

# THE *j*ung CENTER

*continuing education for the human spirit*

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## **THE JUNG CENTER APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

HOUSTON – The Jung Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Sean Fitzpatrick as its new executive director, effective March 5, 2015.

Founded in 1958, The Jung Center is a non-profit institution dedicated to providing “continuing education for the human spirit” by offering more than 200 classes each year in psychology, spirituality, the arts, and humanities. Dr. Fitzpatrick succeeds Dr. Jerry M. Ruhl, who has served as The Jung Center’s executive director since 2008.

“Having been an integral part of The Jung Center for 18 years, Sean is more than ready to lead our organization, which is the largest of its kind in the country,” said Jim Conlan, president of The Jung Center’s board of trustees. “Sean is passionate about strengthening the mental health of our community and helping people find meaning in their lives. His leadership will be a tremendous asset to The Jung Center.”

Dr. Fitzpatrick began his relationship with the organization as a Jung Center volunteer in 1996, while studying religion and psychology at Rice University. He transitioned from volunteer to part-time desk assistant in 1997, and, after graduating from Rice with a master’s degree in religious studies, he became The Jung Center’s full-time coordinator of outreach and special projects.

During his time at The Jung Center, Dr. Fitzpatrick developed a grant-funded outreach program providing vital educational experiences to underserved populations, including children in Houston’s Second and Third Wards, senior citizens, and those dealing with life-threatening illnesses, among others. He also developed The Jung Center’s singular curriculum in collaboration with Jung Center faculty, a collection of locally- and nationally-renowned scholars, artists, psychotherapists, writers, and educators.

While working at The Jung Center, Dr. Fitzpatrick trained as a psychotherapist, earning a second master’s degree in 2007 in clinical psychology from the University of Houston – Clear

Lake. He is a licensed professional counselor and maintains a small private psychotherapeutic practice. In 2014, Dr. Fitzpatrick received his PhD in psychology from Saybrook University. The Jung Center partners with Saybrook University in providing its specialization in Jungian studies through monthly weekend seminars during the academic year.

In addition to his role as executive director, Dr. Fitzpatrick teaches at The Jung Center on a range of contemporary social and psychological issues. He also lectures frequently in Houston and around the country.

“Throughout its remarkable history, The Jung Center has focused our attention on what matters most, which too often is hidden beneath what we’ve ignored or rejected,” Dr. Fitzpatrick said. “This is as true for entire communities as it is for individuals who understand, like Plato, that the unexamined life is not worth living.

“I’m thrilled and humbled to take on this new role at The Jung Center and to continue to serve alongside the immensely talented staff and volunteers. Every day we are working toward a stronger, healthier, and more compassionate future for Houston.”

Outgoing director Dr. Ruhl will continue to be involved at The Jung Center as a popular class instructor. He will continue to maintain his private psychotherapeutic practice.

For more than 50 years, The Jung Center has offered dynamic and compelling classes on a diverse range of psychological, artistic, spiritual, and intellectual topics. Each year, The Jung Center provides opportunities for some 20,000 people to explore personal growth and deepen their commitment to the community we share. The Jung Center’s outreach programs serve veterans, at-risk children, and mental healthcare professionals in collaboration with other nonprofit organizations including the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, The Nehemiah Center, SHAPE Community Center, Communities In Schools, the Rothko Chapel, and MD Anderson Cancer Center.

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