



Chai Jindasurat, national director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project.

Alumnus blazes a path for social justice

By: Daniel Galarza

The UMKC Trustees' Scholars Program strives to enable promising students to pursue their gifts and passions in order to make a positive impact on the local community and beyond. Chai Jindasurat, (BM '08, Conservatory), embodies this goal every day in his job as the national director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP), an organization specializing in preventing violence in LGBTQIA communities.

Chai was originally drawn to UMKC's Conservatory of Music and Dance and the university's urban setting. After arriving on campus, he became involved in several student groups including the Thai Student Association, Queers and Allies, the LGBT Center and the Women's Center.

Eventually, Chai became the LGBT Housing Liaison for Residential Life, a role that he says had a profound influence on the direction of his career.

"My involvement with the LGBT Office and as the LGBT Housing Liaison gave me the experience and passion to pursue a career in social justice after graduation. I still love music, but found myself drawn more to a career focused on social change," he says.

Passion for social justice led Chai to the Kansas City Anti-Violence Project, then to Boston and, finally, to New York City and his current role. At the AVP, Chai leads nationwide efforts to help transform the cultural environment and provide resources for those affected by violence in the LGBTQIA community.

"UMKC provided me opportunities to learn and grow both personally and academically. I learned to work hard and to balance all of my responsibilities and I had opportunities to get involved and make a difference in the issues I cared about."

Career Connections

By: JoAnna Muenks

The Trustees' Scholars Program creates invaluable connections and mentorships for scholars by connecting them to the accomplished members of the UMKC Board of Trustees. Knowledge, advice, job shadowing opportunities, and even potential careers can arise from these mentorships.

David Westbrook, David Oliver and Karen Cox are three Trustees who have consistently assisted scholars in their goals to work in the medical field.

UMKC alumnus David Westbrook, senior vice president of Strategy and Innovation at Children's Mercy Hospital, has served on the board for more than two decades.

He says that he is extremely grateful for the education he received. "I owe a great debt to UMKC for teaching me how to learn. It's a gift I can never repay."

David Westbrook strives to set up opportunities for scholars to gain a first-hand look into Children's Mercy's internationally renowned programs. With David's assistance, scholars have received unparalleled opportunities to shadow in areas of genomics and genetics as well as developmental pediatrics.

"Those of us who have enjoyed some success in life recognize the potential of others to do so as well. Although the Scholars typically sense their success, they have not yet had such experience with it that they can be confident it will come about. I am confident it will," he says.

David Oliver, partner at Berkowitz Oliver Williams Shaw & Eisenbrandt, likens the efforts of the Trustees to a SWAT team. He says they strive to connect the best students of UMKC to Children's Mercy to fulfill the goals of the Trustees' Program and showcase the incredible opportunities available in Kansas City.



David Westbrook, David Oliver and Karen Cox

"I want to make Kansas City a better place to live and work. UMKC is a key component of making that happen. I also love meeting the Scholars because each one of them is such an interesting person," he says.

UMKC alumna Karen Cox, executive vice president at Children's Mercy Hospital,

was elected to the Board of Trustees in May 2014. "Working with the students keeps me learning about and understanding both the school and the aspirations of people in their early twenties. I love hearing about what they're excited to learn," Karen says.

Scholars who have benefited from job shadowing opportunities and mentorships from these Trustees include Lauren Case, Alaina Shine, Bailee Slack, Hannah Sharp and Abigail Brown.

"We are interested in bridging the gap between the campus and the community for the scholars and bringing the best and the brightest from UMKC, who are interested in careers in medicine, to Children's Mercy Hospital," David Oliver says.

A reflection on my first year

By: Ayesha Mahomed

Before college, I had never really been away from my family for an extended period of time. Therefore, moving to college was a huge change.

It was apparent that, for most students, the move was extremely daunting, and I too was out of my comfort zone. There was a kind of nervous excitement in the air on the first day; everyone wanted to get to know their roommate, to meet new people, and to have a fresh start.

My first semester was all about settling in, getting accustomed to the new atmosphere, and figuring out how my classes worked. I was fortunate to have made great friends very early on and they have now become my support system away from home.

I've realized that I do like my major and that I will likely stick with it. I interned for



Ayesha Mahomed

The Call KC, a community outreach non-profit organization, and have been grateful for the experience.

As a Trustees' Scholar, I have received some amazing opportunities such as attending Crescendo at the Kauffman Center, UMKC's annual Pride Breakfast, and the Starr Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon. I've also been very fortunate to have been assigned an amazing Trustees' mentor and am grateful for our friendship.

As I've adjusted to a new environment, I may have experienced some ups and downs, but I haven't regretted anything.

Had I not been willing to venture outside of my comfort zone, I would never have had any of the wonderful experiences that I've had this year, and I'm looking forward to all of the experiences that next year will bring.

Taking on a leading role

By: Zachary Wolf

Mia Sutton came to UMKC, like all Trustees' Scholars, with the goal to get involved and make a difference. Throughout her four years at UMKC, Mia has participated on campus in many ways, particularly with the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA).

"The MSA focuses on enhancing the experiences of students of color on UMKC's campus. My job is to take care of the daily functions of our office and to promote UMKC and multicultural organizations around the university," she says.

Members of the MSA advise other

on-campus groups such as the African American Student Union, Sister Circle, and Men of Color. Mia is also involved with the African American Student Union and Alpha Phi Sigma. Mia's involvement with the MSA has given her the opportunity to participate in important multicultural university events such as the TAASU Freedom Breakfast, the African American/Latino Leadership Summit, Youth Days and more.

"Being involved in a multicultural organization gives me a sense of belonging. It has pushed me to be a better-rounded student and helped me come out of my shell."



Mia Sutton speaks at the TAASU Freedom Breakfast

Trustee internship leads to dental career

By: Mia Sutton



Allison Meyer

For Allison Meyer, the Trustees' Scholar program was much more than a scholarship. It was the program that introduced her to Kansas

City and to her future career as a dentist.

Allison graduated from UMKC as a Trustees' Scholar in 2011 with bachelor's degrees in both Chemistry and Spanish. Following graduation, she entered the UMKC dental program and graduated in May 2015.

Allison received a lot of exposure to dentistry while in the Trustees' Scholars program. Her scholarship sponsor was the Durwood Foundation whose representative, Ray Beagle, was instrumental in leading her to the dental program at UMKC.

An internship with Miles of Smiles, Inc., an opportunity arranged by UMKC Trustee Hugh

Zimmer, gave Allison the chance to learn more about her potential career field.

"Miles of Smiles is a portable dental program that travels to at-risk schools and treats children during the school day. The opportunity to watch dentists perform portable dentistry was an eye-opening experience," Allison said.

That eye-opening experience has led Allison to pursue a unique position in the field of dentistry.

"After graduation, I will be taking a job in public health dentistry in Clinton, Mo., at a public health center that specializes in treating at-risk children up to age 18," she said.

"As a Scholar, I remember the opportunities I had to interact with business people and community leaders. These conversations helped shape my positive view of Kansas City, the place where I plan to live and expand my family. I'm truly grateful for all the experiences and opportunities I've had and I know that the scholarship helped put me on my current path."

Leading the Discussion

By: Ayesha Mahomed



Alaina Shine

Trustees' Scholars consistently adopt leadership roles on campus and in the classroom. Senior Alaina Shine has held a unique position during her time at UMKC as an Honors Discussion Session Leader.

Alaina says she joined the Honors Program in 2011 as a way to meet like-minded people. Through this program, she found some of her closest friends and gained a strong foundation for leadership.

"The Honors Program allows me to interact with students from academic units across the campus. I do not often get to have a conversation with someone who is a business major or in the conservatory, for example. But, through the Honors Program, my path crosses with these students in our weekly Colloquium class," she says.

Alaina participated in many honors discussion groups throughout her college career and now leads a group herself and says that she is excited to share the knowledge she has gained in her time at UMKC.

After she graduates this May, Alaina is looking forward to attending medical school at The University of Kansas.

With Honors



Mackenzie Brazier

UMKC Trustees' Scholars are high-achieving students who come to UMKC to learn and be leading forces on campus. Trustees' Scholars can be seen at the head of Supplemental Instruction sessions,

working as interns at major Kansas City corporations and volunteering around campus and Kansas City.

Despite numerous commitments, many Trustees' Scholars also choose to participate in the Honors Program. UMKC's Honors Program creates a unique environment, offering a variety of academic and social opportunities to exceptionally motivated and academically talented students.

Honors students face a unique set of graduation requirements including special coursework and projects, the student-designed Honors colloquium, volunteer work, and a special honors project or senior honors thesis. Nearly three quarters of Trustees' Scholars are Honors Program students.

Mackenzie Brazier is one such student. She also serves as the event coordinator for the Honors Student Advisory Board.

"The benefits I receive from the Honors Program are plentiful! I get to collaborate with professors from all fields and delve deeper into a subject I really enjoy. It gives me the freedom to go above and beyond regular class work," she says.

"Being a Trustees' Scholar gives you professional community connections. The Honors Program completes your college experience with connections on campus."

Alumni Updates

By: Mia Sutton



Sydney (Llewellyn) Castro | Class of 2014

Sydney married this past June and moved to Temuco, Chile, with her husband, Manuel Castro. She works at Universidad de la Frontera as an English professor. In her spare time, she teaches free music lessons to students.



Levi Rash | Class of 2011

Levi took a job with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students after graduation. He recently relocated to Missouri and now serves at the University of Missouri-Columbia as team director.



Jennifer Patterson | Class of 2008

Jennifer started a new job with Liberty Public Schools last August. She recently finished her Orff-Schulwerk training

at Baker University and will begin her Masters of Arts in Music Education this summer at the University of Central Missouri.



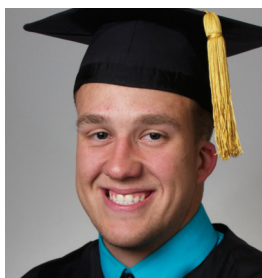
Caleb Elgi | Class of 2009

Caleb works as a CPA and senior staff member for Crowe Horwath, LLP, a national public accounting firm. He volunteers as the co-chair of the California Society of CPAs Young Emerging Professional Committee, Sacramento Chapter.

Mary Ciseti | Class of 2012

Mary works for Muller Bressler Brown advertising agency as an account manager. She is a member of the Junior League of Kansas City and a wish granter for the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Missouri. She is engaged to her college sweetheart, Nick, a UMKC School of Medicine graduate. Their wedding is set for Oct. 2015.

Kansas City's Future Leaders: 2015 graduating class of scholars



Landon Berry

Sponsor: Bill and Linda French

Landon is graduating with a degree in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Social Studies and a minor in Business Administration. During his undergraduate career, Landon was president of The Cause on Campus, a Christian student organization. Landon plans to be an active leader in the UMKC community after graduation by continuing to help lead this college campus ministry organization as a church staff member. He will be working as a substitute teacher and refereeing soccer part-time. He will also be working part-time at The Cause KC as a pastoral intern, where he will shadow and accompany his current pastor.



Kathleen Brueggemann

Sponsor: Alan Atterbury

Kathleen is graduating with degrees in both Accounting and Communications Studies. During her time at UMKC, Kathleen served as president and executive vice president of Alpha Delta Pi sorority and as a discussion leader for the Honors Program. Community service for the Ronald McDonald House and numerous other charitable organizations was an important part of her undergraduate career. After graduation, Kathleen will be working as an associate auditor at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. She plans to obtain her CPA license and continue learning and traveling throughout her career.



Elaine Eason

Sponsor: Tom and Mary Bloch

Elaine is graduating summa cum laude with a degree in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management from the Bloch School. At UMKC, Elaine was an executive board member of ENACTUS, through which she traveled to China, spoke at the Entrepreneurs' Hall of Fame induction ceremony, and was involved in the Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization and the Dean's Advisory Cabinet. She is also an alumna of the Regnier Student Ambassador Program. She interned with Hallmark Cards, Inc. and HNC Living. After graduation, Elaine will be working full-time at Modern Coalition.



Ivan Figueroa

Sponsor: Kirk Foundation

Ivan is graduating with a degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. He is a member of the UMKC Honors Program and will graduate with Honors. At UMKC, Ivan served as the vice president of the Association of Latin American Students and was heavily involved in the Supplemental Instruction program. Ivan worked as a research technician at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research. Ivan hopes to make an impact in his community by working at the North West Arkansas Community Clinic. After continued experience in the field, Ivan also hopes to pursue a Master's degree in Public Health or Health Administration.



Alaina Shine

Sponsor: Hallmark Cards, Inc.

Alaina is graduating summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Biology with an emphasis in Cellular and Molecular Basis of Health and Disease along with minors in Chemistry and Psychology. During her time at UMKC, Alaina served as the copresident of the Honors Program and the Honors Student Advisory Council. She was also a peer coach at the university and a student mentor with Science Pioneers. Alaina will begin medical school at the end of July at the KU School of Medicine at KU Medical Center in Kansas City. She hopes to one day serve children with special needs by becoming a developmental pediatrician or a pediatric neurologist.



Bailee Slack

Sponsor: Barbara Hall Marshall

Bailee is graduating with a degree in Biology with a minor in Anthropology. During her time at UMKC, Bailee was a founding member of The Cause on Campus and served as a mentor for Science Pioneers. She backpacked through Eastern Africa for two months, volunteering with local churches and led a team of 20 college women to Thailand. Bailee worked as a research assistant at KU Medical Center's Kidney Institute and studied Polycystic Kidney Disease. Following graduation, Bailee will be attending medical school at KU School of Medicine at KU Medical Center. She plans to specialize in primary care and to be involved in medical mission work.



Mia Sutton

Sponsor: The UMKC Trustees

Mia is graduating with a degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. At UMKC, Mia dedicated time to the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA), the African-American Student Union and Alpha Phi Sigma. She helped organize the TAASU Freedom Breakfast, the African America/Latino Leadership Summit and Youth Days. After graduation, Mia plans to pursue her Master's degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice at Southwest Baptist University. She plans to take qualification exams to become a probation and parole officer and hopes to one day open a nonprofit organization benefitting juvenile victims of abuse and neglect.

Spring 2015 Media Committee

Daniel Galarza
(^{'16})

Ayesha Mahomed
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JoAnna Muenks
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Mia Sutton
(^{'15})

Zachary Wolf
(^{'17})

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

Spring enrichment activities



A visit to the Sprint Center gave Scholars a chance to take a behind-the-scenes tour of the state-of-the-art sports complex in downtown Kansas City.



Trustees' Scholars visit Union Station to meet with the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce to learn about programs such as Gen KC and the Centurion Leadership Program.



The Ideas of March series brought Tony Kushner to campus for this year's UMKC Pride Breakfast. Students enjoyed a live interview with the Pulitzer-prize winning playwright.



Scholars served at Gillis, a boys home and school for at-risk children and families. Volunteers worked with boys from the organization to weed an outdoor classroom and helped pave an outdoor classroom space used for art activities.