Welcome to the GKCTPC newsletter!

Annual meeting June 4

The Center's annual member meeting and dinner will be June 4. The annual meeting will be at Townsend Place Condominiums; the annual dinner will be at Lidia’s. Graduates will be honored and new Center officers will be elected. Nancy Crawford is the outgoing president of the Center and will continue to serve on the board as past president. Also, the second annual Honorary Lifetime Membership Award will be presented to Dr. Leonard Horwitz. A new award, the Psychoanalytic Citizenship Award, will be presented to Tom Poe, associate professor of Film and Media Arts in the Department of Communication Studies at UMKC.

Welcome, new members!

Jessica Almond, MS
Andrew Kerstein, DO
Curt “Breck” Mundis
Judith Ovalle Abuabara, MD
Teresa Rose, PhD
Shilpa Sachdeva, MD

Congratulations, candidates!

2nd Year Candidates:
Thomas Bartlett, PsyD
Kenia Gomez, PhD
Lori Hoodenpyle, JD
Yeshim Oz, MS

4th Year Candidates:
Jeffrey Bennett, PhD
Jeremy Burd, MD
Robert Feuer, LCP
Kathleen Hunzicker, MD
Larry Tyndall, PhD
As the first-year administrator of the Greater Kansas City Psychoanalytic Center/Institute, Gail Barham has no trouble staying busy and there’s always something new.

“It’s been a learning experience,” she said. “There is plenty to do and there is a lot variety.”

Barham came out of early retirement to take the administrator’s job. As the only paid staff person, Barham, who was born in Kansas City, Mo., and raised in Lee’s Summit, does a lot of organizing.

“This role is a lot of coordination, working with the center board and the various members of the institute,” she said. “I liken it a little bit to a registrar. I do things that support our adult ed programming. Another aspect is supporting the community offerings that we provide for the professional and general community through the center. In a nutshell, it’s really my job to keep the functions of the institute and center running smoothly in terms of interacting with candidates and making sure appropriate paperwork is processed.”

And it’s a role she enjoys.

“What I like about it is I’m never bored,” she said.

New programs under way, thanks to Foundation

Dr. Mike Harty has been involved with the Greater Kansas City Psychoanalytic Center/Institute for many years.

He is a training and supervising psychoanalyst at the institute and served as its director from 1998 to 2005. He’s also a past president of the center and still sits on the board.

“I’ve been involved in a lot of things,” he said.

Harty, a psychologist, has been in private practice in Johnson County since 1986.
and from 1981 to 1986 in Kansas City, Mo. Before that, he worked as a staff psychologist at the Menninger Clinic in Topeka and before that he was a post-doctorate fellow there.

One of his latest projects is called the Creative Assist Program.

"The purpose is to offer affordable psychotherapy to people who are in the creative arts," he said. "The idea is to gather together some therapists who are interested in working with artists who might be looking for a therapy and aren't able to afford it."

So far, there are about a dozen therapists involved.

"The tradeoff is we have this study group of therapists where we share information and try to learn from each other," said Harty, who likes to write poetry. "I think most of the therapists participating in the project have some artistic aspiration themselves."

Another outreach project Harty is involved in is a psychoanalytic fellowship program, which will get started in September. The first group of fellows has been recruited.

"We'll have a group of 10 accepted applicants," Harty said. "It's a way of inviting people who have an interest in learning psychoanalytic thought and how it might apply to their profession."

The psychoanalytic foundation — Dr. Rick Tirell is the foundation president — is helping to raise money for both outreach projects.

"We've known for a long time that outreach is a good idea," Harty said. "We're excited about both of these developing projects."

Member Highlight

JESSICA ALMOND

I graduated from Mid-America Nazarene University with a Master of Arts in Counseling and a Certificate in Play Therapy. I work with individuals across the lifespan in private practice. I have over 12 years of experience in the mental health field, working in a variety of settings such as inpatient psychiatric hospitals, residential treatment facilities,
outpatient mental health centers, schools, and private practice. Over the last two years I have partnered with Turner High School to offer individual and group counseling to students in need. Also, I am currently in the process of creating a play therapy center at an inner city church in KC so that counseling services can be offered to families who otherwise may not be able to afford counseling. In my free time, I enjoy painting, reading, horseback riding, connecting with friends, and spending time with my 6-year-old daughter.