

# SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



**Message from Dr. Lance Ratcliff, Dean  
School of Health Sciences and Education**

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Greetings from the School of Health Sciences & Education! It is a pleasure to be part of such a dynamic group of focused professionals, and I am privileged to give an overview of our September newsletter.

As usual, the newsletter features a portion of the amazing feats our students and colleagues have accomplished recently. However, unlike usual, these achievements occurred in the midst of a pandemic...what a testament to the faculty, staff, and students within our School!

In addition, a number of new colleagues are joining the Bulldog family, and we are excited to welcome them! I have enjoyed conversations with them and look forward to helping sustain their work.

It is an understatement to say the past few months have been unlike any others I have seen; I am thinking that's probably the same for you. During times of so many unknowns, I become more grateful for things that are known and people on whom I can depend, and I am especially thankful for such a group of colleagues who remain focused on what is most important – students and each other.

Please feel free to call (660-785-4384) or e-mail me ([LRatcliff@truman.edu](mailto:LRatcliff@truman.edu)) if we can talk further about the exciting initiatives across Health Sciences & Education. Thank you for your continued support!

## Promoted to Professor

During the closed session of the June Board of Governors meeting, the Board reviewed recommendations for promotion and tenure. From the School of Health Sciences and Education (SHSE), Dr. Ilene Elmlinger, Communication Disorders, was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor. Congratulations, Ilene.

## Welcome, School of Health Sciences and Education New Faculty

The SHSE extends a warm welcome to our new colleagues. Dr. Karl Witt, Counseling; Dr. Rolena Stephenson and Sean Monteyne, Health and Exercise Sciences; and Dr. Nola Martz and Christopher Nichols, Nursing have accepted positions in their respective departments. Welcome to several new (or returning after an absence) part-time adjunct colleagues as well: Jenna Cook, Ryan Kaden, Mindy Keim, Lynn Lowrance, Ruth Mach, Kathy Poole, and Joseph Regenbogen, Education; and Sharon McGahan, Nursing.



Dr. Karl Witt is excited to join the School of Health Sciences and Education as Chair of the Counseling Department. He is a native of rural Texas with earned degrees including a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and an M.S. in Counseling from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi and a B.A. in Physics with a Mathematics minor from Texas A&M University. He is a national board-certified counselor and a dually-licensed counselor and counselor supervisor in the state of Texas. His current research interests include rural mental health and counselor training.

Dr. Rolena Stephenson joined the Health and Exercise Sciences Department to teach courses related to community, worksite, and public health. Rolena is a Truman alumna with the Bachelor of Science in Health Science. She is very excited to be back on campus and looks forward to supporting Truman students in their learning endeavors. She holds a doctoral degree in health education from A.T. Still University and is a Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES). She has more than fifteen years of experience in prevention programming and is certified instructor for *Project Northland*, *Reconnecting Youth*, *Project ALERT*, *Prime for Life*, and *Strengthening Families* - model programs that increase protective factors and decrease risk factors for substance abuse. Her research interests are in implementation and evaluation of community-level prevention programs in the areas of substance abuse, gambling addiction, and oral health education and promotion. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family, dancing, running/walking in the countryside, tending her flower bed, and volunteering in multiple capacities at Mary Immaculate Parish/School.





Dr. Nola Martz has joined the Nursing Department as an Assistant Professor, where she will be teaching the Rural Public Health Nursing course. Nola's undergraduate and graduate degrees in Nursing are both from the University of Missouri, and she completed her Education Doctorate from William Woods University. She has spent most of her career working in local and state public health departments in Missouri, and taught in the Master of Public Health program at University of Missouri – Columbia as an adjunct instructor and as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Outside of work, she enjoys motorcycling (having ridden as far as Utah and New Mexico on two separate occasions), fishing, visiting historic sites and national parks, reading and movies.

Sean Monteyne has been an Athletic Trainer for more than 23 years, acquiring his Physical Therapy Assistant degree so he could continue his scope of practice in outpatient physical therapy. Sean decided to teach at Truman because of his diverse background in his career. By sharing his experiences with students, their understanding of the world outside of academics can be enhanced. Sean is married to his “exceptional and very beautiful” wife Amanda, of 18 years. They have four children: Ava, who is 17 and in her senior year of high school at Quincy Notre Dame (QND) and plans to attend Truman State University in the fall 2021. Mason is 14 and starting his freshman year at QND and he loves the game of soccer, which he plans to play this year. Jovie is 11 and she is involved in travel soccer, softball, basketball, and volleyball. She is in sixth grade at St. Peters Catholic School in Quincy. Calvin is 4 and anyone can tell he is the light of our family. He is not afraid to do anything.



Chris Nichols is teaching Clinical for the Nursing Department. He has been an Emergency/Trauma Nurse for the past six years, with previous experience in the progressive care unit, intensive care unit, medical surgical, information technology, and pediatrics. The past two years, he has been a travel nurse, working in multiple facilities with experience in multicultural nursing environment, acclimating international nurses to nursing practices within the United States. He is currently completing his Master's Degree in Nursing Education through Chamberlain University. His family enjoys traveling and experiencing new environments.

## *Outstanding Students, 2019 – 2020 Academic Year*

Congratulations to the following students, who were recognized as outstanding by their respective departments:

Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Athletic Training  
Chad Verdier

Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Communication Disorders  
Thea Cornwell

Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Exercise Science  
Lily Merz

Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Health Science  
Anna Livingstone

Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Nursing  
Carlie Burns

Outstanding Graduate Student in Communication Disorders  
Shiloh Wilson

Outstanding Graduate Student in Education/Elementary  
Kaitlin Hackbarth

Outstanding Graduate Student in Education/K-12  
Marissa Gress

Outstanding Graduate Student in Education/Secondary  
Nichole Schroeder

Outstanding Graduate Student in Education/Special Education  
Michaela Mooney

## *Faculty Scholarship Grants*

The Office of Academic Affairs awarded \$2,500 Faculty Scholarship Grants across a variety of disciplines. The grants provide an opportunity for faculty to seek funding for projects that would promote their continued development as teacher-scholars and positively impact their course content. Proposals were reviewed and scored by the Office of Student Research Steering Committee. SHSE faculty members receiving 2020 scholarship grants include: Nancy Daley-Moore and Julene Ensign, Health and Exercise Science and Stacy Davis, Classical and Modern Languages/Master of Arts in Education.

## *Communication Disorders*

The Truman Speech and Hearing Clinic opened August 31 and September 1, with over 75 clients being served during the fall 2020 semester. Thirty-two graduate students and 10 seniors are providing services in the clinic. Graduate students are also working in the local schools, (Kirksville R-3, Early Childhood Learning Center, Lewis County Public Schools; Early Head Start, First Steps), hearing evaluations, hearing screenings, and accent reduction class. Seven graduate students are on public school and/or hospital internships.

The CMDS department welcomed 13 new students into the master's program beginning in August. The new students came from undergraduate institutions including University of Iowa; Truman State University; University of Missouri - Columbia, and Missouri State University.

The Communication Disorders Department is proud to announce a variety of awards were bestowed upon faculty, students, clients and staff by the Missouri Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA).

Melissa Passe, director of clinical education for CMDS, was awarded Honors of the Association by MSHA for 2020. This award recognizes exceptional and extraordinary contributions to the field of speech, language and hearing, and is the highest honor the Association can give. In addition to serving in a variety of roles with MSHA, including president of the association in 2005-06, Ms. Passe has served on numerous national committees through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Her roles with ASHA include president of the Council for Clinical Certification and member of the Board of Ethics.

Emily Hathorn, graduate student in CMDS, was awarded the Graduate Student of the Year in speech-language pathology by MSHA. After the faculty in CMDS chose Hathorn as Truman's nominee, she provided a writing sample, letters of recommendation and a resume to be considered for this award. Chosen as the top graduate student out of nine programs in the state, Hathorn has brought this award back to Truman. It was last won by Kelsey Aurand de Razo, now a current instructor in CMDS, in 2015.

Linda Bindner, instructor in English, was awarded the Adult Ambassador of the Year by MSHA. Ms. Bindner has worked diligently in the clinic as well as other venues to regain functional speech abilities after a brainstem stroke in 2004. She always brings a positive attitude to her sessions and has contributed to the training of many Truman graduate students. Linda has progressed so far that she was able to go back to teaching two courses for the English Department in spring 2020. Due to her incredible fortitude, success and willingness to help people learn by sharing her experiences, she is a very deserving Adult Ambassador of the Year for MSHA.

In addition to the above awards, Andrea Richards was elected vice president of professional and public relations and will serve on the MSHA Board of Directors.

The Department of Communication Disorders renewed a grant from the Parkinson Voice Project. The grant provides training for three speech-language pathologists (two faculty and a local hospital clinician) in the treatment program known as SPEAK OUT!®, a voice treatment for patients with Parkinson Disease. The CMDS clinic will also provide LOUD Crowd! for those patients who complete the SPEAK OUT!® program. LOUD Crowd is designed to facilitate long-term carryover of the voice improvements gained from the SPEAK OUT!® program. An added benefit of the grant is that all graduate students enrolled in the Truman CMDS department during the grant period can complete the on-line SPEAK OUT!® training at no cost.

## Education

Congratulations to Dr. Stacy Davis, Foreign Language Spanish Education and Dr. Summer Pennell, Secondary English Education, recipients of Spring 2020 Academic Innovation Awards.

Dr. Summer Pennell had two co-authored book chapters published this summer. This first is "What Does it Mean to be Equal?," written with Katherine Baker and Bryan Fede, which outlines a kindergarten math lesson that incorporates learning about people of all genders with the mathematical concept of equal. It's included in the book [Teaching about Gender Diversity: Teacher Tested Lesson Plans for K-12 Classrooms](#). The second chapter is entitled "Talk to Me: Dialogic Engagement as Pedagogy" and was written with her doctoral program colleagues Ashley Boyd, Alison LaGarry, and Hillary Parkhouse about their mentor George Noblit. It is included in a collection dedicated to Noblit, with all chapters written by his former students, titled [How We Got Here: The Role of Critical Mentoring and Social Justice Practice](#).

Dr. Wendy Miner and Dr. John Jones, working with Tricia Regan and Christopher Best at Kirksville Public Schools, developed a virtual summer program for ED 618 elementary MAE students in place of traditional summer school. Normally, ED 618 students teach summer school in the Kirksville Public Schools, but in-person summer school was canceled due to COVID-19. Thanks to everyone's effort, they were able to create and implement the program in two weeks as well as develop an IRB-approved research protocol regarding the program's effectiveness. It was named the Truman State Virtual Summer Enrichment Program. MAE students worked with 60 families over the course of three weeks. Based on a follow-up survey with parents, the program was a great success. The vast majority of families said they were very satisfied with the program and would participate in it again if offered. Students and the program were profiled twice in the The Kirksville Daily Express over the summer. Wendy and John have already presented their preliminary findings once, at this year's virtual MACTE conference, and they are working on writing up their findings for publications. They are also developing the resources needed to offer the program again in future years, with an eye towards working with local families in need.

Dr. Julie Lochbaum, Provost Dr. Janet L. Gooch, and community partner Nancy Pennington – Executive Director of Adair County SB40 Developmental Disabilities Board – presented at the annual COPLAC conference on June 30. This year's conference was hosted by Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire, and was conducted virtually. The theme of this year's conference was *Partner and Prosper*. Julie, Janet, and Nancy presented "Campus/Community Partnership for Neurodiversity" about the Kirksville partnerships working to bring the *Greenwood Center for Autism Services* to fruition.

Students in Dr. Rebecca Dierking's LING 608, working toward ESL licensure, worked with local adolescent immigrants as part of their clinical experience this summer. Students in the course were paired with a local teenager and provided one-to-one lessons three days each week via online platforms, sometimes several online platforms. Lessons included building vocabulary, phoneme instruction, navigating the grocery store and other typical American businesses, getting a driver's license, creative writing, and improving listening skills through podcasts. Though technical issues with wi-fi access and broken computers threw obstacles into the student paths, both the Truman pre-service teachers and the students developing English proficiency (SDEP) persevered. (The class determined that the term "English language learner" is not person-first and, thus, should be changed to "students developing English proficiency" which is more apt nomenclature.)

## *Health and Exercise Sciences*

Liz Jorn was selected as an NCAA Division II Women Leaders X grant recipient. As a recipient, Liz receives a one-year Women Leaders in College Sports membership and participation in the NCAA / Women Leaders Division II Governance Academy. This program is led by the NCAA Division II office and assisted by Women Leaders staff. It includes a presentation from multigenerational workplace expert Lindsey Pollak, as well as an opportunity to learn about NCAA Division II Governance and committee service. Liz was also elected as vice chair for the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) Steering Committee at the conference meeting in May.

Congratulations to Brenda Embree, who received the Mark and Robin Gambaiana Purple Pride Award. The Mark and Robin Gambaiana Purple Pride Award is a cash award that recognizes Truman State University's dedicated, non-exempt administrative assistants for exemplary service to their departments and to the University.

Congratulations to Dr. Nancy Daley-Moore and Dr. Julene Ensign for being awarded a \$2,500 Faculty Scholarship Grant from the Office of Academic Affairs.

Congratulations to Dr. Brian Snyder, recipient of a spring 2020 Academic Innovation Award.

Dr. Jerry Mayhew collaborated with researchers at California State University Monterey Bay to publish an article in the Sports Biomechanics journal. In addition, his collaboration with Brazilian sports scientists recently resulted in a publication on muscle hypertrophy in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. He also worked with Truman alumni Marc Heinecke of Winston Salem University and Michael Landram of the University of Scranton on articles soon to be published in the Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research and Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness, respectively. His association with Brazilian sports scientists has also produced six other articles that are in press with various journals.

## *Nursing*

Congratulations to nursing major Zoe Frantom, the recipient of COPLAC's David J. Prior Award. The award comes with a cash award. "COPLAC sponsors two awards annually, one for students and one for faculty. The David J. Prior Award for students was created in 2012 to recognize senior-level undergraduates whose academic careers and future goals have been shaped by the transformative power of the liberal arts and sciences experience at a COPLAC institution. The legacy of David Prior – his career-long commitment to superior undergraduate teaching, his desire as a consortium leader to make the outcomes of an education at public liberal arts institutions widely recognized, and his deep concern that all students, regardless of financial circumstances, have equal access to a high-quality education anchored in the liberal arts and sciences - is the inspiration for this award. Each student's reflective personal essay highlights one or more of the features of COPLAC's student-centered approach to teaching: emphasis on active learning, ethical reasoning, interdisciplinary approaches to knowledge, community engagement, critical and reflective skills, and connections between liberal learning and informed, active citizenship."



Dr. Brenda Wheeler welcomes students to clinical education and celebrates the commitment they have made to provide care with integrity.



Dr. Teak Nelson introduces the video montage of Truman nursing heroes serving on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic.



Nursing students recite the Honor in Caring pledge, affirming their commitment to maintain the highest levels of integrity in their clinical practice.



Maria (Gonzalez) Walls, Truman Nursing class of 2004, delivered the streamed keynote address on the importance of integrity in nursing.

The Nursing Department faculty and staff welcomed the BSN class of 2022 and ABSN class of 2021 back to campus with their third annual Honor in Caring ceremony, August 16, one day prior to the start of the fall semester. The ceremony marked the nursing students' entrance into the realm of clinical nursing with an emphasis on the professional, ethical, and moral responsibilities that nurses have to their patients. This year, 2020, has been recognized as the "Year of the Nurse". Ironically (or fortuitously), it falls as we find ourselves living through unprecedented times – confronting a pandemic as both students/faculty and as nurses – making this year's ceremony even more meaningful, and the oath students would take more poignant. Ms. Maria (Gonzalez) Walls, 2004 alumna of the nursing program, a practicing advanced practice registered nurse working on the frontlines of this pandemic with her patients in St. Louis, and an emerging nursing social media advocate, streamed a thought-provoking and meaningful keynote address on the important role of integrity within the nursing profession. She highlighted many examples from her experience during the pandemic and challenged students to continue nursing's tradition of trustworthiness. Emma Poisson (Truman Nursing class of '21) offered a welcome and remarks on behalf of the current senior BSN class. Forty-nine students made their Honor in Caring pledge in the virtual presence of friends, faculty, peers, and family members via livestream (over 1500 views), and were subsequently welcomed into their clinical nursing education by Truman State University administration and nursing faculty. In the interest of public health, the ceremony was conducted with masks and social distancing. As such, and to symbolize the great things nurses can accomplish when working together, students cloaked themselves in unison; putting on their white coats officially for the first time, which serves as an outward symbol of the students' professional access to the clinical setting.





The Nursing Department welcomed 49 new first-time freshmen to campus during the majors' event held on August 13. Following an outdoor welcome from Dr. Brenda Wheeler, department chair, students were introduced to the nursing faculty, had the opportunity to meet their major advisors and have a brief tour of the nursing department. They then enjoyed a beautiful walk across campus to the ROTC obstacle course where student cadets facilitated a wide range of team-building exercises that allowed them to practice collaboration and openness to multiple perspectives in problem solving as they attempted to master each task. These student join additional change of major and transfer students to form the Truman Nursing Class of 2024. We welcome these students to the Nursing Program.

Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Scholars is a free two-year program for health professions students two years away from practicing in their field. This program offers opportunities to network and collaborate interprofessionally with medical, nursing, and allied health professions students across the state of Missouri. This HRSA funded program was designed to assist students as they prepare for careers in rural and medically underserved areas. AHEC Scholars can earn national certificates as well as develop skills and understanding in our six core topic areas:

Interprofessional Education  
Integrated Behavioral Health  
Social Determinants of Health  
Cultural Competency  
Practice Transformations  
Current and Emerging Issues

Not only is this program free, but stipends can be earned by completing each unit of the program. Over the course of two years, and at their own pace, AHEC Scholars will have benefited from 80 hours of online didactic material, had their pick of experiential activities designed to prepare them for leadership in their field and earned \$800!

For more information, contact:

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## *Regional Professional Development Center*

Myra Collins provided Missouri Educator Evaluation System (MEES) training for the Department of Education faculty and staff, August 25. The MEES is a series of evaluation forms used by Missouri Cooperating Teachers and University Supervisors to assess Teacher Candidates during student teaching internships.

## *Calendar of Selected Upcoming Events*


September 10, Thursday: Undergraduate Council, 3:00 p.m.  
September 16, Wednesday: Graduate Council, 3:40 p.m.  
September 19, Saturday: Admission Office Showcase  
September 24, Thursday: Faculty Senate, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
October 6, Tuesday: First Block Classes End  
October 7, Wednesday: Second Block Classes Begin  
October 8, Thursday: Undergraduate Council, 3:00 p.m.  
October 10, Saturday: Admission Office Showcase  
October 21, Wednesday: Graduate Council, 3:40 p.m.  
October 22, Thursday: Faculty Senate, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
October 23, Friday: Board of Governors  
November 7, Saturday: Admission Office Showcase  
November 12, Thursday: Undergraduate Council, 3:00 p.m.  
November 18, Wednesday: Graduate Council, 3:40 p.m.  
November 19, Thursday: Faculty Senate, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
November 24, Tuesday: Last Day of Classes (including second block)  
November 25, Wednesday – November 27, Friday: Truman Closed  
November 25, Wednesday – December 6, Sunday: Study Break (no classes or assignments)  
December 5, Saturday: Board of Governors  
December 7, Monday: Finals Begin (for all classes not holding finals prior to Thanksgiving)  
December 9, Wednesday: Reading Day  
December 10, Thursday: Faculty Senate, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
December 11, Friday: Finals End (for all classes not holding finals prior to Thanksgiving)  
December 12, Saturday: Interim Begins  
December 21, Monday – December 25, Friday: Truman Closed  
December 31, Wednesday – January 1, Friday: Truman Closed  
January 9, Saturday: Interim Ends  
January 20, Wednesday: Graduate Council, 3:40 p.m.  
February 6, Saturday: Board of Governors  
February 15, Monday: Admission Office Admitted Student Event  
February 17, Wednesday: Graduate Council, 3:40 p.m.  
March 17, Wednesday: Graduate Council, 3:40 p.m.  
March 19, Friday: Admission Office Admitted Student Event  
March 27, Saturday: Admission Office Showcase  
April 10, Saturday: Board of Governors  
April 21, Wednesday: Graduate Council, 3:40 p.m.  
April 24, Saturday: Admission Office Showcase  
June 12, Saturday: Board of Governors

# *Mission Statement*

The School of Health Sciences and Education is committed to preparing students to effectively serve as professionals and leaders in their communities and fields by providing an exceptional education grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, promoting diverse learning experiences, and inspiring the pursuit of continued scholarship and research.

## *Five Pillars*

- ❖ Professional programs grounded in the liberal arts and sciences
- ❖ Leadership development
- ❖ Interdisciplinary collaboration
- ❖ Diverse learning and service opportunities
- ❖ Pursuit of continued scholarship and research



TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

*School of  
Health Sciences & Education*