

Volunteers & Continuing Support Needed!

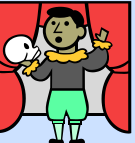
KIPCOR works in part because of generous assistance from volunteers, many of whom have now retired from their volunteering days (thanks to every one of you!). ***So we are calling all volunteers! The gift of your time or a referral to others who might help is most welcome!***



**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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Fall Peace Lecturer Jasmyn Story Welcomed by Bethel ~ Sheryl Wilson, Director

**KIPCOR's Fall Peace Lecturer. Jasmyn Story, welcomed by Bethel Community**

KIPCOR recently began the 2019-20 Peace Lecture Series with by hosting a lecture from restorative justice practitioner and trainer, Jasmyn Story. On the evening of November 7th, about 30 people gathered for a supper at KIPCOR prior to the lecture held at Krehbiel Auditorium, where additional community members attended the lecture.

Jasmyn Elise Story is an international Restorative Justice Facilitator and founder of **The People's Coalition**. Named one of *Vice's 31 Women Making History by Creating a Better Future*, they are a dedicated human rights activist with 8 years of experience working in the voluntary sector. Formerly the Director of Restorative Justice Programming at the JAGS Foundation. Currently, their main focus is on community mobilization and the integration of restorative practices into the City of Birmingham

as the Deputy Director of the Office of Social Justice and Racial Equity.

During the supper, Story discussed connections to KIPCOR by recalling the first visit to Bethel College during last year's Restorative Kansas Conference hosted by KIPCOR. Story, who has a BA degree in Anthropology from Skidmore College and received an MA in Human Rights from University College London, discussed how this background aligns with the interests of KIPCOR and why it is important to support the Institute.

Later, at the lecture, Story used an interactive map of the world to guide the discussion about lessons learned along the way. The lecture, titled "From the Deep South to the World: What Social Justice Can Tell Us Today," was well-received by lecture attendees.

Story began the lecture by relating an incident of deep personal harm committed by a classmate during college. Story stated:



**Jasmyn Story, named one of Vice's 31 Women Making History by Creating a Better Future**

(continued on page 2: Peace Lecture)

Student assistants at KIPCOR



KIPCOR currently has three students helping us out, and we are thrilled with the crew we have now!

Our longest-serving student is **Wynter Rentas**, Junior Biology major and Basketball

player from Wichita. This is her second year with us, and Wynter says of KIPCOR, "I like KIPCOR's community involvement and the support of local people."

**Lindsey Pfannen-**



**stiel**, Freshman Social Work major from Hays, is also on the staff of the Bethel Collegian and one of the photographers for Thresher Athletics. Lindsey says, "I enjoy KIPCOR's staff and their ability to go above and beyond for our community."

**David Wulff-Cochrane**, from Edmond, OK is a Senior Social Work major, and is on the Football team and sings with the concert choir. David

says of his work with KIPCOR, "KIPCOR is tremendous in that they are there for people who feel like they don't have someone to advocate for them. KIPCOR gives them



tools to advocate for themselves and to make the best of their situation."

If these students are any indication, the future of KIPCOR and Bethel are in great hands. Say hi to them when you see them at KIPCOR or on campus.

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## Peace Lecture

(Continued from page 1)

"they took my sparkle. Learning how to mediate was my first step in my travels." Story took the audience from Saratoga Springs, NY, to Capetown, South Africa: "in Saratoga Springs, I learned to break down and unpack a story and in Capetown, I learned to tell one. Because when I share my narrative, and when I do it with intent, I have the power to shift your understanding about my position in the world and yours."

The next day at convocation, Story educated the audience concerning the dangers of cancel culture. Cancel culture, as described by Story, is "to remove someone because of problematic behavior from your community or to remove their source of income by boycotting where they receive it."

In this lecture, Story introduced another way to hold others accountable: "if we continue to cancel and remove people, we are going to lose allies and accomplices in our

journey toward liberation." The lecture continued with Story discussing the ways people can enter the recovery process by using restorative justice principles as a guide.

## From the Director ~ Sheryl Wilson



Fall 2019 marked a new era for KIPCOR as the newly formed Advisory Council has convened twice since August and their leadership is taking shape in a few key areas:

**Peace Lecture Series** – The 2019-20 Peace Lecture Series began this fall with Jasmyn Story, who spoke on November 7th, to much support by the Advisory Council. Many members came to meet and hear Story at the supper, lecture and at convocation (November 8th). The Council is very active in the recruitment process of future speakers and planning the series.

**Policy** – As we are examining our policies in many areas to continue to provide services that reflect best practices in the conflict resolution field, we are beginning to rely on our Advisory Council for their expertise in these areas.

**Fundraising initiatives** – Members of the Council have been very helpful in presenting new ideas for fundraising and directing me to new resources. This is largely attributed to the wealth of knowledge and experience in this talented group.

Speaking of fundraising, I am happy to announce that we have been awarded two grants this fall that will help with the efforts of the Community Mediation Center:

**IOLTA Grant** – The Kansas Bar Foundation (Foundation) is a charitable, non-profit corporation affiliated with the Kansas Bar Association (KBA). The Foundation's Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) Program was established as a funding source for law-related charitable public service projects and was approved by the Kansas Supreme Court in April 1984. In its petition to the Supreme Court, the Foundation emphasized funding

programs which improved the provision of civil legal services to Kansans, provided law-related education, improved the administration of justice, and other programs as approved by the Court. The primary funding was envisioned as providing additional services to low-income Kansans. KIPCOR received a \$2,500 grant that will be used to support our indigent clients who may have difficulties affording our services.

**Schowalter Grant** -- The Schowalter Foundation funds Mennonite colleges and seminaries to support international and ministerial students, and is interested in projects that need seed money grants for start-up costs related to new programs which have broad application. KIPCOR received \$5,000 to launch an eldercare mediation pilot program.

## 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. Don't forget to change the "Designation" box on the first page of the form from "Bethel College Fund" to "Other" and then put **KIPCOR** in the new box.

**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!**

## 2019-2020 Film Series

### KIPCOR Film Series

KIPCOR is in the midst of another Film Series that continues to draw crowds to the Bethel College campus for award-winning, independent films and discussions led by topic experts.

### A new decade begins.....

KIPCOR's 2019-2020 Film Series will continue on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in Krehbiel Auditorium with a screening of **The Great White Hoax**.

Perfectly timed to coincide with the start of the presidential primary season, this film explores the ways politicians from our two major parties often tap into white anxiety and scapegoat people of color to benefit themselves politically. While the film does focus on Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, it also widens its lens to illustrate how Trump's rhetoric about minorities and immigrants fits within longstanding, historical patterns. *The Great White Hoax* features prominent anti-racist educator Tim Wise, the author of books such as *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son*.

Following the screening of *The Great White Hoax*, KIPCOR will once again have a topic expert on hand to answer your questions and address your comments.

The final screening of the 2019-2020 Film Series will be held on SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020 AT 2:00 p.m. (note the earlier start time) in Krehbiel Auditorium. We have not yet selected a film for this screening, so be sure to let us know if you have any suggestions.

### A decade passes.....

KIPCOR kick started the 2019-2020 Film Series with a screening of *Lost Angels: Skid Row is My Home* in September. The film also served as the kickoff to a series of events marking the nationwide Campaign Nonviolence Week of Action with a local theme of "Widening the Lens of Nonviolence."

*Lost Angels* examined the causes of homelessness in America, and the ways we criminalize the homeless, through the eyes of eight individuals making a life for themselves on the streets of Los Angeles. James Wilson of Newton's New Hope Shelter, and Nate Schwiethale of the Wichita Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team, led the post-film discussion to provide a local perspective on the homeless population and steps being taken to address their particular needs.

November featured a screening of *Dawnland*, a film about the very first U.S. government-sponsored Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Commission members worked in the State of Maine to investigate the forcible-removal of Native American children from their homes and subsequent placement with white families. This tragic practice was commonplace in many parts of the country in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. After the screening of the Emmy Award winning film, Dan Wildcat of Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence offered thoughtful comments and responded to audience questions and comments. Dan is a Professor of Indigenous and American Indian Studies at Haskell, and a former collaborator on a KIPCOR Consensus Council project a few years back.

### Give us your thoughts

If you have suggestions for specific films or film topics for future screenings, we'd love to hear them! Call Dan at (316) 284-5829, or email him at [dwassink@bethelks.edu](mailto:dwassink@bethelks.edu).

## See You at the Movies!

*Unless otherwise noted, all films are 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 Goes Green to Improve Stewardship of Our Limited Resources

KIPCOR has made the transition to an electronic newsletter. If we have your email address, we sent your newsletter to you electronically instead of through the mail. This action saves resources, as we

stop using so much paper and energy to print the newsletter, and saves money as we avoid printing and mailing costs. If you would like to receive the newsletter in the mail, contact the office at

**KIPCOR@bethelks.edu** or call us at (316) 284-5217. 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 6-17, 2020

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

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

January 6-17, 2020

[Culture, Gender, and Power](#)

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

January 23 - 24, 2020

[Domestic Case Management and Limited Case Management Training](#)

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

March 9, 2020 (and additional meeting dates)

[Healthy Opportunities for Parenting Effectively](#)

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

June 9-12, 2020

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

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

June 22, 2020 (and additional meeting dates)

[Healthy Opportunities for Parenting Effectively](#)

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

June 24-26, 2020

[Domestic Mediation](#)

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

September 21, 2020 (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 4, 2020

[KIPCOR Shorts](#)

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Krehbiel Auditorium in the Luyken Fine Arts Center  
at Bethel College.  
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.

\*\*\*\*\*

KIPCOR also offers classes in Restorative Schools throughout the year. Contact Director Sheryl Wilson at [swilson@bethelks.edu](mailto:swilson@bethelks.edu) or (316) 284-5881 for more information on Restorative Schools.

## KIPCOR Shorts 2019 ~Sharon Kniss



This year, we decided to try something new for our annual CME/CEU Shorts Day in December. Since I joined the staff in 2016, I found the style of our CME/CEU Shorts Day a curious reality. At KIPCOR, we pride ourselves on excellent pedagogical practices including



participant-centered learning, elicitive facilitation, and hands-on skills development. In contrast, our annual continuing education day had the look of generic conferences offered elsewhere, just with the slightly homey yet high quality touch of KIPCOR.

While there are good reasons for a series of informative presentations as part of a continuing education day, I wanted to experiment with something that felt



more aligned with our knowledge of learner-centered design. Thankfully, a prior year's participant feedback form gave me the inspiration as they asked "Ever considered an Un-Conference?" So I went to the drawing board.

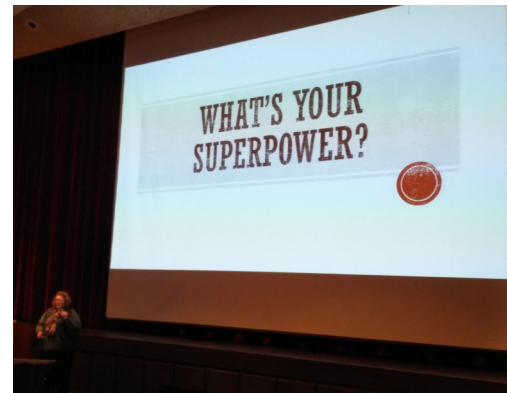
I'm also passionate about the importance of reflective practice. We need time as conflict practitioners to reflect on our work – Why do we do what we do?



What are our goals? How can we improve our practice? What lessons do our elders in the field have to offer?

What insights do our newcomers challenge us with? How can we build resiliency for engaging in inherently challenging work?

These were the primary motivations for the design of this year's "KIPCOR Shorts." The day included practitioner circles engaging in reflective practice, short lesson-driven TED-style talks by elders in our



field, a participant-driven Open Space design in the afternoon, and still including time for engaging with new rules approved by the state which impact our practice.

While state training restrictions may limit a design like this in the future, I enjoyed stretching our creative wings and experimenting in a bit more KIPCOR-esque style of training this year. Who knows what next year – the 20<sup>th</sup> year (in 2020!) of CME/CEU Shorts – may bring!



Getting to Know KIPCOR: Sharon Kniss



We realized while Sharon Kniss, KIPCOR's Director of Education and Training, has been with us since 2016, she's somehow escaped the Q&A interview. So on her way out, she agreed to give us some insights into her particularities as well as reflecting on her years at KIPCOR:

**Word on the street is that you've been exploring this state pretty extensively. As a newcomer to the state, what would be your top tips for a new Kansan?**

You're right. I love exploring new places! Here would be my top tips:

**#** The state is NOT boring. Get out and explore! There are 11 physiographic regions in the state – that means it's DIVERSE. The state used to be a sea, so there are fossils, hills, prairie with the second-most diverse ecosystem to the Amazon, and lots more. My favorite area is the Flint Hills, but there are SO many beautiful areas you can't go wrong. I used the Kansas State Parks as a starter way to explore the regions. Lake Scott, Cedar Bluffs, Elk City, Kanopolis, and Wilson are some of the state's most spectacular.

**#** Along with the not-boring theme, there is lots of culture and history to explore. From the first African American settlement, Nicodemus (their annual homecoming is really neat), to various ways of engaging with Native American culture, to the small towns with big footprints, and our western "minority-majority" cities. Use "Kansas Guidebook 2 for Explorers" by Marci Penner and WenDee Rowe for initial help. Avoid the tired jokes about flatland, Doro-

thy, Oz, etc.

**#** Quickly learn the local pronunciations: ArKANsas River was the first and easiest to keep, but Kechi and GrEENnwich still make me stumble.

**#** You can pass a slow car! In other places I've lived – cities or mountains – when you see a car coming toward you in the other lane, you don't pass. Period. There's basically never a time when you can see a car in the other lane AND still have time to pass. After numerous times on a two-lane highway where I waited what seemed like 5 minutes for that car to pass, I learned these roads are long and you have time.

**What are you most proud of in your work at KIPCOR?**

Three and a half years is a short time for impact, but there are a few initiatives that were close to my heart that I'm glad got a first run.

As an educator, I'm deeply committed to ensuring what I support is relevant and impactful.

With new flexibility and integrating best practices from colleagues across the nation, I was able to revise our *Restorative Schools Initiative* core training curriculum to decrease our "implementation gap" and increase the chances for success and fidelity in the practice of Restorative Justice in the schools. We rolled out tiered trainings, staggered for implementation success, and increased the role of coaching and mentoring. Additionally, we launched the *Kansas Restorative Schools Network*. The Network's goal is to keep our restorative educators connected with each other so that they can engage in mutual learning, reflective practice, regional networking, and continuing education opportunities through KIPCOR and others.

I have long been concerned about the distanced accessibility of conflict skills trainings for community members. Often best set up for "professionals," we know these skills are needed for everyone, no matter how they spend their time between 8am and 5pm weekdays. On the flip side, we've also seen business professionals seeking basic conflict skills but not interested in a full-scale mediation training. Thus, we

launched the *Conflict Skills Series*. Over the span of fall 2018 and spring 2019, we offered monthly skills trainings in "bite-size" chunks in the evenings on various topics which we saw as our "bread and butter skills" or essential in working with conflict and diverse communities.

Helping launch the first statewide conference on restorative justice, "*Restorative Kansas: A Vision for Justice*" in April 2018, was also a highlight. We have the opportunity for restorative justice initiatives across the state to work collaboratively, restoratively, and connected as we seek for more restorative approaches in many sectors. While no effort is perfect, I worked hard and intentionally with a diverse steering committee that our work would be done with consensus and rooted in these values. I'm passionate that restorative justice works, and I know my colleagues are also. It was a true joy to start what has continued to be a robust coalition of dedicated, value-centered individuals and organizations with the best interest of Kansans (and Kansas Citians) in our hearts.

My time at KIPCOR has also included many cases supporting leaders, teams, and congregations facing conflict, difficulty, or change. These engagements are always challenging, difficult, and creative endeavors. Yet my overwhelming feeling about these engagements is a *humbled gratitude*, for the opportunity to be let in to such vulnerable spaces to walk alongside and support such beautiful people in such pivotal moments. It's sacred work, and I'm honored to be trusted to be support for people in those spaces.

**What makes you excited about KIPCOR's future?**

KIPCOR has been "punching above its weight" (nonviolently of course) with a very small organizational footprint for many years. We've had tremendous impact across the entire state and beyond in our nearly 35-year history. I believe KIPCOR is poised for the next level of impact – there is SO MUCH potential for supporting healthy and just communities, organizations, and relationships across the state. From the expansion of current programs like the Restorative Schools Initiative, to the emergence of our Elder Care Mediation

Sharon Kniss, Continued

initiative, to our support for community-based conflict transformation work, I believe KIPCOR is ready for the next horizon.

**What are you looking forward to in your upcoming transition?**

While it's hard to leave such a wonderful organization with such promise, doing work I deeply enjoy, at the end of the day, I need to be closer to family. While chosen communities are beautiful, I'm excited to get to watch my nieces and nephews grow, and to support my family and

parents when needed. While living in the DC area, I'm also really looking forward to more snow and even slightly cooler summers.

**What's your favorite weekend activity?**

Besides getting out and exploring Kansas and hiking/camping, I love to wake up to a warm cup of coffee, a beautifully cooked breakfast, and the newspaper in hand. I'm very dutiful about reading the Sunday comics, too.

**What was one of your surprises when you moved to Kansas?**

Before I came to Kansas, I had just emerged from living 8 years as a bicycle-commuter / not owning a car. I knew I had chosen my Wichita-Newton daily commute, but I hadn't registered the cross-state travel I would be doing for work – and for fun. I'm so grateful I got to complete ten 14ers in Colorado, each one sending me into glorious beauty with gratefully sore muscles. Seeing my car rack up 110,000 miles in 3 years was a bit of a shock, however.

New KIPCOR T-Shirts available!

We have KIPCOR T-shirts available for purchase!! These are the softest, most comfortable T-Shirts you have ever worn. They are a nice heather blue color, and have the KIPCOR logo on the front and a peace quote from Desmond Tutu on the back. We have a limited supply, and they are available, until they sell out, for \$25 each. Every purchase helps support the work of KIPCOR.



To make a purchase, come by the office at 2515 College Avenue in North Newton or call Doug at (316) 284-5217. We CAN ship them to you, but we'll have to charge a small shipping fee to do so.

Donations July 2018–June 2019 (including Gifts-In-Kind)

AAUW	Stephen and Christa Obold	Helen Jantz	Richard and Pamela Pancake	Jerry and Leann Toews ***
Adrian & Pankratz, P.A. *	Eshleman	David and Joanne Janzen	Vernon and Janice Pauls	Helen Unruh
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Thank you for your partnership with KIPCOR in all that has been accomplished. We have tried to list all of our contributors, but it is possible that we have accidentally missed someone. If you find an error in our list, please let us know so that we can recognize our supporters. We want to recognize all of you for your generous support of our important work.

*	\$250-\$499
**	\$500-\$999
***	\$1,000 and above