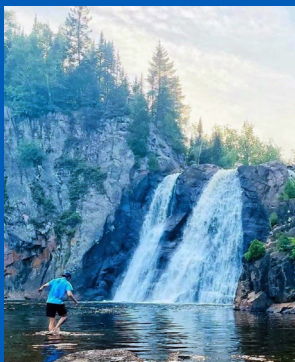


TRUSTEES' SCHOLAR NEWSLETTER

University of Missouri–Kansas City | Fall 2021



Throughout the summer, the Trustees' Scholars traveled the country, furthered their careers and continued to make UMKC proud! Photos clockwise top left: **Grace Yu, Whitney Schweiger, Lily Dang, Aubrey Brown and Isabella Del Cid** (second-year scholars) "Roo Up" during UMKC Roo Welcome Week. **Tim Nguyen** (fourth-year scholar) visits High Falls. **Emma Taylor and Sydnee Flowers** (first-year scholars) attend the Trustees' Scholars Reception. **Izzy Daab** (third-year scholar) goes airborne at Falcon Skydiving. **Karah Chappel** (fourth-year scholar) works as a social media manager for ACE Publishing LLC with its two owners/authors: Annie Presley and Christy Howard.

More Summer Flashbacks on Page 3

Newsletter Committee

Aubrey Brown | Izzy Daab | Sydnee Flowers | Carlos Silva | Emma Taylor

Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute

By Carlos Silva, Fourth-Year Scholar
Sponsor: UMKC Trustees



Jennifer DeCubellis, CEO of Hennepin Healthcare, and Tim Nguyen, Trustees' Scholar (Class of '22).

The Bluford Healthcare Leadership

Institute is a highly selective program with the ultimate objective of eradicating healthcare disparities, specifically among minority and underserved communities, by preparing and exposing racially underrepresented scholars to leadership opportunities within healthcare.

The top candidates are chosen from partnering universities around the country, and scholars are selected based on academic merit and their ability to effectively demonstrate leadership skills. The composition of chosen scholars is based not only on cultural diversity and underrepresentation, but also academic diversity.

The 2020 cohort contained scholars representing 11 different majors, ranging from biology to economics. Emphasizing professional diversity ensures that the effect produced by all graduates of the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute is felt in all aspects of healthcare, from doctors to hospital administration and much more.

The Bluford Internship is divided into two phases, with the second phase typically occurring the summer after the first.

In the first phase, scholars are fully integrated into an intensive two-week program based in Kansas City, Missouri, that focuses on healthcare policies and developing scholars' professional and leadership qualities. This is done by exposing scholars to renowned healthcare leaders and speakers, visiting prominent locations in Kansas City and requiring the completion of a group presentation regarding a selected healthcare topic.

“It has been a pleasure witnessing talented UMKC Trustees’ Scholars blossom into soon-to-be productive young professionals. I am sure they agree that the paid working-internship experiences at The Hospitals of Providence, Duke University Hospital and Hennepin Health were priceless. Those experiences were meaningful steps in nurturing future leaders equipped with the tools to eliminate healthcare disparities among minority and vulnerable patient populations.”

John W. Bluford III
Founder and President, Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute
President Emeritus, Truman Medical Centers
UMKC Trustee

Former Bluford scholar, UMKC Trustees’ Scholar alumna and current student at the University of Kansas School of Medicine Camila Aponte said, “What was most invaluable to me was the emphasis on developing professionally. As students in the healthcare tract, we are often very focused on the academic side and forget the importance of developing effective communication skills and other skills that are necessary to conduct oneself in a professional environment.”

The second phase consists of a 10-to-12 week paid internship that further introduces scholars to the development and implementation of healthcare policies. During this phase, scholars are sent to a premium healthcare location to complete their internship.

Tim Nguyen, a Trustees’ Scholar and Bluford intern, spent his summer in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at Hennepin Healthcare. “It’s very hard for me to decide which moment at Hennepin has been my favorite,” he said. “I’m very lucky to have been able to connect with individuals there who helped make the experience happen, and each experience has been memorable in its own way.”

It is apparent that the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute not only fosters an environment of professional development and maturity, but also one that emphasizes community building and equality.



Camila Aponte with Nicholas Tejeda, Group CEO for The Hospitals of Providence.

Summer Flashbacks

Scholar Adventures of Summer 2021

By Aubrey Brown, Second-Year Scholar
Sponsor: Tom & Mary Bloch

In an ever-changing environment this summer, our scholars stayed busy taking advantage of new opportunities and building relationships. Read below to see what our scholars did!



Over the summer, **Karah Chappel** worked as a research assistant for Dr. Dawn Iwamasa. “I assisted Dr. Iwamasa with database investigation and primary source gathering for several studies she’s working on. I also worked with her to revamp our music therapy instrument closet and studio and helped her prepare for classes in the upcoming school year.” Her work in this position was mostly remote, as Karah said she wore many hats this summer. Her other positions included interning with the UMKC Women’s Council and working for ACE Publishing LLC and the UMKC Writing Studio.



Second-year scholar **Grace Yu** did a summer internship with Emerson & Company. “My typical payroll duties included processing, onboarding clients, fulfilling HR needs and handling service calls. For bookkeeping, I managed various responsibilities in QuickBooks, such as reconciliation, billing and invoicing. Additionally, I completed small projects on the side. For example, I performed an audit of our payroll platforms to see where the company stood in terms of profit margins and where we could look to improve. Overall, this internship was an amazing opportunity that really opened my eyes to how a successful small business is run.”



Niki Joshi, third-year scholar, had the amazing opportunity to spend four weeks with 19 other students from universities across the country in Ireland as a recipient of the Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship. "We were based in Dublin but made excursions to Cork, Waterford and Belfast. We had the opportunity to participate in an extensive study on the intersections of leadership and social activism while learning about Ireland's rich history of rebellion and revolution. We were also recognized and greeted by several government officials, including Ireland's prime minister, as well as the Lord Mayors of Dublin, Cork and Waterford. Best of all, I was able to connect with so many other incredible student leaders

from across the country and made many amazing memories and lifelong friendships. A few of us are already planning our next trip!"



Niki Joshi and the Frederick Douglass Global Fellows pose following a meeting with the Irish prime minister at the Department of the Taoiseach in Dublin, Ireland.

Scholars Alumna has been 'Incredible Ambassador' for STEMM

By Aubrey Brown, Second-Year Scholar
Sponsor: Tom & Mary Bloch



Ruby (right) with Joan Gladbach, one of her high school computer science teachers who is now a professor in UMKC's School of Computer Science and Engineering.

Recent graduate **Ruby Rios** was recognized as the WISTEMM Student Achiever award winner at the eighth annual STEMMMy Awards on Sept. 23. This organization aims to recognize and celebrate Kansas City women in STEMM (science, technology, engineering, math and medicine). Her nominators for the award wrote, "Throughout her academic career, Ruby has been an incredible ambassador for STEMM education in Kansas City. Ruby has both created and supported a great number of educational opportunities, and she has personally encouraged hundreds of KC-area girls to consider STEMM

majors and careers of their own. For her work, Ruby was recognized at age 17 as Kansas City's youngest-ever '30 Under 30' by Inc KC magazine and the Kansas City Star, and she has continued her work through her college years." Congratulations Ruby for achieving this award!



Ruby with the other honorees of the Central Exchange 2021 STEMMMy Awards.

Awards and Accolades

By Emma Taylor, First-Year Scholar
Sponsor: Zimmer Family Foundation

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



Karah Chappel, a fourth-year scholar, was selected to have an article published in Lucerna, UMKC's undergraduate research journal. Karah's article is titled "Exploration of the Referral Process of Social Work Within a Policing Structure." Her article is based on a study that she conducted last year at a major Midwestern city's police department.



Over the summer, **Tia Kahwaji**, a third-year scholar, took the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) and scored in the 98th percentile. Tia accomplished this score by studying for six hours a day for two months. The Dental Admission Test is a test for those interested in continuing their education in dentistry.



Gavin Ott, a third-year scholar, was offered a full-time role at NorthPoint Development. NorthPoint Development is the most active real estate developer in the county. He accepted the position and started his job as an investment analyst for the company in September – eight months prior to his graduation date in May of 2022.

Incoming Freshmen

By Izzy Daab, Third-Year Scholar
Sponsor: UMKC Trustees



Sydnee Flowers graduated from Smithville High School in Smithville, Missouri. She is majoring in business administration with ambitions to pursue a career in corporate law. “It’s a field that will intellectually challenge me and encourage the practice of problem solving, along with analytical and innovative thinking,” she said. She is looking forward to forming relationships with the Trustees’ Scholars and her mentor. Outside of school, her main hobby is writing – specifically fiction. Her favorite place on campus is the Henry W. Bloch School of Management because she loves the innovative style of the building.



Mary Gipson graduated from Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School in Wichita, Kansas. She is majoring in chemistry and Spanish on the pre-dental track, as well as minoring in biology and business. For the future, Mary is striving to be a dentist. “There are a number of reasons that my interest was sparked in dentistry. I’ve always had a great experience going to the dentist and want to help people have great smiles,” she said. Mary is looking forward to getting to know her mentor, and she enjoys spending time in Miller Nichols Library and Learning Center when on campus. Aside from her science classes, she enjoys playing the viola, baking and reading.



Jaeden Johnson is from Omaha, Nebraska, and graduated from Omaha North High Magnet. She is a dance performance major with a minor in health sciences. After training with the Conservatory, Jaeden hopes to pursue a ballet company. “I have been training classical ballet for 15 years. I wanted to come to the Conservatory because of the amazing program, but also to be a more well-rounded dancer,” Jaeden said. With her health sciences major, she hopes to return to school after dancing to earn a degree in nutrition. This year, she looks forward to building a relationship with her mentor and spending a lot of time in the dance studio.



Ethan Kauffman graduated from Oakville High School in St. Louis, Missouri. He is a music education major pursuing a career as a band director. “Ever since I picked up an instrument I’ve been in love with music, from the challenge of the art to the way it connects us. I want to give that back to the next generation of musicians,” he said. He is looking forward to meeting and learning from Marylou Turner, his mentor. In addition to his musical passion, he enjoys going to the gym, playing video games and hanging out with friends. He spends most of his days at the Olson Performing Arts Center.



Z Kemp graduated from Blue Springs High School in Blue Springs, Missouri. They are majoring in mechanical engineering and minoring in Spanish. Z plans to stay in the Kansas City area “working with outreach events to engage youth in STEM concepts and STEM careers” and would love to work as a professional engineer. This year, Z cannot wait to make connections with their peers, UMKC faculty and staff, and Trustee mentor. On top of their engineering passions, they dabble with numerous hobbies, including origami, balloon animals and jewelry making. Their favorite place on campus is the rooftop of Student Union, where they love watching the skyline.



Maddie Kunz was born and raised in Platte City, Missouri, where she graduated from Platte County High School. She is majoring in biology with minors in chemistry and business. Maddie is pursuing the pre-dental track and hopes to open a dental practice in Kansas City to serve the community. “I love the city and all the great things it has to offer,” she said. She is looking forward to making connections on campus and building a relationship with her mentor. On top of her studies, she enjoys music, reading and staying active. A couple of her favorite places on campus are the Student Union and Swinney Center.



Emma Taylor is from Raytown, Missouri, where she graduated from Raytown Senior High School. She is a business major with an emphasis in marketing and is minoring in visual communications. Someday she would love to go into marketing for either a startup or a nonprofit organization, while continuing to work on her own business. Aside from her classes, Emma also enjoys reading and weightlifting, and she “loves coffee a little bit too much.” Her favorite place on campus is the Robot Café in the library.

Adam Larson

December Graduate Spotlight

By Izzy Daab, Third-Year Scholar
Sponsor: UMKC Trustees



Adam Larson

Adam Larson, a fourth-year scholar, will be embarking on his next journey after graduating from UMKC this December. He will be earning a degree in business administration with an emphasis in entrepreneurship. Following graduation, Adam plans to pursue a career in the Kansas City entrepreneurial ecosystem or with United States-based entrepreneur support organizations.

When asked what he is looking forward to most, he said, "I am looking forward to the next phase of my journey, regardless of the shape it takes." His most memorable part of the Trustees' Scholars Program was talking to applicants and potential scholars on recruitment days, an event

he always enjoyed. Throughout his experience with the Trustees' Scholars Program, he learned and gained wisdom from his mentor, Kevin Barb. "I have learned to be an advocate for myself and seek opportunities wherever they arise," Adam said.

The Atterbury Family Foundation was Adam's sponsor. Although he is taking away many invaluable lessons from his time at UMKC, the one thing he wish he could have told his freshman self was: "Don't use school as an excuse to not do something fun. You don't have to be a student 24 hours a day." We wish all the best to Adam in his next adventures!

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, more than 120 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

