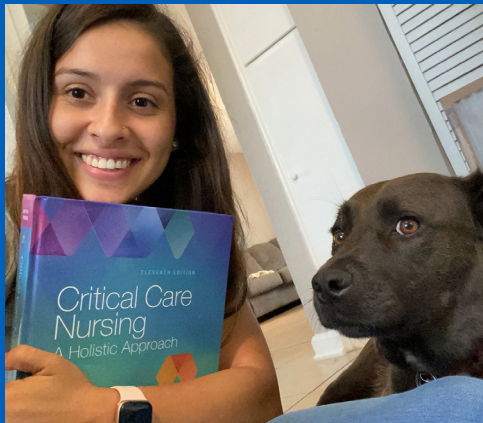


TRUSTEES' SCHOLAR NEWSLETTER

University of Missouri–Kansas City | Fall 2020



With many classes being moved online this semester, scholars are primarily learning from home. This has led to an influx of cute co-workers! Photos clockwise top left: **Karah Chappel**, a third-year scholar, watches an anatomy lecture with all her plants near for moral support. Third-year scholar **Kerrisa Myvett** relaxes with her roommates and dog, Sasha. Fourth-year scholar **Ciera Ayala** completes homework with dog Oakley, who does not seem too thrilled with the prospect. **Camille Covington**, a third-year scholar, shows off her aloe plant. Fourth-year scholar **Bailey Brooks** preps for a Zoom class with dog, Louie. Fourth-year scholar **Camila Aponte**'s dogs Charlie and Milo and are in their seats before the bell.

Media Committee

Karah Chappel | Lily Dang | Niki Joshi | Caroline Moriarty | Whitney Schweiger

Trustees' Scholars Alumna Reflects on How the Program Has Enriched Her Life

By Niki Joshi, second-year scholar
Sponsor: Barbara Hall Marshall

Lauren Koval, this year's recipient of the Rising Trendsetter STEMMy award, graduated from the Trustees' Scholars Program in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. Today, she remains in Kansas City, working as an engineering services manager at McCownGordon Construction – a company introduced to her through the Trustees' Scholars Program.

In 2016, Koval recalls meeting Pat McCown, a former member of the Board of Trustees and the co-founder of McCownGordon Construction. This meeting inspired her to apply for a summer internship at the company; upon graduating from UMKC, her earnest and strong work ethic transformed her previous internship into a full-time offer. She's grateful, fondly stating that, "Having the exposure to business leaders in the Kansas City area is such an incredible benefit of the program, and I am so thankful I was able to meet Pat that day!"

Not only has the Trustees' Scholars Program enriched her professional life and career, but it has also strengthened her sense of achievement, virtue and confidence. While she was an undergraduate, Koval was not only balancing her coursework as an engineering student but was simultaneously playing for the UMKC women's soccer team and upholding her responsibilities as a Trustees' Scholar. Although it was certainly exhausting, she appreciates the impeccable organization and time management skills it has allowed her to carry into her career.

She also affectionately remembers the sense of community the Program offered her: "[It] created an environment where we were encouraged to work hard and challenge ourselves, but also know that we had help and support when we needed it." Not only was she able to create warm and fun-filled memories with her fellow scholars during trips to the Crossroads for First Friday exhibitions and on spontaneous ice cream runs, but she also developed a larger appreciation for stewardship and support in the wider community. This understanding has allowed her a heightened perspective on cultivating and fostering relationships with other people, which has proved to be incredibly advantageous during her experience in both her life and the workforce.



Most importantly, the Trustees' Scholars Program has instilled in her an unflinching level of persistence and assurance, urging her to continue growing and following her dreams. She is immensely thankful for the support that her mentor and the Trustees provided and credits her fellow scholars as well: "It was such an incredible experience to be surrounded by such driven and high-achieving students. It inspired me to strive to achieve more every day."

Awards and Accolades

By Whitney Schweiger, first-year scholar
Sponsor: Friends of Rachel Drabenstott

Many of the scholars were recognized this past summer for various achievements and awards. Congratulations to these scholars on their great accomplishments!



Bayley Brooks passed her Fundamentals of Engineering exam over the summer. The exam takes six hours to complete and tests engineering students over everything they have learned throughout their engineering education. Brooks is now officially certified as an engineer in training (EIT), and once she has worked under a professional engineer (PE) for four years, she will be ready to take the PE exam and obtain her professional engineering license. "The engineering certification process is really important to public safety," says Brooks, as PEs are responsible for stamping engineering plans and are held liable if any of their plans fail.

Jacob Furry completed his senior honors thesis, and his paper was accepted for poster presentation at the 2020 National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Annual Conference. The event was reimaged as a virtual event this year, and Jacob's research will be presented during the conference. His paper is entitled "Comparisons of Support Among K-12 Music Teachers in Missouri and Kansas." It is co-authored with Lani Hamilton, Ph.D., assistant professor of music education at UMKC.



Niki Joshi was awarded two scholarships last spring: the Lee A. Takats Scholarship through the UMKC History Department and the Patricia Huyett Scholarship through the UMKC English Department. The selection committees award the scholarships based on essays, resumes and two letters of recommendation. At the end of the Spring Semester, Niki was notified of her awards and featured in a virtual awards ceremony hosted by the History Department. "I'm hoping to use the funds toward a study abroad program in the near future," Niki says.



Tia Kahwaji was selected as an Honors Ambassador in the Honors College for the 2020-21 school year. Honors Ambassadors are responsible for serving as peer advisors and mentors to fellow students in the Honors College, and they hold office hours to give students an opportunity to ask questions or seek guidance. Tia was selected as one of this year's five ambassadors, and she "intends to create a positive and welcoming environment so that every Honors student feels as welcomed as [she] did."

Tim Nguyen passed his Dental Admission Test (DAT) over the summer! The exam consists of four sections and takes approximately five hours to complete. With a score of 22, Tim tested in the 98th percentile. In order to achieve that accomplishment, he studied for nine weeks leading up to the DAT, averaging about six hours of study time per day. "If you want the results that only 5% of people achieve, then you need to be willing to do what only 5% of people are willing to do," he says. Passing the DAT opens up the opportunity for Tim to apply to dental school, which he will interview for in the spring.

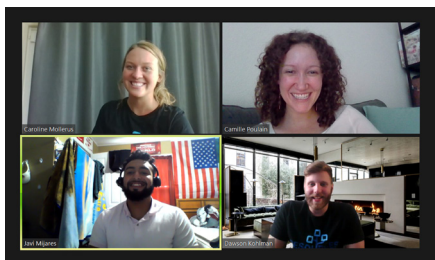


Summer Flashbacks

Scholar Adventures of Summer 2020

By Caroline Moriarty, fourth-year scholar
Sponsor: Ken and Ann Baum

Even though this summer was especially unique, our scholars stayed busy taking advantage of new opportunities and building relationships. Read below to see what our scholars did over the summer!



Camille (upper right) in a Zoom meeting with colleagues at her internship.

Camille Covington is a third-year scholar studying business administration with a finance emphasis. She met with Trustee Kevin Barb to learn about internships and careers in the finance field, and he helped connect her to an intern position at Resources Investment Advisors as a client technology experience assistant. Every week, Camille learned about different departments and collaborated with the technology department to

create new dashboards for the firm's 200+ wealth advisors. Now, she is working to get more into the marketing side of the finance industry, teaching financial literacy using her creative skills.

Orlando Quintana is a fourth-year scholar studying mechanical engineering. He connected with Trustee Tim Dunn to make the initial contact for the internship application process. Eventually, he interned at JE Dunn in the engineering services department. Orlando assisted in the oversight of mechanical systems within commercial construction projects, including reviewing technical drawings, observing sites, analyzing costs and completing redesigns.



Niki Joshi is a second-year scholar studying history and English with a creative writing emphasis. Niki is engaged in a remote internship for the Santa Monica-based film and television studio Wise Entertainment as a research and development intern. The company currently has projects in the works with Viola Davis, Michael B. Jordan and Kerry Washington.

Niki reads script submissions, summarizes plots and writes her own thoughts and interpretations of the work. She says providing input which affects the company's decision to evaluate the scripts further, "makes me feel pretty powerful."



Ciera Ayala is a fourth-year scholar studying nursing. Ciera worked at two different hospital systems over the summer. She has continued to work at Children's Mercy in the Kids on the Heart Unit and began a new position at the University of Kansas Health System's Medical/Transplant ICU. Ciera's role in the unit includes obtaining vital signs and feeding patients. After obtaining her RN, Ciera plans to stay with her unit at Children's Mercy because, "I really enjoy providing care to the pediatric population, and it really warms my heart to see my patients go from being frightened of the health care world to smiling and laughing with us!"

Gavin Ott is a second-year scholar studying business administration with an emphasis in real estate and finance. Over the summer, Gavin continued to work as a data analyst for NorthPoint Development, where he has interned since his senior year of high school. Gavin has learned skills like labor analyses for Amazon, Chewy.com, Dollar General, Ingram Micro and Michaels, and also learned programming in Python for data collection. Gavin intends to continue building his network to work at NorthPoint after graduating.



Tim Nguyen (*pictured second from right*) is a third-year scholar studying biology and chemistry with a pre-dental emphasis. Tim completed his second year of the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute.

While the pandemic changed the format of the internship from a national placement to a remote position, Tim listened to speakers in the health care field, including the CEO of the Stowers Institute in Kansas City. Additionally, he learned about treating coronavirus and completed a case study. As someone who plans on pursuing health care administration in his future career, this program helped Tim build his network and gain leadership skills.

Incoming Freshmen

By Niki Joshi, first-year scholar

Sponsor: Barbara Hall Marshall Trustees' Scholarship



Mouada Allan graduated from Ruskin High School in Kansas City, Missouri. She is a biology major on the pre-med track. Because of her family's experience involving her sister's surgical procedure, she wants to become a pediatric surgeon "to repay the gift" in the same way the surgeons saved her sister's life. As a Trustees' Scholar, Mouada is excited about all the new experiences, challenges and opportunities that she will encounter. Immersed in her culture, she likes to create hennas. She enjoys studying outside of her house at a boba or coffee shop.



Maddy Bremer is from Clinton, Missouri, and graduated from Clinton High School. She is majoring in political science and plans to further her education at law school to become a civil rights attorney. "I've always been interested in human rights and social justice, and some personal experiences from my life have inspired me to pursue this career," she says. Maddy values the community aspect of the Trustees' Program; she enjoys being a part of such a diverse group of people. She is into graphic design, and her favorite place to study is in the rocking chairs on the front porch of her house.



Aubrey Brown was born and raised in Cameron, Missouri, and graduated from Cameron High School. She is majoring in business administration with an emphasis in marketing because she values creativity. She wants to reside in Kansas City and work for a marketing firm or a company's marketing department. At UMKC, she is looking forward "to meeting new friends and developing professional skills that will help [her] in [her] career." Since she was born, Aubrey has been involved in the world of fine arts. She has a passion for theater and singing. Her favorite place to study is at her spacious kitchen table.



Lily Dang, a graduate of Joplin High School in Joplin, Missouri, is a biology major with a pre-med emphasis. She aspires to become a pediatric oncologist. Her grandpa's experience with cancer gives Lily insight that "allows genuine compassion in [her] service and influences [her] endeavors to pursue a degree in medicine." Lily is beyond blessed to be a Trustees' Scholar and to have a whole community of supporters and scholars who will always be looking out for her best interest. She is a big fan of Bob Ross and loves to paint along to his videos. She likes to study at her dining room table.



Isabella Del Cid is from St. Louis, Missouri, and attended Ladue Horton Watkins High School. She is a pre-nursing major. "My goal has always been to help people, and through nursing, I'll be able to care for those that are vulnerable," she says. Her goal is to become a nurse practitioner and specialize in pediatrics or neonatal. She is thrilled to be in Kansas City and looks forward to meeting new people and making connections in the professional world. Isabella loves to play the classical guitar, which she has been doing for more than ten years. Her favorite place to study is at the desk in her room.



Whitney Schweiger graduated from Olathe South High School in Olathe, Kansas, and is pursuing a degree in music education. She realized her passion for music as a French horn player in high school and "the importance of the performing arts in students' lives as a way of expressing themselves." She wants to be a band director and eventually a professional conductor to "bring moving musical performances to local communities." She cannot wait to learn from the staff and faculty at UMKC and within the Scholars Program. Her favorite space to study is in the sunlit kitchen at her mom's house.



Grace Yu, a graduate of Park Hill High School in Kansas City, Missouri, is majoring in accounting and wants to be a dual certified public accountant-attorney. "I believe the business world is the best place for me to grow and advance myself personally and professionally," she says. She is grateful to take advantage of the professional development opportunities that the Trustees and Kansas City community have to offer. Grace loves to travel, especially to her parents' native country of Taiwan, and collect postcards. Her favorite study spot is in her room.

Scholars Stay Connected Even During Pandemic

By Karah Chappel, third-year scholar
Sponsor: UMKC Trustees

While potlucks and video game competitions are not currently in the running, scholars are still making time to relax and connect.



Clockwise from top: **Adam Larson**, **Karah Chappel** and **Kerrisa Myvett**, third-year scholars, and fourth-year scholar **Jacob Furry** check in for a virtual game night over Zoom. **Gavin Ott** and **Tia Kahwaji**, second-year scholars, take a break from school for a walk in Loose Park. First-year scholars and roommates **Whitney Schweiger** and **Grace Yu** enjoy the view from the roof of the Student Union. Fourth-year scholar **Jacob Furry** and third-year scholar **Karah Chappel** grab coffee at Crows and swap stories about research and schoolwork.



Clockwise: **Scholars** meet up for a socially distanced ice cream social at Betty Rae's. Roommates and second-year scholars **Tia Kahwaji** and **Izzy Daab** mask up as they head out of the dorm. Third-year scholar **Ruby Rios** meets with her mentor **Debby Ballard**. The pair was recently interviewed by UMKC!

ABOUT UMKC TRUSTEES' SCHOLARS

Scholars receive a full-ride (tuition, housing, book allowance) scholarship provided by the UMKC Board of Trustees and its community partners. Since the Program's inception in 2002, over 100 scholars have completed their undergraduate degrees at UMKC, and more than half of the Program's alumni have made their home in the Kansas City area.

For information about the Trustees' Scholars Program, contact Joe Constantino at constantinoj@umkc.edu

