

TRUSTEES' SCHOLAR NEWSLETTER

University of Missouri–Kansas City | Fall 2019



ALUMNUS TALKS ABOUT
LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

SUMMER
FLASHBACKS

MEET INCOMING
FRESHMEN

Media Committee

Ciera Ayala | Karah Chappel | Niki Joshi | Jennifer Nguyen | Timothy Nguyen

2019 Trustees' Scholars Alumnus Talks About Life After Graduation

By Timothy Nguyen, 2nd year scholar
Sponsor: UMKC Trustees

The transition from college to a 40- or 45-hour workweek is something **Doug Croy**, a business analyst at Burns & McDonnell and former Trustees' Scholar, has been able to adapt to easily. He spends his days checking in with clients, troubleshooting new problems and attending development team meetings about items that need updating, maintaining and cleaning. Doug is currently building a coding app for companies and working on a project to help large companies prioritize and allocate capital spending. His ambition is to get a master's degree soon and continue to work hard toward a leadership position, but he still finds time to grab lunch and attend social events with his team members. (His favorite office tradition is the donut club. Every Friday, someone in his division brings in donuts.) Being personable, dressing for success and leading with humility are just some of the things Doug values.



“Ask what value you can add instead of what value you can gain.”

Reflecting back, Doug says the Trustees' Scholarship is his biggest achievement. At UMKC, he dedicated his time to Cru, Enactus, YoungLife, the Honors College, Colleges Against Cancer and intramural sports. He says the best advice he received during his college years was, in every situation, to “ask what value you can add instead of what value you can gain.” In regard to UMKC college students, his best advice to the Trustees' Scholars is to “pursue hobbies and what you truly like and enjoy. Go get McDonald's with your suitemates. Always supersize.”

When he is not working, Doug is spending time with family and friends, and he calls getting married this year the best experience he has had. Anyone who has not met Doug should know that he keeps the three Fs close to his heart: faith, family and friends.

Awards and Accolades

By Karah Chappel, 2nd year scholar
Sponsor: UMKC Trustees



4th year scholar **Helene Slinker** was recently inducted into the UMKC chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honors Society. Pi Sigma Alpha encourages academic excellence, extracurricular involvement related to political science and interaction between students and faculty in the political science department. To top it off, Helene also received a Phi Kappa Phi study abroad grant, which helped fund her trip abroad to Prague last summer.

1st year scholar **Gavin Ott** was selected for the Bloch Dean's Student Advisory Board, an elite group of undergraduate and graduate students who act as a panel for Dean Brian Klaas. They provide feedback on general questions and troubleshoot issues. Gavin also shares his ideas and perspective on many of the new initiatives at the Bloch School. He is very excited to be a part of this great board and to contribute to the continued success of the Bloch School.



2nd year scholar **Karah Chappel** was inducted into the National Society for Leadership and Success (NSLS), the largest leadership honors society in the country, which looks to expand on students' leadership skills to build a better world. Through her induction process, she completed training in leadership and professional communication through speaker broadcasts, workshops and meetings with a small group of her peers. In the years to come, Karah will continue to reap benefits such as additional leadership training, scholarships and job opportunities.

“Summer Flashbacks”

Scholar Adventures of Summer 2019

By Jennifer Nguyen, 4th year scholar
Sponsor: UMKC Trustees



3rd year scholar Jacob explores the landscape of Denmark. He lived in an apartment on the outskirts of Copenhagen's city center with local students who attended the University of Copenhagen.

Jacob Furry, a 3rd year scholar, spent his summer studying education in Copenhagen, Denmark. During his time abroad, he visited 10 schools and discussed education philosophy, practice and policy reform.

“My courses explored the recent successes and challenges related to improving education quality for diverse student groups in Europe, and the experience solidified my passion to do the same in the United States,” Jacob says.

From commuting on a 30-minute subway ride from his apartment to classes to navigating a new language and set of customs, Jacob tested his independence and created an unforgettable summer experience.

Adam Larson, a 2nd year scholar, completed an internship with the Kansas City Aviation Department's marketing division over the summer. While working from the lens of city enterprise, he saw firsthand the overlap of business and government in the maintenance and development of the local airport. Adam also engaged in conversation regarding the new terminal.

“I learned a lot about the relationship between marketing managers and the media through shadowing during interviews, communicating with reporters and journalists and writing news releases that cover events and other happenings,” Adam says.

Overall, Adam is grateful for this experience and the perspective it provided.



Katelyn McAlister, a 4th year scholar, was accepted into the 2019 London Study Abroad trip with the Bloch School. While in Europe, she investigated international business strategies and attended business meetings with Cerner UK, State Street UK and a number of other London-based businesses. During these conversations, Katelyn discussed individual growth and development as well as methods in effective team management. The trip gave Katelyn an opportunity to get the full study abroad experience.

“I was able to grow my network both professionally and personally, and for that, London will always hold a special place in my heart,” Katelyn says.



4th year scholar Katelyn ventures across London. She traveled with 22 other students and two Bloch School professors.

“I was able to grow my network both professionally and personally, and for that, London will always hold a special place in my heart.”

KATELYN MCALISTER



4th year scholar Helene embraces the scenery of Europe. She took weekend trips to Berlin, Budapest and Vienna.

Helene Slinker, a 4th year scholar, traveled to Prague, Czech Republic, with Charles University's seven-week Intercultural Studies in Prague program over the summer. Her typical day consisted of taking the tram to school, attending lectures, exploring restaurants in the area for lunch and ending the day by visiting a museum, historical site or public area.

“This trip really empowered me,” Helene says. “I learned that I not only can be independent, but I’m quite good at it. I got a taste for solo travel during this trip, and I really can’t wait to embark on more solo travels in my future.”

Incoming Freshmen

By Niki Joshi, 1st year scholar
Sponsor: Barbara Hall Marshall Trustees' Scholarship



Izzy Daab

Major: Biology | Hometown: St. Charles, Missouri

Friendly, sociable, and hailing from Francis Howell High School in St. Charles, Missouri, Izzy is a biology major with an emphasis in pre-med and is minoring in chemistry and Spanish. Being a basketball aficionado and an avid runner with a passion for the sciences, she hopes to start her own private practice as an orthopedic surgeon, focusing particularly on sports medicine and methods of injury prevention and rehabilitation. She is a member of UMKC's Pre-Med Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Unity, and also participates in UMKC intramural sports. Izzy's favorite part about being a UMKC student is getting the opportunity to meet new people and develop new and meaningful friendships.



Taylor Hamilton

Major: Nursing | Hometown: Columbia, Missouri

Passionate and attentive, Taylor hails from Columbia, Missouri, and graduated from Muriel Battle High School. In recognizing the serious flaws in the American health-care system facilitated by unethical legislation, she plans to major in nursing with the intention of pursuing a career in health care aimed at addressing these issues. She is motivated by the valiant goal of ensuring that everyone in the United States receives equal opportunities and access to health care. At UMKC, she participates in Sister Circle and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She also enjoys attending events hosted by the Union Programming Board. Taylor loves the opportunities at UMKC to meet people from a host of different backgrounds and ethnicities, which give her the chance to learn more about the world and experiences outside of her own.



Niki Joshi

Major: History | Hometown: Overland Park, Kansas

Persistent and inquisitive, Niki is a former Tiger from Blue Valley High School, which is just minutes outside of her hometown of Overland Park, Kansas. She plans to double major in history and English with an emphasis in creative writing. She has an immense love for film, writing and literature, and has always been fascinated by her humanities and social science courses. She hopes to become a screenwriter, as she finds cinema to be the perfect medium for presenting the complexity of social issues and enacting activism and change. She is a member of the UMKC College Democrats and is a staff writer for UNews, writing pieces that often focus on domestic and international politics. Niki deeply enjoys her classes and adores the faculty and staff at UMKC, greatly appreciating the knowledge, guidance and support they have provided throughout the semester.



Tia Khawaji

Major: Biology | Hometown: Lee's Summit, Missouri

Focused and diligent, Tia is a graduate of Lee's Summit North High School in Lee's Summit, Missouri, and is majoring in biology with an emphasis in pre-dental and a minor in chemistry. With plans to attend the UMKC School of Dentistry, she hopes to give back to the community by starting her own orthodontics practice in Kansas City. On campus, she is the public relations officer of Unity, a member of UMKC's Pre-Dental Society and involved with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She enjoys the diversity of UMKC and takes comfort in the friendly faces in her classes and around the residence halls. Tia also enjoys the commitment that UMKC has to community service and loves participating in the various events organized for students.



Sofia Martinez

Major: Philosophy (Pre-Law) | Hometown: Olathe, Kansas

Curious and adventurous, Sofia, a graduate from Olathe North High School in Olathe, Kansas, is a philosophy and business administration double major on the pre-law track. With hopes of becoming a lawyer, she spends several hours every week poring over legal documents related to complex criminal trials and developing impassioned speeches for her closing arguments on the UMKC Mock Trial Team. Along with that, she is also an active member of the Latinx Student Union, Enactus, Avanzando, and the First Generation Roo program. She says her favorite part about UMKC is the beautiful campus. Despite its convenient location in the heart of Kansas City, Sofia is still able to enjoy the changing colors of the autumn leaves as she walks up and down 51st Street.



Gavin Ott

Major: Business Administration | Hometown: Platte City, Missouri

Disciplined and driven, Gavin graduated from St. Pius X High School and hails from Platte City, Missouri. He is a business administration major with a dual emphasis in real estate and finance and a minor in economics. Having always been motivated and goal-oriented, he has interned at NorthPoint Development since high school and hopes to use the opportunity as a launching point for a career in data analytics and commercial real estate. Along with his internship, he is heavily engaged with the UMKC business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi, the Bloch School Dean's Student Advisory Board, the UMKC chapter of Students for Life and the Young America's Foundation. Gavin loves taking classes at the Bloch School, as he enjoys his professors and the relevancy of the material toward his goals for the future. The connections and networking opportunities are a nice bonus as well.



Lanisha Stevens

Major: Psychology | Hometown: Florissant, Missouri

Kind and compassionate, Nisha is a St. Louis native and graduate of McCluer North High School. She is majoring in psychology and hopes to minor in Spanish and women's and gender studies. As someone who has always been passionate about helping and guiding others through the struggles in their lives, she plans to attend graduate school and become a career counselor or counseling psychologist. She is incredibly active on campus, regularly attending meetings for UMKC's chapter of Sister Circle and the African Americans Cultivating Excellence (AACE) program on campus. She also has the ambitious goal of becoming the educational chair of Unity. Lanisha loves the diversity on campus, and she is grateful for the wide variety of events hosted by UMKC and the opportunities she has to meet new people.

Trustees' Scholars December Graduates

By Ciera Ayala, 3rd year scholar
Sponsor: Tom and Mary Bloch



Helene Slinker
Major: Political Science
Sponsor: UMKC Trustees

Helene Slinker is a political science major graduating in December with minors in German, women's, gender and sexuality studies and

international studies. After she graduates, Helene is going to kick off her career by working with a local bank while applying to law schools. She plans to travel before attending law school. Reflecting on her time at UMKC, her favorite moments were her study abroad experiences, and she's thankful for the support of the Trustees who helped make it happen.

"Those experiences helped me become more independent and find myself a little more."

"As cliché as it sounds, those experiences helped me become more independent and find myself a little more," Helene says.

Helene says her biggest piece of advice for college students is to make time for fun.

"While studying is important, so is your sanity," she says.

Throughout her time at UMKC, the biggest lesson she took away was that it is okay to ask for help. The Trustees' Scholars want to wish Helene the best of luck on her journey going into law school.



Morgan Adrales
Major: Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics
Sponsor: Zimmer Family Foundation

Morgan Adrales is a senior graduating in December with

a degree in computer science. Once she graduates, she is going to start her software development career at Bentley Systems, where she is an intern. She will have the opportunity to explore different teams within the company to see what suits her best. Reflecting back on her college career, Morgan highlighted a moment from the spring of her junior year. She was invited to the home of Professor Richard Delaware for a dinner party and was one of only two or three students to get invited each semester. As a Trustees' Scholar, there are many opportunities to engage with a variety of people, and Morgan's favorite opportunities were the social events the scholars attended a few times a semester.

"It feels like everyone gets to take a break from their busy semester to just relax and do something fun," Morgan explains. She also says a volunteering opportunity at Morning Glory Ministries' soup kitchen also had a huge impact on her.

Wrapping up her college career, Morgan's biggest piece of advice is to take every opportunity that is presented to you.

"If someone asks you to go on a midnight run to Town Topic to get pie, you say yes," she says.

The Trustees' Scholars wish Morgan the best in her journeys.

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, 107 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 Amy Loughman at loughmana@umkc.edu

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