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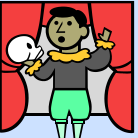
KIPCOR works in part because of generous assistance from volunteers, many of whom have now retired from their volunteering days (thanks to every one of you!). ***So we are calling all volunteers! The gift of your time or a referral to others who might help is most welcome!***




**FOOD:** KIPCOR is known for the quality of food provided during our trainings & events. ***Do you enjoy cooking and baking?*** Volunteer to help and we'll contact you to see if it would be convenient for you to provide baked goods, or perhaps a full meal (cooking duties can be shared with another volunteer).



**MAILINGS:** We have a large mailing list and our mass mailings (newsletters, for instance) need ***many hands to help*** with folding, sealing, and labeling. Volunteer and we will add your name to the contact list so you will know when we need help.




**ROLE-PLAYERS:** KIPCOR trains student mediators throughout the year, and part of that training can include rigorous role-play practice...which requires help from ***volunteer thespians***. Do you long for the stage every now and then? Volunteer and play the part of a parent fighting for more parenting time, a landlord or tenant, a consumer or business owner, or an unhappy neighbor.



**FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** We are associated with Bethel College, but ***almost entirely self-funded***. Since money does NOT grow on trees, we need to find it somewhere else. Without the generous support of friends and corporate/foundation sponsors, our work simply cannot continue.

***If you can help us in our mission of peacemaking, please contact our Office Manager, Doug Lengel, at: 316-284-5217 or [dlengel@bethelks.edu](mailto:dlengel@bethelks.edu). He will be happy to explain the volunteer process to you.***

We're on the Web [www.kipcor.org](http://www.kipcor.org) and on  [www.facebook.com/kipcorks](https://www.facebook.com/kipcorks)

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## New director begins at KIPCOR By Melanie Zuercher



Photo by Julian Liby

KIPCOR welcomes its new director, Sheryl R. Wilson, a person with deep experience in mediation and restorative justice.

Ms. Wilson, from Cary, North Carolina, began Nov. 6. She follows long-time director Gary Flory, who retired this summer, in the position.

Wilson has a B.S. in mediation and communication studies and a Masters of

Liberal Studies in restorative justice from the University of Minnesota.

For more than a decade, she has served as a restorative justice practitioner and conflict resolution specialist, working with victims and survivors of “crimes of severe violence” to address trauma healing, mediating in criminal cases with a focus on facilitating dialogue, and training victim-offender mediators in anti-racism and restorative justice practices, in settings around the country.

Her mediation work was featured on the A&E Network restorative-justice pilot Confrontation in 2006.

In addition to serving as an independent contractor in mediation and con-

flict resolution, Wilson comes to us from Duke University’s Clinical Research Institute in data collection and documentation, and from her position as a substitute teacher in the Wake County (North Carolina) Public Schools, a setting in which she practices restorative justice strategies.

Wilson is president of the National

***“I am honored to be stepping into this role and I very much look forward to being of service to the Bethel community,”***  
***— Sheryl R Wilson***

(continued on page 2)

## Leonard Pitts, Jr. packs the house in celebration of KIPCOR’s 30th Anniversary



Photo by Vada Snider

One of the largest crowds ever to assemble in Memorial Hall witnessed a stirring and pointed speech by newspaper columnist and author Leonard Pitts, Jr. KIPCOR brought the Pulitzer Prize-winner to the Bethel College campus September 12 as part of its 2017-18 Peace Lecture Series, and to help celebrate the Institute’s more than 30 years of peacebuilding work.

In a speech titled “***What Now? America in the Age of Trump***,” Pitts delivered a sometimes humorous, sometimes scathing indictment of the Trump administration. He likened our current plight to the Civil War era, when our nation ‘attempted suicide’ based on “hatred of the Other, (a) con-

viction that the Other represents a lesser subspecies of human being.” Pitts went on to say that “sometimes, we define otherness by religion, gender identity, sexuality, or religion. And...always and forever, by race.”

(continued on page 3: Happy Anniversary!)

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**Sheryl R Wilson, KIPCOR Director** ~ By Melanie Zeucher

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Association for Community and Restorative Justice and has served on the board of the Victim Offender Mediation Association, an international professional organization.

Wilson has been special projects coordinator at the Georgia Council for Restorative Justice at Georgia State University, Atlanta, where she was responsible for community outreach, training, and raising awareness of restorative justice initiatives in the state; as executive director of Southern Truth and Reconciliation (STAR) in Atlanta, with a mission to collaborate with communities to adapt the "truth and reconciliation" process in response to racism and restorative justice; and as a certified parent

educator in the Teen Parenting Program in the Montgomery (Alabama) Public Schools.

She also has a long history of community involvement. Since moving to North Carolina, she has been a volunteer mediator with the Juvenile Justice Project at Campbell Law School in Raleigh, and currently is a teacher and facilitator in the Racial Reconciliation Ministry of Cole Mill Road Church of Christ in Durham.

"I am honored to be stepping into this role and I very much look forward to being of service to the Bethel community," Wilson said. "I feel that my life's work has prepared me for this moment."

"I am very enthusiastic about the future of KIPCOR," said Bethel Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Milliman. "We have benefited for years from the wise direction of Gary Flory. Building on his legacy, while exploring new avenues of work, Sheryl Wilson will bring expertise, experience, professionalism, and enthusiasm to lead the work of KIPCOR's excellent staff to the next level."

"I am thrilled that she will be joining us. She possesses the attributes and talents needed to help the joint efforts of KIPCOR and the college in promoting needed strategies for achieving peace and the resolution of conflict in Kansas and beyond."

**10 Questions for Sheryl R Wilson, KIPCOR's New Director**

As a way of getting to know KIPCOR's new Director, Sheryl Wilson, we asked her the following questions:

**1. What's the best concert you ever attended?**

Sade, Soldier of Love tour 2011 -- I have been a fan since the very first album was released. When I found out about the tour, I mentally planned to go when it came to the city where I was living at the time. However, I ended up being too busy to go. When I spoke to my best friend about it, we made a plan for us to go to attend in Minneapolis, my former hometown,

**2. Where's your favorite place in the world?**

Near bodies of water, beaches, lakes, or rivers -- I grew up in Florida, so having the ocean nearby was something I took for granted. For many years, I lived a few blocks away from the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities. I would walk around the river bank areas and drive up and down the river road often. Being in the presence of a body of water seems to be part of my problem-solving process. I often pray and meditate in those settings.

**3. What's the coolest thing that you're working on now?**

I am working on a project that seeks to reimagine justice -- I am honored to be a part of a group of restorative justice practitioners who are considering how language affects the ways in which we perceive justice. The potential outcomes of our process are endless!

**4. What's your favorite family tradition?**

Making meals for different holi-

days -- As the years have passed, I have found that although the main entrée changes based on the occasion, the sides remain the same at the request of my sons: macaroni and cheese, biscuits, and collard greens.

**5. Who is your least favorite superhero?**

Aquaman -- At the chagrin of my husband, I just don't love him as much as the others. Go figure, I love the water, but Aquaman, not so much! Maybe I'll change my mind after the upcoming movie on Aquaman is released. In all of the contexts that I've seen Aquaman, he has been outshined by his counterparts.

**6. What is your superpower?**

In my family I am the finder of lost things -- I am often summoned by them when things are misplaced in our household. Although by now, I think I am summoned after only half-hearted efforts have been made and in reality I am just being manipulated.

Continued on page 4



where my friend still lives. She purchased us 6th row tickets. With the added bonus of John Legend as opening act, it

**Donating to KIPCOR online is REALLY easy, and REALLY SECURE.**

**STEP 1:** Go to the KIPCOR website at [www.kipcor.org](http://www.kipcor.org).

**STEP 2:** Click on "**Get Involved**" in the ribbon at the top, and then on "**Donate/Volunteer**"

**STEP 3:** Read the information on the Donate page; pay particular attention to "**Donation Instructions**"

**STEP 4:** Click on the "**Donate Online Today!**" button.

**STEP 5:** Fill out all of the information required. At the bottom, just before entering your credit card data, is the "**Gift Destination**" selection. The box says "**Select One**" and has a downward facing arrow at the right. Click anywhere in this box, and a box will appear with choices. Click on "**Other**". When you do that, a second box will appear. In that box, **type the word KIPCOR**. Fill out your credit card information, and click on "**Submit Form**." **That's all there is to it!**

**STEP 6:** (Optional) If it's not too much trouble, let Doug ([dlengel@bethelks.edu](mailto:dlengel@bethelks.edu) or 316-284-5217) or Sheryl ([swilson@bethelks.edu](mailto:swilson@bethelks.edu)) in the KIPCOR office know that you've made an online donation so we can watch for the receipt from the development office, and give you a proper THANK YOU!!!

**Thanks for your continued support!**

**2017-2018 Film Series****Kansas premiere kicks off 2017-18 KIPCOR film series**

If you enjoy independent, thought-provoking films that stimulate discussion about relevant social issues, then you are probably already familiar with KIPCOR's long-running film series.



The 2017-18 series debuted on Sunday, November 12 on the Bethel College campus with the Kansas premiere of the film, Healing Justice. The documentary, produced by the non-profit social justice organization World Trust Educational Services, explores the causes and consequences of our justice system. It was created to spur conversations that address the racism embedded in our punitive legal system, and the so-called "youth-to-prison pipeline."

Healing Justice also illustrates the transformative power of Restorative Justice as an alternative to traditional forms of punishment.

The November film also served as part of the launch event for the Kansas Restorative Schools Network. Leaders of KIPCOR's Restorative Schools Initiative were on hand to answer questions and provide additional insight following the film screening. Restorative practices, whether used in schools, prisons, or other settings, are a way to hold offenders accountable for their actions, while also promoting healing for the victim and the entire impacted community.

If you already have your 2018 calendar, be sure to reserve Sunday, January 14 and Sunday, March 4 as the film series continues. The screenings will begin at 3:00 p.m. both days inside the Luyken Fine Arts Center.

On January 14, KIPCOR will screen the film, Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock, which captures the story of Native-led defiance in opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline -- a struggle that forever changed the fight for clean water, our environment, and the future of our planet. Co-director Myron Dewey, whose drone footage made him one of the most important journalistic voices to come out of the Standing Rock movement, will be on hand to lead the post-film audience discussion. The screening of Awake, a Special Selection at the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival, is a collaboration between KIPCOR and the Mennonite Central Committee -- Central States.



**All films shown at 3:00 PM in Krehbiel Auditorium in the Luyken Fine Arts Center.**

**Each film is followed by a 20-30 minute Q&A/Discussion period.**



## KIPCOR to Go Green and Improve Stewardship of Our Limited Resources

With the Spring 2018 KIPCOR newsletter KIPCOR will be making the transition to an electronic newsletter. If we have your email address, we will be sending your newsletter to you electronically instead of through the mail. This action will save resources, as we stop using so much paper and energy to print the newsletter, and it will save us money as we avoid

printing and mailing costs. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, and you're not sure if we have your email address, contact the office at

[KIPCOR@bethelks.edu](mailto:KIPCOR@bethelks.edu)

or call (316) 284-5217 and confirm that we have a current email address for you.

As we free ourselves from printing and mailing limits, we are making plans to provide more regular updates electronically so that you will know what's going on at KIPCOR. We hope that these new avenues of information about our work will allow you to participate in more of our events. And remember, you can follow our activities on Facebook at [Facebook.com/KIPCORks](https://www.facebook.com/KIPCORks).

### KIPCOR Calendar

More information & registration is available at [www.kipcor.org/Calendar/](http://www.kipcor.org/Calendar/)

**January 3-12, 2018**

[Practical Skills for Managing Group and Organizational Conflict](#)

**9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

**January 17-26, 2018**

[Culture, Gender, and Power in Conflict](#)

**9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

**March 5, 2018 (and additional meeting dates)**

[Healthy Opportunities for Parenting Effectively](#)

**5:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

**March 12 - April 6 2018**

[Online Practical Skills for Managing Interpersonal Conflict - Health Care Emphasis](#)

Online @ Bethel College  
North Newton KS 67117

**May 22 - 25, 2018**

[Practical Skills for Managing Interpersonal Conflict - Health Care Emphasis](#)

**8:30am - 4:30pm**

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

**June 5 - 8, 2018**

[Summer Institute: Practical Skills for Managing Interpersonal Conflict](#)

**8:30am - 4:30pm**

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

**June 25, 2018 (and additional meeting dates)**

[Healthy Opportunities for Parenting Effectively](#)

**5:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

**August 14 - 17, 2018**

[Practical Skills for Managing Interpersonal Conflict - Health Care Emphasis](#)

**8:30am - 4:30pm**

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

**September 24, 2018 (and additional meeting dates)**

[Healthy Opportunities for Parenting Effectively](#)

**5:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

**December 7, 2018**

[CME/CEU Shorts](#)

**8:30 am - 4:30 pm**

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

Additionally, KIPCOR and the Community Mediation Center offer two classes for divorcing parents each month. We offer the Divorce Impact Education class the second Thursday of the month at 5:15 PM in McPherson, and we offer the same class the fourth Tuesday of the month, also at 5:15 PM, in North Newton.

Contact the Community Mediation Center at (316) 284-5829 or [CMC@bethelks.edu](mailto:CMC@bethelks.edu) for more information on these classes.

## Happy Anniversary to US!

(Continued from Pg. 1)

We have become a nation “dominated by its extremes,” Pitts lamented, unable to shed our “straightjackets of ideology” and to engage in thoughtful contemplation and conversation. As evidence of this claim, Pitts pointed, in part, to the violent rally by white nationalists in Charlottesville, Virginia where people proudly displayed their “support of ideologies some of us thought had been banished to the fringes of American life.”

And how did we get to this point? Pitts offered a few answers to that question, one being gerrymandering, where state legislatures draw and redraw voting districts to protect incumbents. This practice, almost as old as our country, “flips democracy on its head,” according to Pitts, and “instead of voters choosing their candidates, candidates choose their voters.” What you end up with, said Pitts, is “a Congress full of people elected by voters who are hardcore left or hardcore right.” These gerrymandered districts,



added Pitts, remove any incentive or willingness by members of Congress to compromise, out of fear that they will be replaced by “someone who promises to be even more ideologically pure.”

By way of solutions, Pitts suggested giving the power to draw voting districts to the judiciary or other nonpartisan entity. He remarked that if our elected representatives in Washington were “less worried about ideological purity, (they) might have time to work on infrastructure, education, health care, or policing.” They “...might even,

every once in a while,” Pitts added, “see their way clear to compromising on a given issue.”

Pitts also pointed the finger at the news media and the Republican Party for the current polarization dividing our country. And while the current state of affairs is “frightening,” according to Pitts, he added that it “cannot be an excuse to throw up our hands.” Quite the opposite, Pitts said, “the fact that we are in deep trouble is not an excuse for surrender but an obligation to fight.”

Pitts sees signs of people recognizing that obligation to fight. He pointed to “an energy afoot that wasn’t there ten years ago.” Whether it’s the Black Lives Matter movement or the post-inauguration Women’s March on Washington, the columnist and author sees a “new generation of activists,” whom he urged to “agitate and advocate for change not simply in the streets, but also in the hearing room, the boardroom, the courtroom.” Pitts also pointed to the 2018 mid-term elections as “the first opportunity to put the brakes on the runaway insanity of our politics.”

Following his speech, Pitts answered several audience questions and also signed copies of his most recent books, “Freeman” and “Grant Park.” Earlier in the day, by his own request, Pitts met with Bethel College social work students; and also dined with KIPCOR supporters and other invited guests at the Kaufman House on campus.

### And the party continues...

If you and your family love hearing a good story, and watching a performance that brings the story to life be-

fore your eyes, be sure to mark SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018 on your calendar. That marks the first day of a four-day visit by award-winning author, storyteller, and performer Rafe Martin. The visit by Martin, who has written more than 20 books and tailors his performances to all ages, will serve as the culmination of KIPCOR’s 30th Anniversary celebration.

KIPCOR’s Anniversary planning committee is still working on a final itinerary for Martin’s visit. However, the tentative plan is for Martin to host a public reception and give his first performance on the Bethel College campus Sunday afternoon. The Kauffman Museum is a co-sponsor of Sunday’s events, which will be free and open to the public, and plans to display artwork created by local elementary school students and inspired by Martin’s books. Martin will also be the keynote speaker at Bethel College Convocation on Monday, April 23 at 11:00 a.m. From Monday afternoon through Wednesday, Martin will perform at various elementary schools in the Newton area.

Martin’s stories and performances, many of which interweave Native American themes, share an empowering vision of language, writing, creativity and imagination. He has appeared at many prestigious festivals and won numerous awards. Both children and adults are sure to enjoy Martin’s performances, so bring the whole family. We will be sharing more details as they become available.





The Community Mediation Center takes the Match Game on the Road!

Match Game isn't just a popular TV show. It's also the way that KIPCOR's Community Mediation Center (CMC) does business in serving divorcing and separating parents in Harvey and McPherson counties.

On November 4, a new audience tuned in to see CMC's version at the Association of Family and Conciliation Court's (AFCC) Milwaukee Regional Conference. AFCC, the premier interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to the resolution of family conflict, invited CMC staff to lead a workshop focused on its unique Dispute Resolution Triage Program. Kirsten Zerger, KIPCOR Senior Associate for Mediation and Training, and Dan Wassink, CMC Manager, traveled to Milwaukee to present "Match Game: ADR Triage for Better Outcomes."

CMC's Dispute Resolution Triage Program began in the summer of 2015 as a collaboration with the local courts to improve services for divorcing and separating parents who cannot reach their own parenting agreements. Judges send these parents to CMC for an initial assessment that determines

which dispute resolution service – Mediation, Limited Case Management, or Brief Focused Assessment – is the most appropriate "match." CMC maintains a panel of dispute resolution specialists who provide these services, as well as various educational programs designed to enhance co-parenting skills. Each piece of this integrated approach is designed to achieve outcomes that are in the best interests of the child(ren).

With more than two years of collected data and experience, Kirsten and Dan shared the history and purpose of the Triage Program; "before and after" statistics that illustrate the success of the program; and insights gleaned from the many challenges and roadblocks that have arisen, and which continue to surface to this day.

Judges in Harvey and McPherson counties have sent more than 250 cases to the Triage Program since July 2015. During that time, CMC has noted a significant increase in the number of parents able to reach their own parenting agreements through private negotiations. Private agreements have been shown to be more effective and

enduring than ones imposed upon parents by the court. Another telling statistic is that the number of cases returned to the court for follow-up has been cut in half since the Triage Program began. This reduces the backlog of cases at the courthouse and allows judges and other court staff more time for other tasks. It also means parents are receiving personalized interventions from trained professionals that are tailored to their family's specific needs, and are able to avoid the acrimonious atmosphere of the courtroom that too often adds fuel to the fire of conflict.

In the past, Kirsten and Dan have also given presentations about the Triage Program at other venues, including Washburn University in Topeka. This latest invitation from AFCC to present in Milwaukee illustrates how interest in the Program continues to grow beyond the borders of Kansas. In fact, one workshop attendee traveled all the way from London! As others recognize the many benefits to divorcing/separating parents and their children, the hope is that other judicial districts will replicate the program.

10 Questions for Sheryl R Wilson, KIPCOR Director (continued from page 2)

7. What's the best meal you've ever had? Duck in a port wine reduction sauce at Loring Café in Minneapolis – It was the most perfect, simple meal I have ever had. It took everything not to make a fool of myself in this elegant restaurant by licking the plate! After the meal, I continued to dream about it and decided to make this meal for an upcoming holiday. When I called the restaurant and asked if the sauce could be made for me, I was contacted by the chef who felt confident that I could

make it on my own. He then proceeded to walk me through the recipe! 8. What's the latest book you've read? Year of Yes: How to Dance it Out, Stand in the Sun and Be Your Own Person by Shonda Rhimes –Without giving it away, it is a must read. Even if you are not a fan of the shows she created for ABC network, her story represents something that I admire: the transformation of one's spirit when opening up to new things.

9. What is your favorite sound? The sounds of creativity or discovery -- I love to hear people have "aha moments." I especially love to hear children in creative mode - so uninhibited! 10. What is your favorite smell? I love the smell of freshly cut basil. I used to have a small herb garden in my kitchen and I would find recipes with basil just so I could cut it up.

Thanks to those of you who have so generously contributed to KIPCOR in response to our October fundraising appeal. With your help, and those of the other supporters, ***we have already raised nearly \$2,500.00*** We know that many of you are still making your year-end charity contributions, and we feel that our **\$10,000 goal** is well within reach. Remember, to count as a donation in 2017, your donation envelope must be postmarked, your electronic donation must be received, or your check must be in KIPCOR's office by the end of the day on December 31. Thank you!!!

***If you would like to make an electronic donation, see page 7 for detailed instructions.***

Donations July 2016–June 2017 (including Gifts-In-Kind)

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