

May 2023

Greater Kansas City - Topeka Psychoanalytic Center

From the Center President

Dear Members,

We are approaching the end of the academic year and preparing for our Annual Dinner and Awards Night to be held at Lidia's on June 3 at 7 p.m. I invite all of you to attend the event. This was an annual event prior to the pandemic, so there are some that have several fond memories and others of you who have never experienced the occasion. This offers the opportunity to recognize the hard work of our faculty and candidates, their advancements and accomplishments, as well as time to share in a social setting and have a good time.



We have completed our first hybrid academic year, and, except for a few internet problems, it has gone relatively well. I want to thank Sheryl Poague who took over midstream as our new Administrator, and with the help of Susie Morris, made a very smooth transition and hand-off during the year. This is a far more difficult feat than you can imagine. I also want to take a moment to recognize Paul Koehler and Karen Fraley for teaching our DEI seminar series this year. This was the first time the two had taught together for our Center, and it has been not only a timely and excellent offering, but well received by all who participated. I want to add a side note, or observation here and state that our Institute and Center are being recognized more and more by others as a learning and teaching environment that is inviting, welcoming, and collegial. I also want to thank Lori Hoodenpyle for the educational offerings that have been provided throughout the year and culminating with the workshop by Dr. Peter Shabad. It was well attended and described as a valuable presentation. Unfortunately, for many of those who attended we were reminded that COVID continues to be present, and I would like to encourage all who are attending any Center or Institute events to remain vigilant and seek testing when any symptoms are present prior to attending an event. We were very fortunate, as far as I know, that all recovered.

We are a group of volunteers who give our time and creative energies to the teaching and practicing of psychoanalysis. I would like to encourage any of you that are not currently serving on a committee or leadership position to consider doing so. Your contribution will only enhance our Center and Institute. I wish you all a good and relaxing summer.

Director's Corner

As another academic year comes to an end, I am proud of our Institute in its adaptation this year to the need for and demands of hybrid (simultaneously in-person and online) classes. We learned the importance and value of each individual attending in-person having their own personal device (laptop, tablet, or Smartphone) to enable them to appear clearly on-screen in order to enhance our remote participants' experience of being there. I'm also thankful and appreciative of everyone's tolerance for the technological glitches that occurred, and we hope to resolve most of those before fall quarter begins next year. It is exciting to once again be able to gather together in-person to celebrate our graduating and advancing Candidates and to honor our Fellows and Faculty, as well as all those who help our Institute and Center function.



For those of you aware of the challenges that are facing our national organization, the American Psychoanalytic Association (APsA), there are important lessons for us locally about being mindful of and embracing our differences and diversity. The experience of being "othered," whether intentional or not, is always painful, and as analysts we are uniquely positioned to understand the powerful, unconscious forces that operate not only on an individual level, but also on a sociocultural level. With that in mind, for the first time ever our Institute has created and adopted its own mission statement:

The mission of the Greater Kansas City Psychoanalytic Institute is to advance the practice of psychoanalytically-informed treatments through education and consultation, to support and enhance clinician competence, and to enhance the mental health of our diverse communities, while promoting the application of psychoanalytic thinking and understanding in all aspects of life.

Please join with us in pursuing this mission!

Larry Tyndall, Institute Director

2022-2023 Post-Graduate Training

The Greater Kansas City Psychoanalytic Institute (GKCPI) offers training in the theory and practice of psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic psychotherapy to qualified mental health professionals, interested scholars, and practitioners

from other disciplines. Classes meet on Friday afternoons from September to May at 1:30 p.m., 3:15 p.m., and 5 p.m. The next application period will be for classes beginning Fall 2024. For more information, [click here](#).

News

Spring Workshop



The Spring Workshop, featuring Dr. Peter Shabad on April 15 at the KU Edwards Campus was well-received and well-attended in person and online. Thank you, Dr. Shabad!

Former Graduate Publishes Paper



Former graduate Paul Hoard published a paper that was accepted for publication by *Psychoanalytic Dialogues* titled "How Am I Responsible? Evangelical White Rage and the Interpassive Perpetration of White-Body Supremacy." The paper was co-written by Earl Bland. Paul was a supervisee of Yeshim Oz.

"I am very proud of him," Yeshim said. "I am sure Paul will continue to contribute to psychoanalysis by writing great papers."

Seeking Board Members for the Foundation

The Greater Kansas City Psychoanalytic Foundation is seeking board members. The board raises funds for the Center and the Institute. It meets every three months for an hour, although additional meetings may be needed for specific fundraising projects, such as film showings, receptions, gala

dinners, etc. Spouses/significant others of Institute or Center members are welcome. If interested or for further information, please email Karl Menninger, Foundation Board President, at karlm@eosinc.com.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Seminar Series

In April, we concluded the second offering in our DEI Seminar Series: Illuminating the Racialized Colonialist Influences Embedded in the Creation and Development of Psychoanalytic Theory and Practice. The group carefully read and studied Celia Brickman's challenging book, "Race in Psychoanalysis: Aboriginal Populations in the Mind." Thank you to Paul Koehler and Karen Fraley for facilitating the seminar, and to our 8 participants.

Paul shared that, "In this book, Brickman traces the (even then reputed) anthropological theories that Freud drew from and relied upon as he formulated the basic texts and tenets of psychoanalysis, and she carefully explicates how those theories were organized and indexed along the racialized categories that had been used to rationalize and justify the colonial enterprises of the previous centuries. Brickman also forcefully explicates how, in our casual use of the word 'primitive' and in our sometimes smug, unquestioning reliance on the inherent 'authority' of the analyst or therapist, we risk continuing to enact - rather than recognize - the racialized elements embedded in our history, our theory, and our day-to-day practice. The seminar raised many questions and concerns for us, which we hope to continue to engage with in future offerings."

Please join us and look for the announcement of the next offering in our DEI Seminar Series.

Curriculum Task Force

We are excited to inform our membership about a new initiative proposed by our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee and supported by our Curriculum and Faculty (C&F) Committee that involves forming a task force with the purpose of enriching our curriculum with diverse offerings (readings, videos, films, etc.) for our faculty members to consider when they work on their syllabi.

We invite any Center members, including current faculty and candidates, to become part of this task force. We envision this as one or two people working together to review previous syllabi for a given course or topic and suggesting diversity-related papers in the psychoanalytic literature or related fields that would be relevant for the particular course. If you are interested in participating on this task force, please send an email to our DEI chair, Michelle Pfeifer (michellempfeifer@gmail.com).

Spotlight

Graduating Advanced Candidate

Curt "Breck" Mundis

Curt "Breck" Mundis was introduced to psychoanalysis by his first analyst. It set him on a path that pervades his professional and personal life.

"Analysis was the only modality that made sense to me, not only as a way of doing therapy but as a way of understanding art, music, international relations, literature," he said. "It gives me a framework and kind of a language for interpreting all of these areas."



Breck graduated with a master's degree in social work from the University of Kansas in the spring of 2016 and started his analytic training that fall. He has completed four years of training at the Greater Kansas City-Topeka Psychoanalytic Institute and is a graduating advanced candidate. He is also working toward his doctorate at the Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis.

One of his biggest takeaways from his analytic training has been seeing how predominant the power of the unconscious is, yet it often goes unrecognized.

"As huge a motivating force as it is, it's something that as a concept people are generally unaware of," he said. "To me, it's the mental equivalent of being unaware of gravity. You can't see it, but it's always there and it governs so much of what we do."

Breck started working in the mental health field in 2012 as a tech at a couple of in-patient psychiatric hospitals in Missouri. He went to grad school from 2014 to 2016.

"I knew the whole time I wanted to be an analyst," he said. "I knew if I got the breadth of social work and the depth of analytic training, I would have a pretty well-rounded experience."

Breck spent three years working as a group therapist at Cottonwood Springs in Olathe and worked for three years at Analog Counseling in Overland Park. He opened his own practice in 2022.

"Whether it's with my patients I have in psychoanalysis or with my psychotherapy patients, we do a lot of work with dreams," Breck said. "I've found a lot of people are really curious about and really interested in dreams. It's a great road into the unconscious for people to start thinking about how the unconscious operates and how prevalent it is in their everyday life."

Outside of his work, Breck enjoys 20th Century American and British murder mysteries and mixed martial arts. He is also a classically trained singer.

Spotlight

New Advanced Candidate

Jennifer Dembowski

When did you begin the candidate process and what attracted you to the program?

I began seminars in 2018, though I was in analysis and supervision before then. I considered a PhD, PsyD, and analytic training, eventually settling on analytic training because above other ambitions, I wanted to focus on enhancing my clinical work.



What have been your biggest takeaways from the program?

While seminars and reading have been important to my learning, my personal analysis and experiences in supervision have been most transformative personally and professionally.

How was your experience affected by the pandemic?

This is a hard one to answer, because in truth a major selling point for the Institute was its in-person, cohort structure. Between my non-linear path through seminars, and then the move to online, it all was very different than I expected. I'm thankful the Institute and candidates adapted and made the best of the experience.

How are you using what you have learned in the work you do?

As expected, my work with patients has transformed significantly. I think and feel differently, and the work is richer, deeper, and more rewarding. I am also able to bring my knowledge to my graduate students, which has become an opportunity to stir the next generation's interest in analytic ideas and work.

Can you talk about your professional background and experience?

After earning a MA in MH Counseling in 2015 I began work in private practice, first in Leavenworth and now in Overland Park. I enjoy working with teenagers and adults in individual and group therapy. \ I also provide clinical supervision in Kansas and Missouri and teach graduate students in counseling as an adjunct instructor. My first career was in teaching, and the blend of my two passions in the career I have built now is not something I could have imagined when I began analytic training.

Please feel free to include any personal information you would like to share.

My husband and I have been married for 27 years. This coming year we will have a 22-year-old daughter beginning a teaching career while also starting

grad school, and two sons, a college junior and a high school senior. Outside of work and family, I love attending theater and concerts, reading and crocheting, and am quite devoted to my cat.

Mark Your Calendars

Center Dinner & Awards Night

June 3 at Lidia's (in the Loft)

101 W 22nd St

Kansas City, MO 64108

Social Hour 6 p.m.

Dinner 7-10 p.m.

[Register here](#)

Annual Center Membership Drive:

May 1-June 16, 2023

[Click here](#)

Candidates

Graduating Advanced Candidate:

Breck Mundis, LSCSW

Advanced Candidates:

Thomas Bartlett, PsyD

Jeremy Burd, MD

Jennifer Dembowski, MA, LCPC

First-Year Candidates:

Iman Burns-Khan, LISW

Linden Dalecki, PhD

Yasaman (Yasi) Hemmat, MD

Jenny Huberman, PhD

Jeremy Kinser, PhD

Elise Sanders, LPC

Andrew Schuplin, MS

Charles West, MA

Third-Year candidates:

Holly D. Anderson, LCMFT

Christine Rio Bistis-Nadala, MD, PhD,

MPM

Carrie M. Duncan, PhD

Scott Koeneman, PsyD

Raelyn M. Koop, LPC

Jose Gary B. Nadala, MD

Marrissa Rhodes, MS, MA, LPC

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