



Trustees' Scholar Josh Boehm, who graduated from UMKC last year, talks to a stakeholder at a public meeting in North Kansas City about the recommended alignment for a streetcar crossing the Missouri River.

Alumnus working on local streetcar project

Drivers in downtown Kansas City this spring have encountered all kinds of construction on and along the roads. To most, the construction is simply a mess of orange cones and detour signs that will hopefully lead to a new streetcar system in Kansas City. However, to Trustees' Scholar graduate Josh Boehm, that construction represents progress and the fulfillment of a dream.

Josh joined BNIM, a Kansas City architecture and urban planning firm, last year after graduation. The firm is leading the study of the potential placement of lines in the second phase of the streetcar project, and Josh is part of the team. Josh, who is from Kearney, Mo., graduated in 2013 from UMKC's College of Arts and Sciences' urban planning program, majoring in urban planning and design as well as economics.

"I chose UMKC because it was one of the only options I had to work in an urban planning program in an urban area," Josh says. "And I loved it."

While at UMKC, Josh impressed a BNIM manager who was then working in the College of Arts and Sciences. The manager was impressed by Josh's top-notch performance on projects, as well as the fact he was a Trustees' Scholar.

"Because of the Trustees and UMKC, I had the connection I needed to get into BNIM," Josh says.

At BNIM, Josh has been working to prepare Kansas City for the streetcars, as well as helping plan the locations and schedules.

"This is something I would love to do for a long time," he says. "And I've learned so much both here and at UMKC."

Junior to intern this summer at PricewaterhouseCoopers

Kathleen Brueggeman has a plan. It includes graduating in 2015 from UMKC with accounting and communications degrees, taking the CPA exam and then landing an accounting job with a Kansas City firm.

This summer, she will add another element to that plan: interning at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Kansas City, beginning June 9.

"It's an audit internship, so I'll be learning the basics of auditing, performing audit tests and procedures, and working with an audit team onsite with PricewaterhouseCoopers' clients," says Kathleen, who is from Sullivan, Mo.

Kathleen credits the Trustees' Scholar



Kathleen Brueggeman

Program with much of her success, saying it scores points with potential employers.

"The Trustees' Scholar Program was an integral part in me receiving this opportunity [at PricewaterhouseCoopers]," she says. "It's always something I talk about in interviews, and interviewers are always impressed by the prestige of the program and the experience it has provided me."

Kathleen said the professional and networking experience she gained as a Trustees' Scholar has been invaluable.

"It's taught me how to stand out in recruiting situations," she says.

Two Scholars heading to medical school in the fall



Esther Finney



Amy Johnson

As the academic year comes to a close, Scholars look forward to summer vacation, internships and careers. For two graduates of the Trustees' Scholar Class of 2014, graduation is leading to a different kind of exciting challenge — medical school.

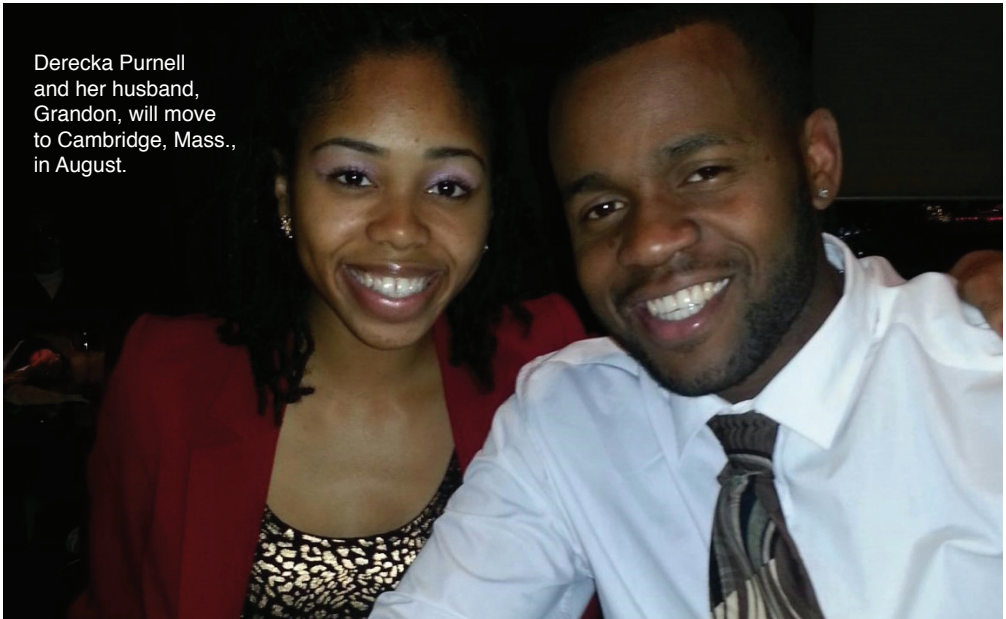
Both Esther Finney and Amy Johnson will attend medical school in the fall. Esther will attend Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. Amy has been accepted to the medical schools at Dartmouth and the University of Missouri and is wait-listed at Washington University School of Medicine. She doesn't yet know which one she will attend.

"This whole process has been quite the journey — from the application process to interviews and now, the waiting game," Amy says. "As with most pre-meds, I am used to planning out everything in advance and knowing exactly what is going on with everything in my life at all times.

"Where I'll be headed for the next four-plus years is a complete mystery at this point though, so it is quite nerve-racking."

Esther is interested in pediatrics and is considering a surgical specialty. Amy is considering specializing in dermatology or reconstructive surgery.

Scholar alumna to attend Harvard Law School



Derecka Purnell and her husband, Grandon, will move to Cambridge, Mass., in August.

Derecka Purnell (B.A. '12) is ready to take her dreams to the next level at Harvard Law School this fall.

"I am eager to experience the scholarship and clinical training opportunities offered at Harvard," she says. "When I received the call from the dean, I felt so thankful. I became one step closer to my dream of serving others as an attorney."

Derecka studied political science at UMKC and has been in the Teach for America Corps program at the Ewing Marion Kauffman School in Kansas City since graduating. She had a fellowship last summer at Harvard.

Derecka, her husband Grandon, and their 2-month-old son Grandon II, will move to Cambridge, Mass., in late August. Derecka will begin classes in September.

But first, the family will spend the summer in Nashville, Tenn. Derecka received the Tennessee Department of Education's First to the Top Summer Fellowship and will work on projects tied

to the department's strategic priorities. Grandon will help families in transition at an organization called Sophia's Heart.

While a Trustees' Scholar, Derecka, who was mentored by Joel Voran at Lathrop & Gage, served as president and community service coordinator of the Black Law Students Association's Collegiate Student Division. She also co-chaired the Engage KC Board and was an investigations intern in the civil rights division of the City of Kansas City.

She held several roles with the Kansas City Freedom School Initiative and is an advocate for equal education. Purnell is a former fellow of the National Black Law Students Association, a Coca-Cola Scholar, and University of California Berkeley Public Policy and International Affairs Law Fellow.

Derecka said she is thankful for the continued support she has received from the Trustees' Scholar program, Clovis Semmes in the Black Studies Department and the Kansas City community.

Trustee shares his love of art and Kansas City with Scholars

Since its inception, the Trustees' Scholar Program has fostered relationships between Trustees and Scholars through lunches, enrichment sessions and other meetings and activities. One Trustee has taken his mentoring role a step further.

For the past few years, David Oliver, Partner at Berkowitz Oliver Williams Shaw & Eisenbrandt LLP, has invited the Scholars to be his guests at the Hello Art First Friday art receptions and trolley tours in Kansas City's Crossroads Art District.

"It seems a natural and creative way for the Scholars to experience what is going on in the Crossroads and enjoy all the arts have to offer," he says. "Many of them aren't originally from Kansas City, and going down to the Crossroads might be a little intimidating and confusing the first few times. Going to a Hello Art event allows them to meet up at one location and then go on a trolley to selected galleries and learn about what they will see."

Hello Art is an organization focused on connecting artists and art patrons. David is a founding member of Hello Art, which was started in 2009. He said he enjoys sharing his love of the city and its art district with the Scholars.

"They are such a great group of young people and exactly who we want to keep in Kansas City as they begin their careers," he says. "They really enjoyed themselves and several of them now send me emails on their own, asking if they can come again and bring friends. Of course they can!"

Scholar Joanna Muenks has attended the receptions and said it's been an enriching experience.

"Hello Art First Fridays is a wonderful event that brings together people young and old from various backgrounds to experience Kansas City's rich arts culture and grow in



David Oliver



appreciation for the arts," she says. "I enjoy the event because it features a wide range of art. There is something for everyone."

Teejay Hughes, another Scholar, agrees.

"Hello Art connects us to the artist and even includes a trolley that transports us to different galleries and performances that are happening all over the Crossroads during First Fridays," Teejay says. "Grab some hors d'oeuvres, talk to some artists and soak up the art. This event is an all-around great time, and we even get to bring a few friends!"

Around town

Scholars bonded with each other and met with Trustees during events throughout the Spring 2014 semester.



Scholars visited the Negro League Baseball Museum this spring, followed by a barbecue lunch. Left: UMKC student affairs liaison Megan Cross, Scholars Jordan Miles, Azani Fitten, Mackenzie Brazier, Maria Gentry and Grant Meyer; Assistant Vice Chancellor Troy Lillebo and Scholar Zach Wolf.



Trustee Doranne Hudson (in red jacket), associate teaching professor/executive in residence at the Bloch School, met with Scholars in April for an enrichment session titled "Managing Your Impression." She shared advice on how to make a good first impression when starting internships and jobs.



Sophomore Teejay Hughes, Trustee Bob Peterson and sophomore Jordan Miles share a laugh at April's Trustees' Scholar lunch at Grand Street Café.

2014 Trustees' Scholar Graduating Class



Lauren Case

Sponsor: Donald J. and Adele C. Hall

Lauren is graduating summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in nursing and a minor in Spanish. She has been an active member of Chi Omega sorority, serving as a Panhellenic delegate. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society. Lauren spent two semesters serving as a teaching assistant at UMKC's School of Nursing and Health Studies for students enrolled in a Spanish for healthcare pre-professionals course. She spent a summer studying abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Lauren has been working as a nurse technician at Children's Mercy for the past year, and she recently accepted a nursing position there in the pediatric intensive care unit.



Rachel Drabenstott

Sponsor: The UMKC Trustees

Rachel is graduating with her bachelor's degree in choral music education. During her last semester, she was a student teacher in the Olathe School District at Bentwood Elementary School and Frontier Trail Middle School. Rachel has contributed to many organizations throughout college. She served as the personnel chair and song chair of her sorority, Chi Omega. She was a member of the American Choral Directors Association and held the roles of treasurer and vice president. Rachel plans to substitute teach after graduating while auditioning for cruise lines. She hopes for a position singing on a cruise ship for a few years before returning to Kansas City to teach music.



Esther Finney

Sponsor: Barbara Hall Marshall Advisory Fund

Esther double majored in chemistry and criminal justice and criminology. At UMKC, she has been actively involved with Alpha Delta Pi sorority and Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity. She has given back to the community by serving as a hospital advocate for the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault in the emergency department at Saint Luke's Hospital in Kansas City. After graduation, Esther will be attending Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. She is not certain what her specialty will be, but she is interested in pediatrics.



Fabian Gomez-Gonzalez

Sponsor: The Sprint Foundation

Fabian spent his last semester gaining experience for his future career as a teacher by student teaching at his alma mater, Liberty High School. Most of his time student teaching has been devoted to students in honors-level chemistry courses. Fabian is a double major in chemistry and secondary education. He has been very involved on campus in his four years at UMKC. He is a member of the honors program and Beta Theta Pi fraternity. After graduation, Fabian plans to teach in the Kansas City area. He plans on returning to school in the future to obtain his master's degree in either chemistry or education.



Amy Johnson

Sponsor: G. Kenneth and Ann Baum

Amy was a pre-med biology major, and she has devoted her time to a number of organizations throughout her college career. She served as a student representative to the University of Missouri System Board of Curators. She helped pilot the UMKC tobacco-free policy by gaining support from fellow students and administration. In 2013, Amy used a SEARCH (Students Engaged in Artistic and Academic Research) grant to create a project titled "Investigating the Role of Sponge and Myoblast City Proteins in the Development of the Dorsal Vessel in *Drosophila Melanogaster*." Her findings were presented at the SEARCH symposium at UMKC. Amy will be attending medical school after she graduates.



Appie Peterson

Sponsor: Copaken Family Foundation

Appie is a dance performance and chemistry double major. She has been involved on campus by serving as a resident assistant in Johnson Hall, a peer tutor in the chemistry department and an undergraduate adviser for the Conservatory Curriculum Committee. She was selected to speak at the Kauffman Center last year as a student representative when the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation donated a \$20 million match grant for the Conservatory of Music and Dance's downtown arts campus. She has performed in Kansas City Ballet productions, including *The Nutcracker* and *George Balanchine's Serenade*. Appie has accepted a job dancing with the San Diego Ballet.

Spring 2014 Media Committee

Andrew Best
(’17)

Lauren Case
(’14)

Bailee Slack
(’15)

Alexis White
(’16)

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, 74 Scholars have completed their undergraduate degrees at UMKC, and more than 70 percent of the program’s alumni have made their home in the Kansas City area.

Special thanks
UMKC Strategic
Marketing and
Communications

A night at the Kauffman Center



Scholars attended “Finale,” the Conservatory of Music and Dance’s orchestra and choirs’ last performance of the semester at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Scholar Haley Crane (black dress) and alumnus Brandon Scott Russell (in tuxedo) both sang in the performance. From left: Scholars Zach Wolf, Maria Gentry, JoAnna Muenks and Haley; Brandon (who was a soloist), Scholar Mackenzie Brazier, Scholar alumnus Josh Boehm and Scholar Grant Meyer at the performance.

Good luck, Scholar grads!



Graduates Lauren Case, Amy Johnson and Fabian Gomez-Gonzales celebrate at a Trustees’ Scholar senior reception hosted by the Scholars’ social committee in May.