



HELTER SKELTER IN A *Summer* SWELTER

Summer has arrived! We've had enough rain to start a new river if we wanted to. The halls of the Health Sciences Building were nearly empty for several weeks here between the end of the Spring semester and the beginning of the 8-week Summer semester. Even the cafe was closed until then so it *really* felt eerily quiet. At one point a bird made itself comfortable in the tree at the end of the 2nd floor hallway!

Beyond that, we're hoping everyone had a good Memorial Day weekend! This is the short span of time where you can be outside for an extended period of time and not suffer from suffocating high humidity and/or blistering heat! ☀️ So soak it in while it lasts!

There won't be too much to report event-wise during the Summer months since it's technically Summer break, but we'll keep you informed on the goings-on in the meantime. 😊

STEM DAY AT THE K

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UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- June 3rd - **8-week Summer courses begin**
- June 19th - **Juneteenth (University Closed)**
- June 21st - **Last day of first 5-week session classes**
- June 21st - **First official day of Summer/Summer Solstice**
- June 24th - **First day of second 5-week session classes**



SoNHS had the pleasure of participating in "STEM Day at the K," an event that was held in the parking lot of Kaufmann Stadium. The event welcomed thousands of kids from local elementary and middle schools and gave them the chance to interact with colleges and companies representing STEM in the region and have a good time! For our "booth" we created a "Defeat the Germs" game where the kids threw white "blood cell" bean bags onto creepy silly germs to knock 'em out! At one point the KCPD helped draw some more germs on the pavement! And of course KC Roo was there to cheer the kids on!



RECENT COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Some more highlights among our SoNHS Community! Here are a few of the students, faculty, and alumni that we've put a spotlight on recently (Listed L to R):

- **Marti Anselmo** - Dr. Anselmo was the recipient of the Sigma Lambda Phi Chapter DAISY Faculty Award! The criteria for the award recipient is as follows:
 - Displays enthusiasm and personal interest in student learning
 - Demonstrates integrity through fair and unbiased treatment of individual students
 - Collaborates effectively with students, colleagues, and the health care team to enhance the learning environment
 - Models excellence in teaching and facilitating learning opportunities
 - Serves as a role model of professional nursing

Congratulations, Dr. Anselmo!!

- **Kelsey Gardiner** - Dr. Gardiner received a competitive award from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City for her proposed project entitled "Transforming KC: Health Outcomes Research Grant - Maternal and Child Health Outcomes." Dr. Gardiner's study focuses on pilot-testing fruits and vegetables distribution and nutrition education intervention for low-income, food insecure African American women to improve pregnancy outcomes.

Congratulations, Dr. Gardiner!

GRADUATION PHOTOS!



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SCIENTIST OF THE MONTH

Each month, a member of our research faculty is highlighted as a “Scientist of the Month”! We ask them to share a little about what’s going on in their current research. This month’s scientist is **Dr. Steven Chesnut!** (pictured left)

“What’s new and exciting about your research?”

In my first scientist of the month discussion in March 2022, I introduced my emerging research on the factor structure of teacher self-efficacy beliefs. Teacher self-efficacy, when measured with the popular teacher sense of efficacy scale, has traditionally been modeled as either a single latent factor representing a general self-efficacy construct or as three correlated latent factors representing the individual domains measured in the instrument. My colleagues and I have argued that the latent variable representation of self-efficacy beliefs should be more comprehensive, through which both general and domain-specific self-efficacy beliefs are identified. These types of latent variable representations are known as bifactor models. Our first investigation into this latent variable representation of self-efficacy utilized a sample of 250,000 international, inservice teachers. The findings from this project supported the bifactor representation as best fitting the data across all languages and nationalities, as well as identifying factorial invariance within language groups. Our second study focused on preservice teachers; findings from this study corroborated results from our study with inservice teachers. Theoretically accurate and empirically precise latent variable representations of psychological constructs are important to the development of a field of research. Findings from these recent investigations have and will continue to help us improve our representation of teacher self-efficacy beliefs in analytic models to better understand how they are formed, as well as the effect they have on occupational outcomes of interest (e.g., instructional quality, commitment).

Thank you for sharing, Dr. Chesnut!