A MISSOURI STATE SIGNATURE EVENT
PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONFERENCE
A LIVE VIRTUAL EVENT

— A MISSOURI STATE SIGNATURE EVENT —

Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2020

Find links to all live webinar events:
PublicAffairs.MissouriState.edu/Conference
GET THE MOST OUT OF THE CONFERENCE

JOIN LIVE VIRTUAL EVENTS
Study this schedule in print or online and make plans to attend the events that are most meaningful for you. Links to the live webinar conference events are listed on the website.

SPECIAL EVENTS
As public safety permits, it is intended to have some special in-person events and activities. Check the conference website to view the schedule and periodic updates.

PublicAffairs.MissouriState.edu/Schedule

CONTACT THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPPORT TEAM

PublicAffairs.MissouriState.edu
PublicAffairsSupport@MissouriState.edu
417-836-8832

If you anticipate barriers to participation related to a disability in any of the listed events, please contact Diversity Transition and Support Coordinator Dola Flake with at least seven days notice: DolaFlake@MissouriState.edu
FROM THE PRESIDENT

What are your personal values, beliefs and attitudes, and how did you determine them? How do you live out those principles and talk about them with others?

How do you find your own voice, especially in an age of 24/7 information and opinions that may overwhelm you? And what is the power of your voice once you have it?

These are the questions behind this year’s conference. This event is an annual highlight at Missouri State, and is a great showcase for our mission in public affairs.

This moment in history is a great time to examine how we use our own voices while respecting other people and other points of view. People can use their voices to express gratitude and generosity. They can inspire others. Unfortunately, they can also convey hate and disruption. We must find considerate ways to agree and disagree.

The Power of Voice is about listening to others: It takes input from many people to establish just and equitable ways to live. It’s about reaching out to those who have not been heard due to indifference, fear or insecurity.

It’s also about using your own voice. You can express yourself and advocate for others through communication, the arts, political dialogue and in many other ways. You will be able to explore the Power of Voice deeply thanks to outstanding speakers from across the globe. We’ll have sessions on topics including mental health, poverty, hidden bias, bullying and other timely, important issues.

I hope you come away inspired to hone your own voice, listen to the voices of others and seek what unifies us as a community.

Clif Smart
President, Missouri State University

FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIR

Welcome to the 2020 Public Affairs Conference at Missouri State University! I am thrilled you have decided to join us to explore the Power of Voice. I hope you find the discussion to be insightful, respectful and thought-provoking.

The conference includes special student events and a range of plenary speakers and panel discussions that represent interests and perspectives from across the university and the community. We will explore this year’s public affairs theme: the Power of Voice. We will examine the power of the artistic voice, business communications, advocacy for the humanities and equity in the sciences, the value of graduate education, strategies to stop bullying and victim blaming, new advances in education, the role of agriculture in our cultural heritage and much more.

We hope you will join us as we seek to find our individual voices: One that represents our personal values, beliefs and attitudes within the framework of Missouri State’s public affairs mission of ethical leadership, cultural competence and community engagement. One that is shaped by experience, education, culture, geography, adversity and many other factors. We will explore how the evolution of one’s voice allows individuals to express themselves and to advocate for others. As a community, we seek the truth that unifies us all, and we hope you will join us.

Dr. Amanda Brodeur
Associate professor of biomedical sciences
2020-21 Provost Fellow for Public Affairs, and conference chair
The Power of Voice

PANELS AND PLENARIES BY LIVE WEBINAR

Wednesday, Sept. 30

9:05-9:55 a.m.

Amplifying the Voice of Teachers: Reforming Curriculum

Teachers and professors have a long history of creating their own lesson plans, assignments and learning activities. Now, online “open education resources,” or OERs, and other shared teaching materials in the public domain are gaining popularity. That means educators from the elementary level through the university level are reshaping curriculum and instruction, allowing for amplification of the voices of educators. These accessible and (often free) licensed materials have transformed many educators’ course content and pedagogy. Instructors can now plan learning through collaboration and information sharing, rather than by traditional means. What are the implications of this vast new curricular resource? Are these tools too individualized to be useful on a large scale? Are issues, such as personalization and collaboration, being overshadowed by intellectual property concerns? How will professional learning standards and state achievement testing be affected? What are the pros and cons of expanded teacher efficacy?

Panelists: T. Jameson Brewer, Laura Janusik, Carlene Thomas, Terry Jamieson

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Tuesday, Sept. 29

IN-PERSON EVENT (ALTERNATE LIVE WEBINAR)
7-8 p.m. | PSU Theater

I Have a Strong Voice! And I Will Use it To...?

Join us for this special event to kick-off the 2020 Public Affairs Conference, the Power of Voice. A panel consisting of Missouri State students and community members will highlight pressing issues and incidents of racial injustice that affect campus and community alike. Through conversation and Q&A, panelists will share moving accounts of past and current experiences and how they have used and are using their voice to speak out to effect positive change. The audience will be encouraged to self-reflect on the power of their own voice and how they can make a difference on campus and within the area community both now and into the future. How will you use the power of your voice to make a difference? Your voice is needed now more than ever!

If pandemic safety precautions exclude meeting in-person, find the live webinar link for this event on the public affairs website.
9:05-9:55 a.m.

Victim Blaming: Where is the Voice?

Victim blaming is all too common in American society and is a symptom of a culture where personal responsibility is often lacking. From family abuse, to rape, to acid attacks on women as punishment for perceived wrongs, the practice of victim blaming is present in the U.S. Victims are told to change their behavior to avoid being assaulted. Women are told to dress less provocatively, drink less alcohol and avoid putting themselves in risky situations. How can we provide the power of voice for these victims? How can community norms and state justice systems change to hear the voices of children and adult victims? To what extent do mainstream media outlets perpetuate the culture of victim blaming, and how can we bring awareness to abusive behavior that is too often trivialized?

Panelists: Christie Brungardt, Ada Booth, Parvonay Stover, Michael Heaney

10:10-11 a.m.

Giving the Humanities a Powerful Voice

Aggressive promotion of education focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), and the rising cost of education, has increased prejudice against the humanities. They may not be seen as useful in society and the workplace. This trend has forced specialists in these fields to raise their voices in justification of their professional existence. How can devotees of the humanities persuasively demonstrate the value of their work beyond abstract theory? What is the usefulness of the humanities for the wellness of our society? How can historical, anthropological, philosophical and religious studies lend their contributions to the real-world issues of today? In a higher-education institution with a public affairs mission, what competencies and career-building skill sets do the humanities provide for students and their employers?

Panelists: Daniel Fisher, Liv Dooley, Karen Craigo, Michael Heaney

10:10-11 a.m.

What My Voice Says About Me

People use multiple methods to communicate. All of them are aspects of our daily lives, our identities and our emotional well-being. Our voices are all unique and reflect a multitude of factors: where we were raised, languages we were exposed to as children and languages used by peers. Dialogue, spoken or otherwise, conveys a plethora of personal traits to listeners, whether intended or not. Some communications are seen as more feminine or masculine, while others reflect the region of the country where one lives. These traits often cause the listener to form opinions or conclusions about the speaker before taking the time to get to know the person. What phonetic and linguistic “habits” in speech affect and convey information about us? Real or assumed, how does voice project information about gender, sexuality, disability, ethnicity or social status? How do social norms and expectations affect a person’s true voice? Are digital technologies, such as texting and social media, affecting voice identity and cultural diversity?

Panelists: Benjamin Munson, Andrew Keaster, Yolanda Gordon, Carlene Thomas
Graduate Students: Advancing the Public Affairs Mission

NOTE: This panel is for current MSU graduate students only and will be an in-person event as safety allows. Lunch will be served. Panelists include a broad range of professionals with graduate degrees, including some MSU alumni.

The public affairs mission is incorporated into classroom discussion, extracurricular activities and multiple other areas of MSU life. The goal is to increase awareness and educate students about the world around them, since life as a graduate student can have a narrow focus at times. Graduate students are developing specific skills and expanding their knowledge within their specialty. How does educating graduate students, experts in their field, benefit the communities in which they live? How can students use their advanced training and graduate education to implement the public affairs mission in their daily personal and professional lives for the betterment of their community?

Panelists: Rachel Owen, Greg Burris, Rich Dameron, Katherine Craft

Death of the Experts

Every day, we entrust our lives to experts. However, because we have access to unlimited online sources — such as self-authored blogs, Wikipedia and WebMD — there is a trend toward “self-proclaimed experts” drowning out the voices of qualified professionals. Technology allows anyone to post anything without having to defend their “facts.” Even through the coronavirus pandemic, true expert voices are being eroded. How do you balance freedom of speech with accuracy and quality? What can professionals do to defend themselves when emotionally charged accusations are used to attack their credibility, often without scientific evidence? With degree mills offering easy credentials, websites hawking unproven cures and elected officials polarizing the issues, how do you arrive at a best course of action, especially in times of crisis?

Panelists: T. Jameson Brewer, Tyson Langhofer, Dennis Schmitt, Raychelle Burks

The Power of the Artistic Voice

Finding your voice is important in many aspects of life. One example is the artistic voice, or the style, craft and medium by which your unique point of view, experience, identity and values may be shared. Finding this voice is a different process for each individual. The current global pandemic has spawned a flood of creative content on social media. This is an attempt to share the struggle and mitigate its impact. So how do you uncover and develop an artistic and creative voice? How can this voice be used to affect positive social change? Is the digital age enhancing or disenfranchising artistic voices? How can people who produce candid online artistic expressions be protected from harassment, bullying and discrimination?

Panelists: Daniel Fisher, J. Anthony Smith, Beth Domann, Mark Dixon
PLENARY ADDRESS
12:20-1:20 p.m.
The Other End of the Stethoscope
Alumnus Marcus Engel speaks from experience. After being blinded and severely injured by a drunken driver, Engel overcame unimaginable obstacles to reclaim his life. This dramatic story inspires health care professionals and others. It is meant to reignite their passion for providing excellent patient care, celebrate the healing power of humor and understand the unique issues surrounding trauma and loss.

Marcus Engel, author and professional speaker

1:25-2:15 p.m.
Who's Holding the Megaphone?
According to a study published in the journal Science, a false story is more likely to go viral than a true story. It also reaches 1,500 people six times more quickly. Are you aware of the voices and motives of those who affect you and your decisions? Since there is a vast amount of data available, your need to critically assess information is more important than ever. Some voices may be louder or more obvious than others based on privilege and access. Understanding whose voices are given a bigger amplifier may help people determine how to interpret what they hear. How may the person holding the megaphone be challenged to spread accurate information? In the era of widely dispersed false information, how do you separate fact from fiction or bias from objectivity? How can you use your critical-thinking skills to have the greatest impact with your voice?

Panelists: Brian Dotts, J. Anthony Smith, Dennis Schmitt, Karen Craigo

1:25-2:15 p.m.
Even in Science, Representation Matters
The realm of science is often seen as a paragon of high-minded intellectualism, without bias and operating by pure thought and idealism. However, scientists are people who have biases as well. While promotional efforts have increased, professionals representing gender, racial and ethnic minorities continue to be severely underrepresented in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). Healthy advancement in any field is best served through a diverse workforce. In addressing this issue, are public institutions and higher education lacking imagination, or is it a lack of commitment? How can we aggressively address imbalance throughout the sciences? Who will give voice to eliminate the compounding barriers to access, role models and educational equity? How can isolationism and bias be addressed for minorities entering the STEM workforce?

Panelists: Mark Kleinschmit, Andrew Keaster, Ada Booth, Raychelle Burks

Find links to all live webinar events:
PublicAffairs.MissouriState.edu/Conference
2:30-3:20 p.m.

More Alike Than Unalike: A Plea for Civil Discourse

As American society becomes increasingly polarized, civil discourse is waning. From the mainstream media to Twitter and a host of other social media applications, Americans hear a steady stream of unfounded accusations, demeaning comments and vitriol. In 2017, a survey by the American Psychological Association found nearly 60% of Americans felt stressed because of current social divisiveness, and this contributed to high levels of negativity in their communications. When and why did this hostility become so prevalent? How can citizens learn to value differing opinions when so many people exist in silos, interacting only with others who share their opinions? Does civility require you to give up the right to free speech? How can America find its way back to civil discourse? How can we affirm Maya Angelou's wisdom: “We are more alike, my friends, than we are unalike”?

Panelists: Christie Love, T. Jameson Brewer, Parvonay Stover, Latricia Buckner

2:30-3:20 p.m.

Hidden Bias in Work Environments

Business leaders need to start sweating the subtle stuff. Subtle forms of discrimination, though often overlooked, may be as detrimental as overt actions. According to the NeuroLeadership Institute, most people exhibit some form of unconscious affinity or other subtle bias. These types of biases create negative work environments and reduce productivity. A study revealed that 66% of subjects reported that biased treatment in the workplace had a large impact on their morale, motivation, commitment and desire to advance in the organization. What kinds of verbal and nonverbal communications enable this type of discrimination? How can active listening build trust among employees and resolve conflict? How might individuals learn to value opposing views without sacrificing their own? Are organizations devaluing diversity when fear of bias creates self-censoring?

Panelists: Tyson Langhofer, Laura Janusik, Petra Horn-Marsh, Mark Dixon

3:35-4:25 p.m.

A Voice for Mental Health in Education

There is a mental-health crisis among American teens and young adults. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued reports showing that rates of suicide among young people increased 56% between 2007 and 2016. Jean Twenge, professor and author of iGen, states that there is a fundamental change in the way young people communicate and spend their leisure time. This includes less time with friends in person, less sleep and more time on digital media. Pandemic precautions further increased the need for educational institutions to adopt digital instruction. While remote learning has its benefits, the extra stress, anxiety and unfavorable home environments may worsen the mental health crisis for teens and young adults. What responsibilities do educators have to provide or increase mental health resources, especially in virtual-learning environments? How can prevention efforts be specialized to help populations at increased risk, such as certain racial and ethnic groups and LGBTQ teens? How can parents best be educated to detect early warning signs of emotional distress? Should allowances be made for in-person communication when students show signs of mental-health issues?

Panelists: Brian Dotts, Sandra Graham, Terry Jamieson, Latricia Buckner
3:35-4:25 p.m.
The Power of Voice through Nonverbal Expression
It's not always what you say, but how you physically express what you feel, that conveys what you are thinking. A great deal of a person's communication lies in body language and nonverbal communication. Sometimes cultural norms of body language in one culture are misinterpreted as disinterest, disrespect or an invasion of another's personal space. But in another culture, those same physical stances are regarded as standards. Some languages are based solely on nonverbal expression. For example, ASL (American Sign Language) is a complete, unique language, rich in visual-spatial expression. Increasingly, new parents are using signing gestures with their babies to help bridge communications. Gestures, posture, touch and eye contact all send strong messages. What can we learn from ASL to help us become better communicators? How do your expressions, movements and nonverbal actions influence the way you are seen and heard? How do people's expressive natures communicate who they are as individuals, as a group and as a culture? How can we mitigate bias and discrimination resulting from the nonverbal voice?
Panelists: Benjamin Munson, Yolanda Gordon, Petra Horn-Marsh, Beth Domann

Thursday, Oct. 1
9:30-10:20 a.m.
The Change of Voice in Business Communications
Effective communication is the cornerstone of any business. The coronavirus crisis came swiftly and unexpectedly to the global community and affected industries around the world simultaneously. Organizations have little choice but to rethink and redefine their forms of communication and operating procedures. Communication with all stakeholders is necessary to retain loyalty among consumers, employees and investors. Brand voice is not just about what is said, but how it sounds, feels and affects the intended audience. How are companies changing their message? Are they listening differently to their customers and employees? How are social media and digital tools, such as Zoom, affecting business communications? In a time of crisis, how can small businesses leverage communication to increase customer trust, the company’s public image and its social responsibility? Going forward, will these changes remain in place?
Panelists: Mark Kleinschmit, Laura Janusik, Beth Domann, Mark Dixon

9:30-10:20 a.m.
Many Languages, Stronger Voices: The Essential Role of Language Learning
According to ilanguage.org, 60% of the world’s population is bilingual or multilingual. Yet in the United States, only 26% of people speak more than one language. Over the past century, many of the world’s languages have disappeared and with them, part of the world’s knowledge and culture. Why do Americans tend to neglect the essential skill of learning a second or even a third language? As a nation that prides itself on speaking with a strong voice, why do Americans not value language learning as many of our neighbors do? It seems obvious to say that our voice is shaped by the language we speak, but how does the language we speak shape the way our voices are used and heard? From K-12 through higher education, how does exposure to different languages and cultures contribute to the development of student empowerment and voice?
Panelists: Daniel Fisher, Benjamin Munson, Carlene Thoma, Petra Horn-Marsh
**11-11:50 a.m.**

**Becoming Empowered to Use Your Voice**

Have you ever had something to say, but hesitated to speak? Been passionate about a cause, but refrained from comment? Kris Carr, New York Times best-selling author, notes that it’s not about finding your voice, it’s about giving yourself permission to use your voice. Owning one’s voice gives the individual power in expressing values, beliefs and concerns. A 2017 survey conducted by FIRE and YouGov reported a majority of college students self-censor in the classroom and support the act of disinviting campus speakers with whom they disagree. How may we empower our voice when it is different from the norm and engage productively with others with whom we disagree? What responsibility does the educational system have to develop and empower student voices and to defend their rights not to be silenced?

**Panelists:** Christie Brungardt, Liv Dooley, Terry Jamieson, Raychelle Burks

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**11-11:50 a.m.**

**Hearing the Past—Preserving the Future**

Cultural heritage is seen in a variety of ways, through the arts, archaeology, folklore, agriculture, religion and other traditions. It is the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the religion we practice and the skills we learn. When a society’s heritage and narratives are ignored, the wisdom of ancestors is lost, and future innovations may be compromised. In the field of science, there is increasing work to preserve native practices, such as growing heritage crops and using traditional farming methods to counter the effects of extinction and loss of biodiversity. In what ways can other disciplines collaborate to preserve cultures? How may citizens use their voices to represent and safeguard their own history and that of their community? To what extent might our shared cultural heritage promote the sense of unity we long for?

**Panelists:** Christie Love, J. Anthony Smith, Blake Hurst, Karen Craigo

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**PLENARY ADDRESS**

**12:30-1:30 p.m.**

**Social Media Self-Sabotage**

How and why are individuals and companies sabotaging themselves on social media? Case studies will uncover bad behavior and showcase individuals and companies whose responses to bad online reviews have compounded their problems. This presentation will also examine those who have faced legal liability for impetuous online speech or misguided attempts to outstrip their competition. Discover tips for using social media safely and professionally, based on published research and teaching in the areas of Torts (Civil Liability for Wrongful Conduct) and First Amendment Law.

*Lyrissa Lidsky, dean of the University of Missouri School of Law and its Judge C.A. Leedy Professor of Law*
2-2:50 p.m.
Marginalization and the Fight to End Poverty: Ethical Approaches to Advocacy

Marginalization can be defined as persistent inequality and adversity resulting from discrimination, social stigma and stereotypes. With limited voice, marginalized people experience poverty, stigmatization, homelessness, poor health outcomes and lack of education. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 38.1 million people in the U.S. were living in poverty in 2018. Ending poverty will require a wide-reaching approach for systemic change. For this change to happen, the voice of marginalized people must go beyond the capacity to speak; that voice must be heard, understood and acted upon. How may we empower those with marginal opportunity? How can those who work to end poverty use their voices more effectively to enact social change? What can American legal and political systems do to give voice to those who promote genuine change?

Panelists: Christie Love, Yolanda Gordon, Brian Dotts, Michael Heaney

2-2:50 p.m.
Using the Power of Voice to Stop Bullying

According to the U.S. Department of Education, one in five students between the ages of 12 and 18 are victims of bullying. Many incidents go unreported due to shame, fear of retaliation or belief that no one will help. These young people suffer serious consequences, such as physical, emotional and social distress that lasts into adulthood. Bullying is not limited to the school setting, but is found in the home, the workplace and within social circles. State legislation has been enacted, school policies are in place and anti-bullying campaigns abound. So why is bullying in schools trending upward? How would more attention on the person inflicting the bullying change the equation? How can young people be empowered to find their voice to report and stand against bullying?

Panelists: Tyson Langhofer, Andrew Keaster, Blake Hurst, Sandra Graham

3:30-4:20 p.m.
Self-Talk: Why It Matters

Self-talk is the inner voice that helps people shape who they are. According to Psychology Today, self-talk can be positively motivating or negatively defeating. Some psychologists agree that 95% of our emotions are determined by the things we think and the words we say to ourselves. Eliminating negative self-talk can help a person become more confident, motivated and productive. How does a person’s environment or upbringing influence and shape self-talk? How does negative talk influence academic achievement in students of all levels? How can individuals change the narrative of their self-talk to find inner peace and better connection with others? What power do we give others to influence how we communicate with ourselves? How can one distinguish between negative self-talk and the necessity of facing difficult topics?

Panelists: Christie Brungardt, Mark Kleinschmit, Liv Dooley, Latricia Buckner

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3:30-4:20 p.m.

Voice for the Innocent

In the United States, approximately 3 million cases of child abuse and neglect are reported each year. According to Safe Horizon, more than four children die every day due to this epidemic, and 70% of these children are younger than age 3. These statistics continue to be abstract numbers to many people. In most societies, including the U.S., children’s voices are often silenced. Sadly, even when children are heard, the minimization of child abuse and neglect crimes continues. How may advocates find new avenues to keep the voices of children alive, in the hearts of the community and present on the agendas of the justice system? In what ways can our society better focus on family health? What support do child advocates need in their efforts? Ultimately, how do we best support children to use their own voices?

Panelists: Dennis Schmitt, Ada Booth, Parvonay Stover, Sandra Graham

PLENARY ADDRESS

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Reaching for Hope

Following the Columbine High School tragedy of 1999, Sue Klebold worked to understand how her son could have become a perpetrator in a mass shooting. Guided by her own grief and trauma following the incident, her search for answers led her to understand the importance of early intervention and effective treatment for those who struggle with thoughts of suicide. With the goal of saving lives, Klebold works to help listeners recognize when someone is in crisis and feel empowered to help. As a passionate advocate for mental wellness, she shares a story of hope and determination to find solutions that prevent lethal thoughts from becoming lethal actions.

Sue Klebold, author and activist

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SPECIAL EVENTS

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PublicAffairs.MissouriState.edu/Schedule
# Public Affairs Conference Advisory Committee

## Faculty Representatives

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christie Sudbrock</td>
<td>Agribusiness, Agriculture Education and Communications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Albritton</td>
<td>Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wafaa Kaf</td>
<td>Communication Sciences and Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Goerndt</td>
<td>Environmental Plant Sciences and Natural Resources</td>
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<td>Jacob Anderson</td>
<td>Greenwood Laboratory School</td>
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<td>Kenneth Brown</td>
<td>Economics</td>
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<td>Lanette Cadle</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>Jamie Atkinson</td>
<td>Reading Foundations and Technology</td>
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<td>Vadim Putzu</td>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
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<td>Jake Simmons</td>
<td>Associate Dean in College of Arts and Letters</td>
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<td>Christie Cathey</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>Gary Meints</td>
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## Staff Representatives

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<tr>
<td>Tara Benson</td>
<td>Student Engagement</td>
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<td>Kathy Nordyke</td>
<td>Center for Community Engagement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daezia Smith</td>
<td>International Student Services</td>
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<td>Lisa McEowen</td>
<td>Meyer Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devin Schehrer</td>
<td>Residence Life, Housing and Dining Services</td>
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<td>Emily Yeap</td>
<td>University Communications</td>
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## Student Representatives

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brooke Burton</td>
<td>Undergraduate student representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cole Howerton</td>
<td>Student Government Association</td>
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<td>Emma Wulf</td>
<td>Student Activities Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joshua Horned</td>
<td>Undergraduate student representative</td>
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<td>Katherine Morton</td>
<td>Student Activities Council</td>
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## Community Representatives

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Stadler</td>
<td>Community Partnership of the Ozarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyndsey Strahan</td>
<td>Ozarks Community Technical College</td>
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## Ex-Officio Members

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Burton</td>
<td>Environmental Plant Sciences and Natural Resources; past Provost Fellow for Public Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachelle Darabi</td>
<td>Student Development and Public Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria Rice</td>
<td>Student Engagement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Pybas</td>
<td>Political Science; past Provost Fellow for Public Affairs</td>
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## Office of Public Affairs Support

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Brodeur</td>
<td>Biomedical Sciences; Provost Fellow for Public Affairs and Conference Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Ann Wood</td>
<td>Public Affairs Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly Bridges</td>
<td>Public Affairs Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stacey Trewatha-Bach</td>
<td>Public Affairs Support</td>
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DR. ADA BOOTH
completed a residency in pediatrics at University Hospitals and Clinics at the University of Missouri, Columbia. She completed a fellowship in child abuse pediatrics at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. After completing her fellowship, she joined the Child Abuse Resource and Evaluation, or CARE, Team at Driscoll Children’s Hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas. She has been a child abuse pediatrician with the CARE Team since 2011, where her duties include the evaluation of children with concerns for child maltreatment.

Her other professional interests include child fatality review and injury prevention. She currently serves as the child abuse prevention specialist for the Texas State Child Fatality Review Team.

T. JAMESON BREWER, PhD, is an assistant professor of social foundations of education at the University of North Georgia. His teaching experience spans the middle school, high school, undergraduate, master’s and doctoral levels. His research focuses on the impact of privatization and marketization of public education by way of school vouchers, charter schools, alternative teacher certification and homeschooling.

His scholarly work has been published in the peer-reviewed journals of Education Policy Analysis Archives, Educational Studies, Critical Education, the Peabody Journal of Education, Critical Questions in Education, the International Journal of Play, Urban Education and Policy Futures in Education. His work has also appeared at the National Education Policy Center, and in the Progressive Magazine, the Huffington Post, the Washington Post and Education Week. @tjamesonbrewer

CHRISTIE BRUNGARDT, PhD, is an emeritus professor of leadership studies at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas. She has been the recipient of advising awards and the university’s highest award for teaching, as well as service.

On July 3, 2008, her life changed forever. Her daughter, Jana Mackey, a 25-year-old law student at the University of Kansas, was murdered by Jana’s ex-boyfriend in Lawrence, Kansas. Since Jana’s death, Brungardt has been active nationally in the effort to reduce all forms of gender and relationship violence. She and her husband Curt established Jana’s Campaign, Inc. It is a national education and violence prevention organization with the single mission of reducing gender and relationship violence. In honor of Jana, and other victims and survivors, Jana’s Campaign delivers educational programs that prevent domestic and dating violence, sexual violence and stalking. @cjbrunga

LATRICIA BUCKNER is a licensed professional counselor, certified life coach and author. As the founder and CEO of Love’s Basics, LLC, a relationship and mental wellness company, she focuses on helping those who are experiencing deep emotional pain find hope and healing. A gifted orator and teacher, Buckner is invited to speak on both podiums and pulpits, and present to audiences from co-eds to corporate executives. Her recent book, “Conversations That Lead to Connections” has received much praise as a tool to help individuals and couples most effectively communicate.

In recent years, Buckner has been featured prominently in the media. As the resident “Love Doctor” on iHeart Media, she provided practical insight and wisdom in response to listener’s questions. She was also a featured
RAYCHELLE BURKS, PhD, returned to academia and forensic science research after a few years working in a crime lab. An analytical chemist, Burks enjoys the challenge of developing detection methods for a wide variety of analytes, including regulated drugs and explosives. Her current research efforts are focused on designing and testing field-portable sensors. Burks works on utilizing smartphones as scientific analytical devices to maximize portability. A chemistry enthusiast, she hopes to ignite her students’ appreciation of chemistry through innovative projects, multimedia education tools and probably far too many pop-culture references. Burks helps create and organize “SciPop Talks!” a talk series blending science and pop culture. She is a science communicator, appearing on the Science Channel’s “Outrageous Acts of Science” and soon on the Smithsonian Channel’s “The Curious Life and Death Of...” “ACS Reactions” videos, and at genre conventions, such as DragonCon and GeekGirlCon. Burks writes a science-meets-true crime column called Trace Analysis for the Royal Society of Chemistry magazine Chemistry World. She is working to make STEM more inclusive and equitable, and is a member of several local, national and international committees, task forces and projects focused on social justice and STEM.

GREG BURRIS has served as president and CEO of United Way of the Ozarks since August 2019. Prior to that, he served as city manager of Springfield, Missouri, for 10 years. Before working for the city, Burriss served in various roles at Missouri State University for 25 years. He was the recipient of the 2008 O. Franklin Kenworthy Award for Outstanding Leadership, Leadership Springfield’s highest honor. He was also the recipient of the 2012 Alumni Award for Excellence in Public Affairs by Missouri State University and was inducted into the Missouri State University Wall of Fame class of 2018. Burriss served as president of the Missouri City Managers Association from 2017-18. He is the founder of the Give 5 Program, which was awarded the 2019 Innovation Award by the Missouri Municipal League and the subject of articles on the PBS Next Avenue and Forbes websites.

KATHERINE CRAFT, EdD, worked in the corporate sector in advertising, human resources and software documentation before joining Ozarks Technical Community College, or OTC, in 2009. During her time at OTC, she’s worked in web services and institutional advancement, and she served as college director of grants development. Craft has a passion for teaching and connecting with students. She joined OTC faculty in 2016 and believes she makes the greatest impact serving students directly.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a master’s degree in counseling from Saint Louis University. Buckner has been recognized with a proclamation by the City of St. Louis for her work and service to youth within the community.

MSU ALUMUS

GREG BURRIS

MSU ALUMNUS

RAYCHELLE BURKS, PhD

KATHERINE CRAFT, EdD

@LBLetsTalk

@DrRubidium

@GregBurrisSGF

@OrRubidium
Driven toward a sense of community and giving back, she helped develop the nonprofit organization GROW in Willard, Missouri, in 2019, and currently serves on the board. In addition, she also developed the Willard Community Garden, and plays an integral role in the Willard Farmers Market.

She graduated from Missouri State University with bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s degree in writing. She also holds a doctorate degree in instructional leadership.

KAREN CRAIGO is the poet laureate of the state of Missouri, as well as the author of two full-length poetry collections, “Passing Through Humansville” (Sundress, 2018) and “No More Milk” (Sundress, 2016), and three chapter books.

Her poetry, fiction, essays and journalism are widely published.

She holds a Master of Fine Arts from Bowling Green State University. She is the editor and general manager of a small Missouri weekly newspaper, The Marshfield Mail. @karenkawrites

RICH DAMERON is in his ninth year as a special education teacher at Reed Academy in Springfield, Missouri, where he also serves as athletic director, coach and engagement coordinator. Dameron also promotes summer learning opportunities as Explore liaison.

He also coordinates the Buddy Bears program, which partners Missouri State student-athletes with Reed students who receive special education services and who can benefit from a mentor.

Away from school, Dameron serves on the Springfield Public Schools, or SPS, Professional Learning Advisory Committee and is the vice president of the Missouri State Teachers Association (MSTA) Springfield Community Teachers Association. He served on the SPS Community Task Force on Facilities, which led to Springfield voter support of a $168 million bond issue in April 2019.

Additionally, he has earned recognition as a certified athletic administrator by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and was selected as the MSTA Southwest District 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year.

Dameron graduated from Missouri State in 2016 with a master’s degree in educational administration. He also holds degrees in pastoral and church ministry as well as special education. @richdameron

MARK DIXON is a native and lifelong resident of southwest Missouri. He has lived and worked in Springfield, Missouri, since 1978. He is an ordained minister, trustee and the teaching pastor at Deliverance Temple Ministries. He is also the president and executive director of the Bartley-Decatur Neighborhood Center, Inc.

For more than 35 years, Dixon has been an advocate and catalyst for positive change in Springfield. Some of those years were spent working with the Caring Communities initiative at the Community Partnership of the Ozarks. He is a strong proponent of asset-based community development, in which he highly values people’s abilities to solve their own challenges and determine their own futures if they are given the support they need to do so.

Dixon earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology and religious studies at Missouri State University.

BETH DOMANN is the executive director of the nationally recognized Springfield Little Theatre. The theatre is Missouri’s oldest and largest nonprofit, volunteer-driven community theatre organization. Domann first appeared on the Landers Theatre stage in 1978. Since then, she has delighted thousands serving as an actress, stand-up comic and emcee for local organizations, corporations and charitable events.
She can be seen on screen in the Academy Award-nominated film “Winter’s Bone,” which was selected Best Picture at the Sundance Film Festival. She has directed for the Jim Stafford Theatre, Yakov Smirnoff and many local favorite shows, such as SLT’s “Newsies,” “Grease,” “Beauty and The Beast” and “The Full Monty,” to name a few.

Domann has been recognized as one of Springfield Business Journal’s 12 People You Need to Know; selected for 417 Biz 100; and presented with an Ozzie Award for her significant contributions to the cultural landscape of our community.

LIV DOOLEY, MEd, is an author who founded The Colorfully Candid Paradigm, Inc., in 2014. The organization’s goal is to enhance the emotional intelligence of young ladies, ages 11-18, and their families throughout underserved communities by equipping participants with the tools to effectively handle stress and succeed in life.

Growing up, Dooley encountered many challenges connected to low self-esteem, depression, anorexia nervosa and alcoholism, all of which were exacerbated by the poor relationship she experienced with her mother, Beverly. Today, she works with her mother and many other women to host book clubs and conferences in Las Vegas and across the nation. The Colorfully Candid Paradigm supports future female leaders by ensuring they have all the tools they need to be successful academically, emotionally and spiritually.

MARCUS ENGEL was blinded and nearly killed after being struck by a drunken driver as a Missouri State University college freshman. Through two years of rehab, more than 350 hours of reconstructive facial surgery and adaptation through a multitude of life changes, Engel witnessed the good, the bad and the profound in patient care.

He is currently an adjunct professor at the University of Notre Dame where he teaches pre-med students the art of “being with.” He is also a certified speaking professional and author whose messages provide insight and strategies for excellent patient care.

Engel holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Missouri State and a master’s degree in narrative medicine from Columbia University. In 2017, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

DANIEL FISHER is a project director at the National Humanities Alliance, or NHA, in Washington, D.C. Fisher leads Humanities for All, NHA’s initiative to promote publicly engaged humanities work in U.S. higher education.

Fisher holds a PhD in Near Eastern studies from the University of California, Berkeley. As a graduate student, he co-curated a publicly engaged research-driven exhibition.
YOLANDA GORDON
is a mother of three and advocate from Tega Cay, South Carolina. She is responsible for the RESULTS Fellowship, which provides intense advocacy training for young advocates ages 20-30.

Gordon began her work in advocacy in the disability community advocating for her two children on the autism spectrum. She educated herself on special education law and worked for nonprofits that supported families with children with disabilities while she attended college, raised her children and worked on state and federal policies. She has been a RESULTS volunteer for nine years. She has served as one of their experts on poverty for the past five years, using her voice to raise awareness about her lived experience with safety-net programs. Gordon has served on many committees in her state including as president of the board of the Arc of South Carolina.

SANDRA GRAHAM
is a professor in the human development and psychology division in the Department of Education at University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of California Presidential Chair in Education and Diversity. Her major research interests include the study of academic motivation and social development in children of color, particularly in school contexts that vary in racial/ethnic diversity.

She is principal investigator on grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Graham has published widely in developmental, social and educational psychology journals and has received many awards. Among them include the 2011 Distinguished Scientific Contributions to Child Development Award from the Society for Research on Child Development and the 2014 E. L. Thorndike Career Award for Distinguished Contributions to Educational Psychology, Division 15 of the American Psychological Association. In 2015, she was elected to the National Academy of Education.

MICHAEL HEANEY,
PhD, is a research fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, and an adjunct research professor in the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Michigan. He is a political scientist who studies how social networks, social movements, interest groups and political parties shape organizational processes and policy outcomes.


He has authored numerous journal articles and has received research grants from sources such as the National Science Foundation, the National Institute for Civil Discourse and the National Center for Institutional Diversity. Heaney received his doctorate degree in political science and public policy from the University of Chicago. He has been a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University and a congressional fellow for the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

PETRA HORN-MARSH
PhD, is a professor of the practice of the ASL (American Sign Language) and deaf studies undergraduate program at University of Kansas-Edwards campus.

On the community level, she is a co-coordinator of ASL Curriculum Instruction and Assessment, president and one of the co-founders of National American Sign Language Education of Heritage Language Learners.

Additionally, Horn-Marsh has served on the Kansas Senate Bill 323 Advisory Committee to develop a statewide language assessment program for deaf and hard-of-hearing children ages 0-8. She co-wrote an article, Bilingual Students Publish Works in ASL and
English, with Kester Horn-Marsh in the spring 2009 issue of Odyssey magazine.

She graduated from Gallaudet University with a bachelor’s degree in secondary education and history, and a master’s degree in history and doctorate degree in sociology from Utah State University. She also completed a deaf education certification program at the University of Kansas.

Blake Hurst is the president of the Missouri Farm Bureau’s Board of Directors, all of whom are active farmers. The board sets the direction of the organization and makes major decisions regarding finances and organizational policies. He was a district board member on the Missouri state board for eight years and served seven years as Missouri Farm Bureau vice-president.

He raises corn and soybeans with his family and operates a wholesale greenhouse business. Hurst is also a freelance writer. His work has appeared in the Wall Street Journal, The American, Weekly Standard, Wilson’s Quarterly, Reader’s Digest, Today’s Farmer and the Show Me magazine of Missouri Farm Bureau.

Terry Jamieson is a dedicated educator, administrator, speaker and author with a rich 20-year history in public schooling in southwest Missouri. He is current principal at Hollister R-V High School, an adjunct instructor of leadership for Drury University and serves on the Missouri State High School Activities Association State Board of Appeals.

For Hollister R-V, he has created and implemented the Empathy Paradigm and Tiger Talks, which are building initiatives that promote empathy and human understanding. Jamieson has served in various administrative roles including district superintendent. He is the author of “The Empathy Chronicles” and “The Voice of Water.”

Laura Janusik, PhD, is a dynamic professor, trainer, researcher, speaker and business consultant. She is a professor emerita at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri, and has won numerous research and teaching awards from professional and academic associations.

She is considered one of the world’s leading experts in teaching and training listening. Janusik’s work is supported by the most current research, which she shares and applies in training, coaching and consulting. Her approach to communication, both oral and written, is practical and other-centered, and specializes in listening cognitions and metacognitions, health care, pedagogy, intercultural listening and interpersonal communication.

She is a past president of the International Listening Association and is published nationally and internationally. She holds a doctorate degree in communication from the University of Maryland at College Park and an MBA from Rockhurst University.

Dr. Andrew Keaster is a physician in Columbus, Ohio, who primarily works as a hospitalist. His professional interests include global public health and tropical medicine, as well as working locally to expand care for those living with HIV and for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. He has spent time working in medical settings in Africa, China, Honduras and Nicaragua. In Columbus, he started and helps run Ohio State’s Transgender Primary Care Clinic, and additionally serves as volunteer medical director for one of the university’s free medical clinics.

Keaster grew up in Mountain Home, Arkansas. He attended Missouri State, majoring in cell and molecular biology with minors in chemistry and community development. He subsequently attended The Ohio State University College of Medicine and then stayed in Columbus for internal medicine residency.
**SUE KLEBOLD** is the mother of Dylan Klebold, one of the two gunmen responsible for the Columbine High School shootings on April 20, 1999, in Littleton, Colorado. Dylan and his friend killed 12 students and a teacher and wounded more than 20 others before taking their own lives. 

In the aftermath of the tragedy, Klebold remained out of the public eye while struggling with devastating grief and humiliation. 

Her search for understanding would span more than 15 years during which she volunteered for suicide prevention organizations, questioned experts, talked with fellow survivors of loss and examined the crucial intersection between mental health problems and violence. As a result of her exploration, she emerged a passionate advocate, dedicated to the advancement of mental health awareness and intervention. 

From her memoir, “A Mother's Reckoning: Living in the Aftermath of Tragedy,” Klebold is donating all author profits to organizations that promote mental wellness, brain research and suicide prevention. 

She is a member of the National Loss and Healing Council of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Consumer-Survivor Subcommittee. She has participated in presentations, co-chaired conferences at the state and national levels, and written about the experience of surviving a loved one's murder-suicide. 

She has a master's degree in education from Cardinal Stritch College. She was an instructor and administrator in the Colorado Community College System for more than 20 years. 

**MARK KLEINSCHMIT** is a scientist and rural advocate for alternative farming methods. He is the director of research strategy and development for the Simpson Querrey Institute at Northwestern University. There, he works on fundraising, developing strategic partnerships and developing and executing the institute's strategy for research and programming activities. 

Due to his experience growing up on an organic dairy farm in Nebraska, Kleinschmit has always had a passion for sustainable agriculture. 

This led him to co-found Other Half Processing, or OHP, which produces identity-preserved, high-value byproducts from grass-fed, organic and other more sustainably raised animals. It is the mission of OHP to bring more value back to farmers and ranchers who are practicing responsible methods of animal husbandry and grow the overall movement. 

Kleinschmit has bachelor's and doctoral degrees in physics. He worked in the private sector at Avery Dennison for 14 years. 

**TYSON LANGHOFER** serves as senior counsel and director of the Center for Academic Freedom with Alliance Defending Freedom. He has represented college students and student organizations throughout the country in defending their freedom of speech, freedom of association and free exercise of religion. 

In Young America's Foundation v. Covino, he successfully represented the foundation, Ben Shapiro and California State University-Los Angeles students in a lawsuit against university administrators for First Amendment violations when they allowed a mob of professors and students to physically block students from attending Shapiro's scheduled speech on the campus. In Grace Christian Life v. Woodson, he successfully represented a religious student group at North Carolina State.
Langhofer has also worked as a commercial litigation attorney for 15 years and earned Martindale-Hubbell’s AV Preeminent rating. Numerous media outlets have interviewed or featured Langhofer, including The Washington Post, The Washington Times, Townhall, The Federalist and The Daily Wire.

He earned his Juris Doctor from Regent University School of Law and is a member of the bar in Kansas and Arizona, and admitted to practice in numerous federal district courts.

LYRISKA LIDSKY has been dean of the University of Missouri School of Law since July 2017. Before that, Lidsky served in a variety of leadership roles at the University of Florida, or UF. There, she was associate dean for graduate and international programs and associate dean for faculty development. She also held the Stephen C. O’Connell Chair in Law and received a number of teaching awards during her 23-year tenure at UF, including student-selected awards, such as Teacher of the Year (twice) and Faculty Graduation Speaker (three times), as well as Teacher of the Year, which was selected by a faculty committee.

Lidsky’s scholarship focuses on the intersection of torts and the First Amendment, with a particular emphasis on defamation and other free speech issues in social media contexts. Widely regarded as a prominent First Amendment scholar, she is co-author of a leading media law casebook, a First Amendment casebook and a reference book on press freedom. She has published dozens of articles, culminating in her forthcoming article in California Law Review titled “#I U: Considering the Context of Online Threats.” Her work on anonymous speech has been cited by a number of state supreme courts and the highest courts of Canada and Hong Kong.

Prior to becoming a law professor, Lidsky served as a clerk for the Honorable Joseph T. Sneed of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco, California. Lidsky received her law degree from the University of Texas School of Law with high honors. She was initiated into Order of the Coif in recognition of her scholastic achievement and served as articles editor of the Texas Law Review. Before law school, she was a Fulbright Scholar at Cambridge University in England, studying medieval legal history and early development of the Common Law. She received her bachelor’s degree, summa cum laude, in English and political science from Texas A&M University. @LidskyLidsky

CHRISTIE LOVE has a heart for serving north Springfield, Missouri, and for the local church. She is lead pastor at The Connecting Grounds. Through The Connecting Grounds, Love works passionately to meet some of the practical needs of the community, including a safe place for foster kids and their biological parents to visit, free meals and an evening warming shelter on nights that the overnight crisis cold weather shelters are open in Springfield. The Connecting Grounds also hosts rehearsals for Springfield Street Choir.

Previously, Love founded and was executive director of LeadHer, a women’s ministry that encouraged and equipped women to affect the world around them through Christ. She was also director of marketing at Jennifer Rothschild, Inc., and the owner of a small business, Simple Organized Sanity.

She has a master’s degree in practical theology from Regent University and is the chair of the Religious Affairs Committee for the Springfield, Missouri, chapter of the NAACP. She was named one of John Maxwell’s Top 100 Leaders in 2016.

BENJAMIN MUNSON, PhD, is many things. For the purposes of this conference, he is professor and chair of the department of speech-language-hearing sciences at University of Minnesota. He conducts research on, among other things, how gender, sexuality and race are conveyed and perceived through patterns of phonetic variation, both by neurodiverse children and adults. This work has made him acutely aware of the power of voice.
to convey many different messages, convoluted together in a single, sometimes evanescent signal.

Munson is also queer, a recovering alcoholic, a former AIDS activist, a husband, a brother, an uncle and a cat dad. He is an alumnus of University at Buffalo, Ohio State University and the Harris County jail in Houston, Texas. His life’s work has given him unique opportunities to weave together academic work with advocating for justice, practicing spirituality and providing service to others.

RACHEL OWEN PhD, co-founded Missouri Science and Technology (MOST) Policy Initiative in 2016 and has served as the executive director since June 2019. As MOST director, Owen identifies key decision points in the state legislative process and provides timely and relevant scientific information to policymakers. Additionally, MOST equips scientists to effectively engage with decision makers and hosts science-policy workshops and events statewide.

Owen received her PhD in the University of Missouri School of Natural Resources. She researched the impact of a changing climate on wetland ecosystems and landowner perceptions of climate and agricultural threats in the Great Plains. Prior to moving to Missouri, she completed her bachelor’s degree in agronomy and global resources systems at Iowa State University and her master’s degree in plant science from South Dakota State University. She serves on the board of directors for the Soil Science Society of America. Owen is also a soil science instructor at the University of Missouri, coaching the Mizzou soil-judging team. @RachelKSoils

DENNIS SCHMITT, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACT, is a professor emeritus in the William H. Darr College of Agriculture at Missouri State University. He is the Ringling Bros. chair of veterinary care and director of research and conservation for the largest herd of Asian elephants outside of range countries. He has served as a reproductive and veterinary advisor for the Association of Zoos & Aquariums’ elephant Taxon Advisory Group since 1987 and is a founding member of the International Elephant Foundation formed in 1999.

Schmitt has been active in providing veterinary care to elephants in Asia, Europe and the Americas. As an author and co-author, he has published more than 80 papers on elephant reproduction and physiology. He was the veterinarian for the teams that produced the first elephant born from artificial insemination, and for the first survivor of elephant endothelial herpesvirus, or EEHV, in the world.

J. ANTHONY SMITH is a creative with a purpose and founder of Neosoul Films and Entertainment.

A graduate of Tennessee State University with a degree in business, he didn’t realize his calling until years later. Always writing stories and with a vivid imagination, Smith wanted to channel his creative energy to benefit the world. His goal is to create positive content that educates, entertains and enlightens.

His first official project was a documentary that he wrote and directed called “Fatherless America: Breaking the Cycle.” This project tackled the issues and effects of fatherless homes. After positive feedback from the participants and viewers, Smith decided to curate more positive content toward social media with his series Good Brother Spotlight, which celebrates Black men doing positive things in the community. He is constantly creating more content that gives a voice to people in need. @neosoulfilmsent

PARVONAY STOVER is the government affairs director for the office of the Indiana Attorney General. With more than a decade of experience in and around the Indiana Statehouse, Stover loves the challenge of working with legislators and stakeholders on wide-ranging public policy issues. Whether she’s tackling criminal code...
reform, human trafficking, consumer protection or substance abuse, she works tirelessly to advance her office’s policy goals and ultimately pass legislation that improves the lives of Hoosiers.

Previously, Stover served as the legislative director for the Indiana Department of Child Services, where she successfully advocated for a $200 million biennial budget increase in the 2017 budget session. In 2016, she fought to add human trafficking to Indiana’s child welfare statutes to ensure the state could intervene in cases of child sex and labor trafficking. Stover has also served as a budget analyst with the Indiana State Budget Agency and a legislative assistant for the Indiana House of Representatives.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Ball State University and a master’s degree in public affairs and policy analysis from Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. She’s a member of the Junior League of Indianapolis.

CARLENE THOMAS
serves as the English as a Second Language (ESL) program coordinator for the Texas Education Agency. She has advocated for English learners throughout her career, beginning as a Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages professor in Beijing, China.

In Texas, Thomas has served in various roles in both elementary and secondary school settings as ESL teacher, ESL curriculum writer, English learner compliance coordinator, ESL district director, and regional Education Service Center ESL/migrant consultant in the greater Dallas area. She is dedicated to serving English learners and their families by supporting local education agencies in expanding effective bilingual and ESL programs and by advocating for additive bilingualism, particularly within ESL programming. @carli_thomas21

JOIN LIVE VIRTUAL EVENTS
Study this schedule in print or online and make plans to attend the events that are most meaningful for you. Links to the live webinar conference events are listed on the website.

SPECIAL EVENTS
As public safety permits, it is intended to have some special in-person events and activities. Check the conference website to view the schedule and periodic updates.

PublicAffairs.MissouriState.edu/Schedule
The next public affairs conference theme will be Bridging the Divide. Dr. Elizabeth L. Walker, professor of animal science, will serve as the next Provost Fellow for Public Affairs.