

Four New Faculty Join Department

Several searches for faculty positions were conducted during the 2005-2006 academic year resulting in four women joining the department. Jeanna Rathel is a new Clinical Instructor in the Special Education Program, Catherine Packer has joined the Counselor Education faculty as an Assistant Professor, and Social Foundations has welcomed new Assistant Professors Kara Brown and Michelle Jay. While Rathel is presently completing her doctorate with Professor William Brown, Packer, Brown, and Jay come to the University of South Carolina with new doctoral degrees from the University of Georgia, Indiana University, and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill respectively. Below is a portrait of some of each woman's scholarly interests and achievements.

Jeanna Rathel



Jeanna Rathel comes to her new position with two masters' degrees from USC – one in Early Childhood Education and a second in Educational Administration. She taught for 14 years in the Lancaster County School District where she also instructed teachers on the needs of students with exceptionalities. She has served on the Preschool Technical Assistance Committee at the South Carolina State Department of Education as well as on the Social Studies Content Standards

Revision Committee. Rathel's teaching responsibilities in the College of Education include large sections of Introduction to Exceptional Children. Her research interests are teacher effectiveness, evidence based practice, and literacy with a dissertation title of "Effects of Performance Feedback on Pre-service Teachers' Ratio of Positive-to-Negative Communications with Students with Emotional-Behavioral Disabilities and Satisfaction Ratings."

Catherine Packer



Catherine Packer earned her doctorate in Counseling Psychology in 2006. As part of her degree requirements she worked as an intern at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in the University Behavioral Health Care – Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division. Packer's mentors at the University of Georgia were Rosemary Phelps and Pamela Paisley and her dissertation is titled, "An Investigation of the Life-Skills Development, Racial/Ethnic Identity, Self-Esteem, and Self-Efficacy of High Achieving Undergraduates of Color." Before pursuing her doctorate, Packer served as an educator and school counselor for the New Jersey Public School System for eight years. She was also an instructor in the Psychology Division at Wallace Community College in Dothan, Alabama for two years. Catherine Packer is an American Psychological Association/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Minority Fellow and

has been recognized as a Future Emerging Leader by The Southern Association of Counselor Education and Supervision. Her recent research projects include three submitted manuscripts; “Understanding the Academic Disidentification of African American Students: A Social Constructionist Perspective,” “Understanding the Maternal Messages Given to Single, Educated, African American Women about Relationships,” and “An Investigation of the Life-Skills Development, Racial/Ethnic Identity, Self-Esteem, and Self-Efficacy of High Achieving Undergraduates of Color.” During her first semester at the University of South Carolina she will be teaching Group Procedures in Counseling.

Kara Brown



Kara Brown’s doctorate is in Education Policy Studies from Indiana University where she studied with Bradley Levinson. Her research centers on comparative/international education and she has done work in the Baltic States, Russia, and Central and Eastern Europe. Her research issues include language policy, minority groups, rural education and immigration. She completed a study of rural education reform and community preservation in Estonia in 2004 and her dissertation is titled “From Globalization to Grassroots: Regional Language, Culture and Politics in Estonia.” As a graduate student she published two book chapters and various articles including “Estonian Schoolscapes and the

Marginalization of Regional Identity in Education” in *European Education*. In addition, she was both a Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellow and Fulbright Doctoral Dissertation Fellow. Brown is teaching Schools in Communities during her first semester at the University of South Carolina.

Michelle Jay



Michelle Jay completed her Ph.D. in Culture, Curriculum and Change in 2006 – she studied with George Noblitt and her dissertation is titled “Yours in Struggle? The Perspectives of Educators of Color on the Role of Race in Education and the Role of Whites in Anti-racist Education Efforts.” While studying at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Jay served as the Senior Evaluation Associate at EvAP, an evaluation consulting unit inside the School of Education. She worked under the direction of Rita O’Sullivan. Her research interests include critical race theory in education, critical multicultural education, and program evaluation. Her work has been published in *Multicultural Perspectives: The Official Journal of the National Association for Multicultural Education*. She also has a book chapter in *The Role of Culture and Cultural Context: A mandate for inclusion, the discovery of truth and understanding in evaluation theory and practice (2005, Information Age)*. In addition, she is a member of the American Educational Research Association, American Educational Studies Association,

and the American Evaluation Association. Michelle Jay will teach an interdisciplinary course titled Antiracist Education as her first class at the University of South Carolina.