC Members Awarded at Chancellor’s Honors Banquet
One faculty member and three students from the Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling were recognized at the Chancellor’s Honors Banquet on April 17, 2018.
Johnson Awarded NBCC Fellowship

Marlon Johnson, doctoral student in Counselor Education, was one of 23 chosen for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP) and has received an award of $20,000 to support his education, and facilitate his service to underserved minority populations.

EPC Students Receive Awards at GSS Ceremony

Three students from the Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling received awards at the Graduate Student Senate Awards Ceremony and Breakfast on April 4, 2018.

Fall 2017 Graduates

The Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling wants to congratulate the graduates from four of our programs who earned their degrees during the fall 2017 semester.

EPC Spotlights

Jian Su
Learning Environments & Ed. Studies

Amber Giffin
Applied Educational Psychology

L. Marinn Pierce
Counselor Education
Publications


Cole, J., Gonyea, R., & Rocconi, L. (2018). With retention, the key is “act locally”. In R. Feldman (Ed.), The first year of college: Research, theory, and practice on improving the student experience and increasing retention. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.


Presentations


Learning in Higher Education (AALHE), Salt Lake City, UT.

Berry, B., & Rocconi, L. M. (2018, June). How often is “often”? Examining the meaning of vague quantifiers by institution type. Poster presentation at the Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.


Cochran, J. L., & Cochran, N. H. (2018, April). “Growing play therapy up” for older children, adolescents and adults. 90-minute peer reviewed Education Session (Presentation) for the American Counseling Association, Atlanta, GA.


Hathaway, G. J. (2018, March). The unfortunate Mr. Litvinenko, murder or nuclear terrorism? Tennessee Society of Nuclear Medicine, Chattanooga, TN.


Johnson, M. C. (2018, April). Times are changing: Recognizing the importance of continual multicultural education. The 2018 ACA Conference & Expo, Atlanta, GA.


Misawa, M. (2018, April). Adult bullying in academic and professional settings: How to identify, handle, and prevent adulthood bullying. Seminar given at VMD 817 Success and Wellness/Ethics course, University of Tennessee Veterinary Medical Center at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.


**Shepard, D. S.** (2018, April) *Cultivating Social Class Awareness in the Counseling Profession*. 2018 American Counseling Association Conference, Atlanta, GA.


*Thompson, D.* (2018, April). *Evaluating the Flipped Approach: How can it work for your learners?* Commission on Adult Basic Education Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ.

Vandergriff, K., & Leibert, R. (2018, March). Difficult PI’s don’t have to make you a difficult administrator. National Council of Research Administrators PRA and FRA, Orlando, FL.


*Also an alumni.*