
MAY 2021 | ISSUE 6

THE MDC BULLETIN

The Newsletter of the Department of Psychological Sciences Multicultural and
Diversity Committee at Kent State University



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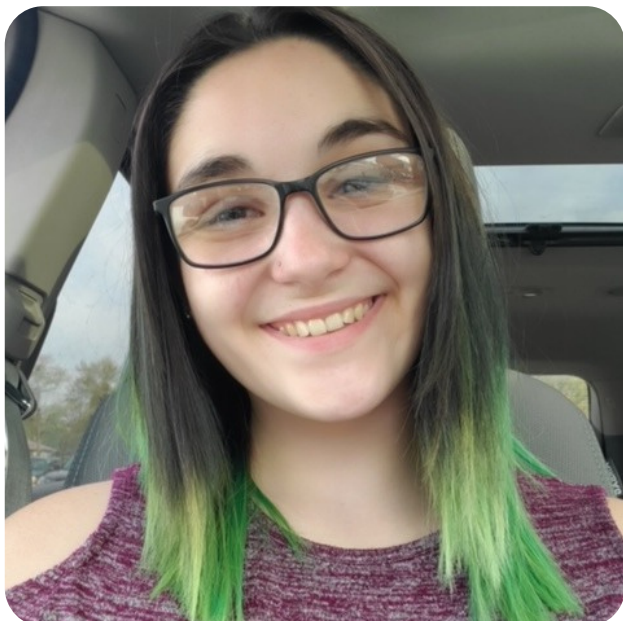
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Mentee Spotlight

The MDC would like to recognize the hardworking and dedicated seniors who participated in our Mentorship Program and successfully graduated this past fall and spring. Congratulations Jessie Torres, Miranda Harper, and Angelina Gonzales!

JESSIE TORRES



What made you interested in joining the MDC mentorship program?

As a first-generation student, coming into undergrad was overwhelming. I felt alone and lost and when I heard about the MDC mentorship program, I jumped at the opportunity, especially when I found out that I would be paired with a graduate student who was in the same major as me. None of my friends were going to study psychology and no one in my family had ever been to college. Therefore, it was important for me to find peers that had gone through the undergraduate program and gain guidance.

What your plans after graduation?

I plan to begin working as a Substance Abuse Counselor. I also plan to submit graduate school applications and start working towards earning my Master's of Social Work degree.

What did you learn from your mentor (Elizabeth Jean)?

I learned a plethora of information from my mentor, Elizabeth. She helped me learn about different types of higher education degrees and also helped me get engaged in research on campus too. Elizabeth was available whenever I needed her and we always spent our meetings discussing my degree path. She helped me gain experiences in research and other internship opportunities on campus as well. By working with Elizabeth, I feel more confident with my degree choice and have a better sense of what to expect in graduate school as well.

What made you interested in psychology?

I took a psychology class in high school and it really sparked my interest in psychology as a whole. I was very interested in how the human mind, its functions and how it affects behavior!

What made you interested in joining the MDC mentorship program?

I knew I wanted to go to graduate school but I didn't know what kind of program or what I wanted to focus on.

What your plans after graduation?

It will be attending Edinboro University and will be going for my Masters of Social Work.

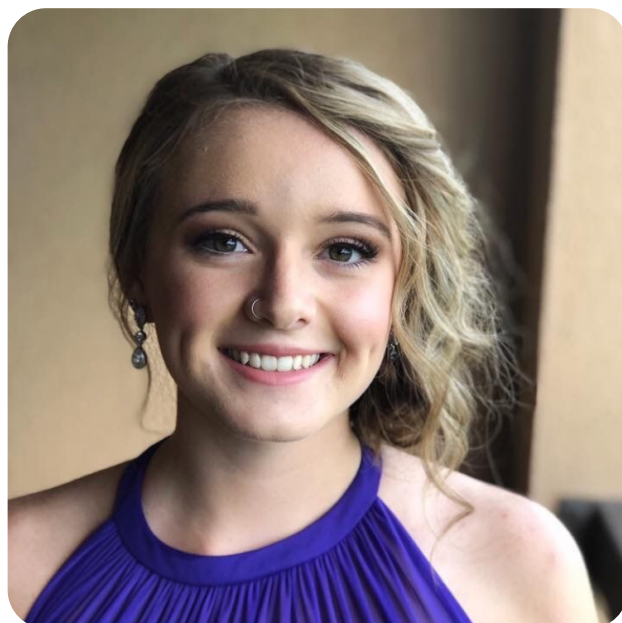
What did you learn from your mentor (Emily Rabinowitz)?

I learned a lot of things from my mentor! They went over the pros and cons of the programs I was interested in and they were always willing to find out more information for me!

Do you have any advice would for other psychology undergraduate students?

I would tell other psychology undergraduates to enjoy their time and use all the resources the psychology department has to offer! Meet with your professors, join every club you can! Make all the connections you can!

MIRANDA HARPER



Reflections on the 51st Anniversary of May 4, 1970

By Emily Rabinowitz

When I told my family and friends about interviewing at Kent State, often the response was “oh the place with the shooting?” I had never learned about the events of May 4, 1970, until I came here for graduate school. Now, I have had the immense privilege of working with the Kent State Community to explore the experience of the 50th Anniversary as my first research project in graduate school. The 50th anniversary was slated to be a major event; we were supposed to host David Crosby, Joe Walsh, Jane Fonda, and Tina Fey among others (1). Thousands of alumni and community members were expected to congregate on campus for a memorial. I was planning to attend the events and recruit participants for my research. But, of course, the pandemic started in March and the commemoration was moved entirely online. Just like in the Spring of 1970, the campus was closed, and students finished out the semester remotely (2). Perhaps now more than ever, the conversations, lessons, and memories of May 4, 1970 remain salient to the struggle for racial justice.



The events of May 4th, 1970 were the culmination of student protests over the Vietnam War (2). Similar to contemporary bystanders like Darnella Frazier, who filmed the murder of George Floyd (3), student journalists and photographers captured the pivotal moments on the ground. John Filo was a senior in photojournalism when he took the iconic award-winning photo of teenager Mary Ann Vecchio kneeling over Jeffrey Miller shortly after he was shot (4). Jeff Sallot was finishing his last classes of journalism school on the day of the shootings; he called in the events of the day live to the Beacon Journal (5). The photos and first-person accounts of May 4th catapulted the story into the American conscience, heightening the debate about the Vietnam war. In a further parallel to the modern era, the aftermath of May 4th was divided along political lines (6). In 1974, in what many saw as a failure of justice, the guardsmen who shot at protesters were acquitted (7).

As we remembered the events of May 4th last year, Minneapolis police used tear gas and rubber bullets on protestors during the Black Lives Matter protests for George Floyd (8). Throughout the summer, there were dozens of stories of protestors injured by government officials. For survivors of May 4th, the violence was eerily similar (9).

These similarities offer a way for the Kent State community to connect our history to the current socio-cultural context. In my opinion, they also come with a responsibility for social justice. We walk the grounds where guardsman once pointed guns at peaceful protestors, we breathe air that was once filled with tear gas, and we bear a name that is still attached to the words “massacre” and “shooting.” My own research is indebted to survivors who were brave enough to tell their story, for which I will be forever grateful. So this year and every year I hope to honor the deceased, survivors, and activists from May 4th by refusing to let the tragedy be forgotten and continue the Kent State legacy of fighting for social justice.



1. [Kent State 50th Commemoration of May 4th Online](#); 2. [May 4th Historical Accuracy](#); 3. [Darnella Frazier Filming George Floyd Death](#); 4. [Mary Ann Vecchio Photograph](#); 5. [Jeff Sallot and the Beacon Journal](#); 6. [NY Times Op-ed on May 4th](#); 7. [NY Times Acquittal of Guardsmen](#); 8. [Protests for George Floyd](#); 9. [The Washington Post Mary Ann Vecchio Interview](#)

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORIES OF



Allison Beth Krause
(age 19)



Jeffrey Glenn Miller
(age 20)



Sandra Lee Scheuer
(age 20)



William Knox Schroeder
(age 19)

May 4th Events

May 3: Virtual Screening of *Fire in the Heartland: Kent State, May 4, and Student Protest in America*

- The virtual screening event is open to all Kent State students, faculty and staff, and attendees. Registration for the zoom session is required.
- 7:00 pm - 3:00 pm, [Click here for to register on Zoom](#)
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May 3: Virtual Candlelight Vigil

- The Candlelight walk and vigil first occurred in 1971 and are a cornerstone of the commemoration. This year we will honor these traditions virtually.
- 11:00 pm - 12:00 am, <https://www.kent.edu/may-4-1970/51st-commemoration>

May 4: Virtual Commemoration

- In keeping with the commitment to honor and remember the events of May 4, 1970, Kent State University will hold a virtual May 4 51st Commemoration this year.
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, <https://www.kent.edu/may-4-1970/51st-commemoration>

May 4: It Starts With You! Promoting Peace and Civil Discourse in Our Lives

- Part I (2 - 3:30 pm) "Hearing the Voice of the Other: Finding a Small Patch of Common Ground to Listen and Talk to Each Other" - A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Daniel E. Palmer (Interim Dean & Chief Administrative Officer, Kent State Trumbull) with the following panelists: Dr. N.J. Akbar (Associate Vice President for DEI), Dr. Molly Merryman (Director, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality), Dr. Peter Byrne (English, Trumbull), and Prof. Lauren Lemley (ASL, Trumbull).
- Part II (4 - 5 pm) "Poems of Peace and Conflict Transformation: An Interactive Presentation with David Hassler, Dir. of the Wick Poetry Center" - There will be a PowerPoint presentation for the first 25 minutes, followed by an invitation to the audience to join in creating poetry about peace.
- 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm, https://www.kent.edu/trumbull/event/it-starts-you-promoting-peace-and-civil-discourse-our-lives?event_gid=701861

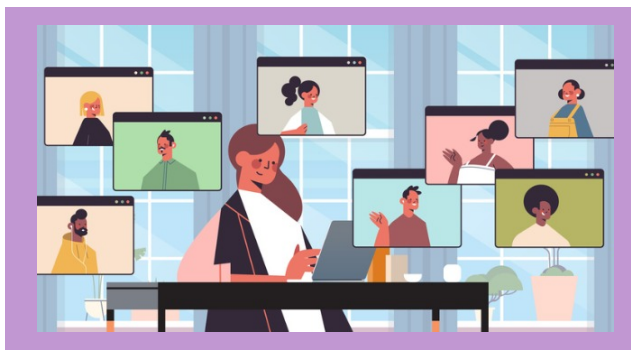
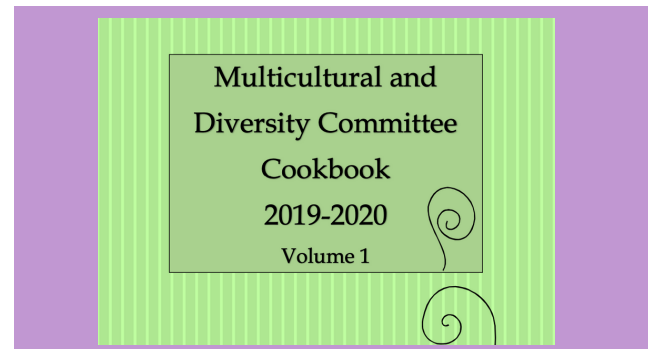
A Year in Review: 2020 - 2021

As the academic year comes to a close, the MDC would like to highlight some of our accomplishments. Thank you for being a part of our community and supporting our initiatives during this difficult year!

We released a cookbook with

15

tasty international recipes!



We hosted

3

career informational sessions about graduate school, counseling psychology, and social work.

We raised

\$344

through Taste of Diversity! This money will support local charities and reimbursements for mentee's graduate school applications.



We developed a list of over

160

Anti-racism resources, including trainings, books, films, and podcasts!



Campus-wide Events

Take a look at the events on Kent State's campus that focus on issues of multiculturalism and diversity. For more information, visit the university's calendar at <https://www.kent.edu/calendars>.

April 5 - May 15: Import/Export Exhibition

- From April 5 to May 15, visitors to the Kent State University campus will encounter a new, outdoor public art exhibition that stretches along the Lefton Esplanade between downtown Kent and the University Library. "Import/Export" addresses the imbalances and inequalities of global import/export systems. Twenty-five artists from around the world were chosen based on how their works reflect the impact of these systems on their local spaces. The exhibition sheds light on topics related to migration, tourism, natural resources, agriculture, manufactured goods, digital information and cultural expressions.
- <https://www.kent.edu/guri/importexport-exhibition>

May 3: Frank Chapman - Black Liberation & the Black Freedom Movement

- Join the KSU Students for a Democratic Society for a virtual discussion with Frank Chapman on the history of the Black Liberation Movement, the direction of today's struggle, and his new book, *Black Liberation and Socialism*.
- 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68mwnWWHBhM>

May 6: Karamu Ya Wahitimu/Celebración de los Graduados

- Celebration of all graduating African American, Native American, Latinx, Hispanic and Multiracial undergraduate and graduate students.
- 9:00 am - 7:00 pm, Kent State Student Multicultural Center Instagram [@SMCKentState](https://www.instagram.com/SMCKentState)

May 15: Spring 2021 Virtual Commencement

- Congratulations Spring 2021 Graduates! Please visit the Kent State Commencement website to tune in to the Virtual Commencement celebration. We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments!
- 9:00 am - 11:59 pm, <https://www.kent.edu/commencement>

Acknowledgments: *The MDC would like to thank all graduate students and faculty for contributing to this issue. This issue was edited by, Tiffany Rowell, Emily Rabinowitz, and Stanley Seah.*

The Kent State University Department of Psychological Sciences Multicultural and Diversity Committee (MDC) is dedicated to making a positive difference in the education of all students within the department through the promotion of an atmosphere of multicultural acceptance, competence, and diversity. In order to stay true to this mission, we will be sending out newsletters to the department to keep everyone updated on events and issues concerning the intersection of diversity, multiculturalism, and psychology. For more information, you can contact the MDC Chair, Stanley Seah (tseah@kent.edu) or Faculty Liason, Dr. Mary Himmelstein (mhimmels@kent.edu).