

October 2025

From the College



I hope you are having a great start to the new academic year! I was excited to see so many faculty and staff show up for our first “Breakfast in Ball” and hope to see many of you on October 2 “Tea on Thursday” in the afternoon. These are just fun times to be together, to share what’s going on, and to get to know or meet our new faculty and staff.

As we approach the middle of the semester and start in on Spring semester advising, we have some good news and some areas that we continue to need to work on. Overall, our enrollment is fairly stable but overall we are down 4%. We nearly doubled our first-time freshmen enrollment and saw strong enrollment growth in our doctoral program in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, the master's in Counseling, the doctoral program in Educational Psychology and Research Methods and the bachelor's degree in Integrated Early Childhood Education. Under the new budgeting model, much of our budget is based on our enrollment so enrollment will continue to be a top priority for the entire College and future staffing will be linked to programs that are showing growth.

We had a great team represent us at the recent CAEP Conference and we will begin our initial preparations for our upcoming re-accreditation. Our search for an Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs is also underway and the individual who assumes this role will play an important part of this process.

And finally, this is just a reminder that we have a fantastic team of Faculty Senators representing the College. DeAnna Owens-Mosby is the Past-President and serves on the

Executive Committee. Representing CEPR is Dr. Eli Jones who is on the Research Policies Committee is also our College Representative to the University Undergraduate Council, and from LEAD is Dr. Edith Gnanadass serves on the Academic Policy Committee and is the Faculty Representative for the Dean's 360-Review Process. Please feel free to contact any of these Senators with ideas and questions.

Keep up the great work and I hope to see all of you soon!

Happenings: What's Going On This Month



October 2: Tea On Thursday
Join the Dean's Office for a Social Hour
Ball Hall 215-B | 3:30:4:30 PM
RSVP | Any Wilson | lwilson10@memphis.edu

October 3: EPP Assessment Retreat — Dr. Teresa Banks
University Center | 8:30 AM–1 PM

October 3: Weekly Writing Sessions — Dr. Alison Happel-Parkins
Bell Tower Coffee (back room) | 9 AM–12 PM
Virtual option available email | aahappel@memphis.edu

October 10: Weekly Writing Sessions — Dr. Alison Happel-Parkins
Bell Tower Coffee (back room) | 9 AM–12 PM
Virtual option available email | aahappel@memphis.edu

October 16: Faculty Development Series — Grant Results — What they Found
Join us as we learn about the research results from previous recipients of the COE's Faculty Research Grants. Learn about their studies, their results, and how their projects will be used for future grant applications. Our presenters for the session are Drs. Jeff Byford, Huan Gao, Dustin Hornbeck, and Michelle Brasfield.
Ball Hall 209 | 12–1 PM

October 22: Writing Retreats — Dr. James Meindl
Goal-setting and accountability check-ins. Multiple uninterrupted writing blocks. Mini-workshops on writing strategies. Collegial support and shared education.
University Center Beale Room | 9 AM–2 PM
Snacks, coffee, and lunch provided
RSVP | jnmeindl@memphis.edu

October 24: Weekly Writing Sessions — Dr. Alison Happel-Parkins
Bell Tower Coffee (back room) | 9 AM–12 PM
Virtual option available email | aahappel@memphis.edu

October 31: Weekly Writing Sessions — Dr. Alison Happel-Parkins
Bell Tower Coffee (back room) | 9 AM–12 PM
Virtual option available email | aahappel@memphis.edu

College News



College of Education Back on Facebook

The College of Education is back on Facebook! Follow our page to stay up to date on the latest news, events, alumni spotlights, and student achievements from across the college. We're excited to reconnect and share stories that highlight the impact of our faculty, students, and alumni.

👉 Follow us at: facebook.com/uofmcoe

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Coordinator of Student Recruitment Search Update

The College of Education is reopening its search for a Coordinator of Student Recruitment. This important role helps us connect with prospective students and share the opportunities available within the COE.

The position has been reposted so if you know of someone who would be great in the role, please let them know!

Say hello to

[Dr. Gabriel Ezema](#), Assistant Professor of Counseling Psychology

[Dr. Alex Pratt](#), Assistant Professor of Educational Research

[Dr. Mike Skirius](#), Assistant Clinical Professor of Counseling

[Mark Patterson](#), Business Officer | Center for Research in Educational Policy

COE Community Highlights



Four New School Districts Join COE Teacher Pipeline

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The University of Memphis College of Education (COE) has finalized agreements with 14 school districts across West Tennessee, expanding opportunities for teacher candidates to complete internships and residencies in K–12 classrooms.

[Read more here »](#)



Student / Mentor / Supervisor of the Month: September

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The College of Education (COE) Office of Teacher Education and Clinical Practice (OTECPC) is proud to announce the recipients of Student Teacher, Mentor Teacher and Supervisor of the Month for September 2025: Jalice Sargent, John Rawson and Jennifer Bubrig.

[Read more here »](#)



Winbush Honored as Counselor of the Year

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Congratulations to Janeé' Winbush, PhD student in Counselor Education and Supervision, on being named *Counselor of the Year* by the West Tennessee Counseling Association. This recognition highlights not only her dedication to the counseling profession but also the excellence of our Counselor Education program and the impact COE students are making in the field.



Life Ball for All to be held November 15

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The University of Memphis Institute on Disability (UMID) will host the 2025 Life Ball for All on November 15 in celebration of the Institute on Disability and the TigerLIFE program.

We are excited to welcome Stephanie Smith Lee, Co-Director of Policy and Advocacy at the National Down Syndrome Congress, as our keynote speaker. During the event, she will also be honored with the UMID Lifetime Distinguished Service Award.

[Learn more here](#)

Research Spotlight



Dr. Jasmyn Jones Highlights Equity in Language and Literacy Education

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Dr. Jasmyn Jones, faculty member in Instruction and Curriculum Leadership, has published an article in *The Urban Review* titled “*Black Language is Antiracist Language Arts Education: A Pedagogical Call for Black Linguistic Justice.*” Her work argues for an antiracist approach to language and literacy education that centers the linguistic, cultural, and intellectual needs of Black students. By advancing an Antiracist Black Language Pedagogy, Dr. Jones highlights how schools can dismantle linguistic racism, affirm Black Language as a legitimate system, and create classroom spaces that foster equity, identity, and joy.

[Read more about Jones's research »](#)



Dr. Dustin Hornbeck Publishes on Parental Rights and Student Autonomy

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Dr. Dustin Hornbeck, assistant professor in Leadership, co-authored an article in *Theory and Research in Education* examining the tension between parental rights in education and the rights of LGBTQ+ students. His research considers how schools and policymakers can navigate these competing claims to support inclusive, democratic education that protects student autonomy while respecting parental involvement.

[Read more about Hornbeck's research »](#)



Dr. Khajeloo Examines Teaching Culture in STEM Departments

MEMPHIS. Tenn. – Dr. Mojtaba Khajeloo, Assistant Professor in the College of Education at the University of Memphis, is co-author of a new *Innovative Higher Education* article, “An Organizational View of Teaching Culture: How a STEM Department Changed its Annual Teaching Evaluation Process.”

[Read more about Khajeloo's Research](#)

For more research publications, check out the @COE LinkedIn and Facebook page



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Alumni News



Dr. Kate Ayers at the Forefront of STEMM Education and Outreach at St. Jude

Dr. Kate Ayers (PhD '25, Educational Psychology and Research) directs the STEMM Education & Outreach Program at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, connecting classrooms and labs to inspire the next generation of scientists. Her work includes the St. Jude Science Ambassadors Program, afterschool STEMM clubs serving hundreds of local students, and a high school research immersion experience.

[Read More About Dr. Ayers](#)



Dr. Meah King Champions Student Success Through Tennessee Career Academy

Dr. Meah King, a proud UofM alumna, is the Founding Head of School for Tennessee Career Academy, which launched in Fall 2024. A lifelong Memphian, King brings more than 20 years of experience as a teacher, interventionist, and Senior Reading Advisor for Memphis-Shelby County Schools.

[Read more about Dr. King](#)

Dr. Laura Link Transforming Student Evaluation

Dr. Laura J. Link, Ed.D. '14 (Leadership & Policy Studies, University of Memphis), is now Associate Professor of Teaching & Leadership at the University of North Dakota and directs both the Master of Science in Teaching & Leadership program and the Mastery Learning Graduate Certificate. Her research focuses on developing school leaders, creating



assessment systems that support meaningful learning, and revising grading practices that promote equity. Dr. Link has authored multiple publications including “The Problem with Traditional Grading Systems” (2025) and contributes to leadership on assessment and grading reform through both research and professional development.

[Read More About Dr. Link](#)



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College of Education

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