



Trustees Scholar alumnus Josh Boehm talks about Kansas City's eco-innovation District: Smart City + Sustainability at South by SouthWest Eco.

Building a Smarter City

By: Jordan Miles

The UMKC Trustees' Scholars Program enables scholars to pursue their passions and make changes in the Kansas City community. Josh Boehm, a 2013 UMKC graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Urban Planning & Design and Economics, embodies this goal each day.

Josh's first job after graduation was with BNIM, an organization that is working with the City of Kansas City's Smart + Connective City initiative. This public-private partnership with Cisco, Sprint, and Think Big Partners gathers city data through cameras and sensors. Josh worked to create an understanding of how BNIM could translate buildings with significant building level sustainability goals—such as producing more energy than consumed, or capturing storm water to use in plumbing fixtures—to a greater district level.

While at South by SouthWest Eco, a conference focused on environmental and social change through design, policy and partnership, Josh presented his work

showcasing the incredible strides Kansas City is making in these regards.

His presentation showed the enormous potential that Kansas City has to improve its sustainability and resiliency, particularly in relation to transportation.

He explains that the Crossroads area has an “abundance of surface parking that's actually seldom fully used. All of that impervious surface area results in a significant amount of water runoff,” and proposed a reallocation of the space.

Josh's work in the urban planning field has led to a new career opportunity. He recently accepted the position of development manager for the Rock Island Rail Authority, a new department within Jackson County charged with turning an unused rail corridor into a trail and greenway. In coordination with KCATA, Josh and his team will evaluate a new commuter rail service project or dedicated guideway bus service with service from Lee's Summit to 3rd and Grand.



Leading the Parade

By: JoAnna Muenks

Abigail Brown's love for Color Guard began in 8th grade. She played the bassoon in concert band, but had her eye on the marching band.

But, because bassoon players are not a part of marching band, she wasn't able to join. Undeterred, Abi joined the color guard and has never looked back.

Color guard is a non-musical component of the marching band that utilizes different props such as flags, sabers, and rifles to perform choreographed movements that accompany the marching band.

Throughout high school, Abi competed with the varsity team, earning gold at the Mid Continental Color Guard Association Championships and making it to the Finals at Winter Guard International, a first for her school. Winter guard is performed indoors without the marching band. Each guard team chooses their own music and competes in categories such as precision and creativity.

Since entering college, Abi has found numerous opportunities to participate in her favorite sport. During her first year in college, Abi accepted a position as a technician for the Blue Valley Southwest High School team. She helped the athletes build technique and

learn choreography for the 2014 competitive field show. Abi also tried out for the Avidity World Winter Guard team. Abi made the team but then later had to step down because of an injury.

The injury, while unfortunate, gave her time to become the head coach at Blue Valley Southwest and a technician at Grain Valley High School. "I have always loved performing: the rush when you step on the floor for competition and the cheers from the crowd. But I never knew how much I would love teaching! I love it when one of my students is able to achieve something for the first time, something they never thought possible," Abi says. She continues to work with the Grain Valley team for the 2016 season while also performing with the Obsidian Winter Guard team that is based out of Warrensburg, MO.

Abi has made the most of her time in guard, but she foresees her performance career coming to an end due to her injuries. She will continue, however, to share her passion with young guard athletes as head coach at Blue Valley Southwest High School and a technician for Grain Valley High School.

Freshman Reflection

By: Allison Spunaugle

It is strange for me to think that I have already completed my first semesters of college.

Just yesterday I was meeting all of my fellow scholars, starting classes, and getting nervous about finding my niche on campus here at UMKC.

The first week of school felt like diving head-first into the deep end of a swimming pool and struggling my way back to the top.

Moving from a small community where I had such a strong support system to a city where I knew almost no one was a big transition. However, with the help of our wonderful advisors on campus and the other scholars, I quickly found the close-knit support system I was looking for, and was

easily able to gain my footing.

My first semester of college taught me many lessons both in and out of the classroom.

This semester has challenged my work ethic and allowed me to grow as a person.

I have been so blessed to have had the opportunity to become a part of the Trustees' Scholars program and get involved in other organizations on campus. Through this involvement, I have become more connected to the university and to Kansas City as a whole. I am looking forward to all of the opportunities my next three years as a student and

Trustees' Scholar at UMKC have in store for me, and I am grateful to finally be able to call UMKC and Kansas City my home away from home.



Adventures in Malta

By: Azani Fitten

I embarked on my study abroad adventure in January, taking an 18-hour, 5000 mile flight to the little European island of Malta to continue my degree in Communication Studies.

Malta has a rich anthropological and religious history. Over the years, this tiny place has survived various social, physical and political mishaps, but it undoubtedly has maintained its beauty. Outside of Kansas City, it is one of the world's best kept secrets.

I live at the University Residence and attend L-Università ta' Malta in Msida, Malta,

where I am surrounded by students from all over the world. It is humbling and exciting to not just learn about, but truly experience and delve into one of UMKC's most valued and commendable assets, diversity.

Studying abroad has proven one thing to be true: learning extends far beyond the classroom and is not confined to a textbook, a reading, or a conversation. Truly,

learning is a continual, life-long process that encompasses each person's collective experiences.

The experiences I have had and the lessons I've learned are truly life-changing.



Life Lessons: Giving Back

By: JoAnna Muenks

The Trustees' Scholar program is built upon the idea of giving back to the community by investing in young scholars that can then build up the community, both during their academic careers at UMKC and in Kansas City as young professionals.

How can scholars even begin to repay the opportunities the program grants to them? Through dedication to studies, involvement on campus, and, most importantly, community service, they can attempt to do just that.

Scholars' time and talents can be used for many endeavors, but perhaps none quite as important as working for the community.

Andrea Herron, a sophomore scholar, enjoys the opportunity to participate in community service through the scholars

program. Her favorite service project so far was fixing up an outdoor classroom for the Gillis Home for Boys. Andrea explains, "The boys were so excited to get to work with us and were incredibly grateful for everything we did for them. It was definitely a day I will never forget!"

The scholars program enables students to achieve their goals and dreams through the support of the Trustees and the community around them.

The community service component of the program enables scholars to do the same for others.

"The boys were all so sweet and I loved hearing them tell us about their hopes and dreams," Andrea goes on to say, which serves as proof of the ripple effect kindness and generosity initiate.



Swinging for the Fences

By: Allison Spunaugle



UMKC takes great pride in their dedicated and hard-working student athletes. This year, the Trustees' Scholars welcomed one of these exceptional student athletes to their ranks.

Kameron Fisher, a softball player and Biology major, has spent her first year at UMKC traveling, practicing, and getting to know her team, while also working hard in the classroom.

Kameron spent much of first semester getting to know her team through practices and other game preparations in anticipation of the spring season.

"It has been a great experience to finally get to see the hard work we put in during off-season pay off in game situations," she says.

During winter break, Kameron traveled to Hawaii with the Roos to kick off their season. "I have been very grateful for the ability to travel to places I've never been with my team and to become a part of a family that is continuously growing."

Although athletics keeps Kameron on a tight schedule, she still has been able to enjoy time with her fellow scholars and excel in her courses. "I am most productive when I am busy. Having a lot on my plate forces me to stay organized," she says.

Kameron says that she is very grateful for the opportunities being a Trustees' Scholar and student athlete has brought her thus far, and she is excited to see what the following years of her career have in store.

Learning and Self-Discovery during a "Gap Year"

By: Abigail Brown

Carolyn Pjecha is a freshman nursing student who took a nontraditional path to UMKC. After graduating from Liberty High School in 2013, Carolyn decided to take a gap year to travel the world to discover herself and her passions. She spent six months traveling through Puerto Rico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Guatemala where she took part in various activities including wildlife research, sea turtle conservation, taking photos for a nonprofit organization, bartending, and backpacking.

Carolyn said her most memorable moment was seeing a tamandua (an arboreal anteater), a puma, and other animals in the wild. She says that her favorite part of the whole experience was the freedom she had to

go on whatever adventure she had the guts to undertake.

When asked about the most valuable lesson she learned Carolyn replied, "I have been very privileged. I have been very fortunate, and if you just do things that sound cool to you, you're building a resume toward something you're interested in."

Carolyn said that although she loves wildlife conservation, she discovered she wanted to pursue nursing because, "nursing connects biology and people in a way that I appreciate. It's a career with ethical goals, it

requires technical skill, medical knowledge, and people skills. Nursing also leaves plenty of room for hobbies and side ventures, and I can live anywhere in the world."



Sharing the Entrepreneurial Spirit

By: Thuong Nguyen



Douglas Croy began his freshman year at UMKC in the Fall of 2015. In the short time he has been at the university, he has already discovered the Trustees' Scholar spirit for volunteerism and has found ways

to get involved both on campus and in the greater community.

In February 2016, Douglas joined Gillis as a volunteer, an organization he learned about on campus through Enactus. Gillis is an organization that has been working to support

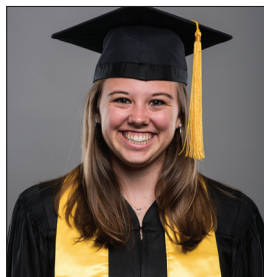
Kansas City families and children since 1870.

In the Gillis program, children are encouraged to start their own businesses. Each child has a current Kansas City entrepreneur who guides them and a volunteer for support. As a volunteer, Douglas works one-on-one with children to help them develop a business. He helps the child plan and coordinate their work. He also provides resources for lessons to aid the child in his or her task over the course of eight weeks.

Douglas believes that entrepreneurship is the best way to turn passion into a career.

"Helping youths who are struggling with life gives me a great feeling about life, especially helping them realize that they can follow their own dream by owning their own business," Douglas says.

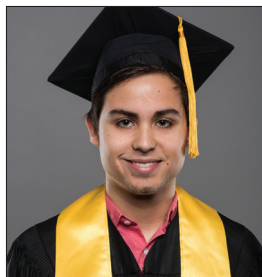
2016 Trustees' Scholar graduating class



Haley Crane

Sponsor: UMKC Trustees

Haley is graduating summa cum laude with a double degree in Music Therapy and Psychology. Haley served as the membership chair in Mortar Board, secretary for the Association of Music Therapy Students and executive treasurer for Conservatory Student Association. In her spare time, she worked as a residential assistant. Her favorite part of the Trustees' Scholars program has been her connections with the Trustees and her opportunity to set up music therapy volunteer positions at Children's Mercy Hospital. After graduation, she will complete a music therapy internship in West Virginia. While there, she will be working with WVU Hospitals and Clinics, school systems, a private practice serving children with autism, and a community veteran program.



Daniel Galarza

Sponsor: Donald J. & Adele C. Hall

Daniel is graduating with a degree in Computer Science. During his time at UMKC, Danny served as the President and Social Media Chair for Upsilon Pi Epsilon. He also served as a student ambassador in the School of Computing and Engineering Student Council and as a Computing and Engineering tutor. His favorite aspect of the Trustees' Scholars program has been the incredible connections he has made, both professionally and socially, that have made for a much more engaging experience. After graduation, he plans to work in the software development industry as a software engineer on the Advanced Development Team at RSA Archer in Overland Park, KS.



TeeJay Hughes

Sponsor: Zimmer Family Foundation

TeeJay is graduating summa cum laude with a degree in Business Administration with emphasis in Finance and Marketing. During his time at UMKC, TeeJay served as a representative on the Bloch School Dean's Advisory Board, explored the world by studying abroad in Malta, and recently started working at AdParlor, a Social Media Advertising Company. TeeJay's favorite aspect of the Trustees' Scholars program is the incredible network of friendships and connections he formed over the last four years. After graduation, he plans to travel in Asia for three months visiting South Korea, the Philippines Thailand, and many more. Once he returns, he plans to continue working in the advertising industry, particularly in social media.



Jordan Miles

Sponsor: UMKC Trustees

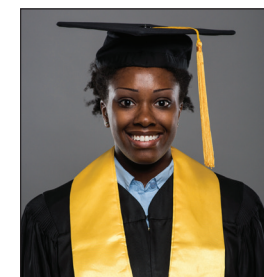
Jordan is graduating summa cum laude with a degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Pre-Health and a minor in Biology. During her time at UMKC, Jordan served as president, recruitment & marketing vice president and alumnae relations chair of Alpha Delta Pi. She was also a Supplemental Instruction leader, an Honors College discussion leader, and involved in various honors societies. She says that the Trustees' Scholars program gave her the incredible opportunity to enhance her education through mentors, shadowing, and volunteering. After graduation, Jordan will begin the Doctorate of Physical Therapy program at Washington University in St. Louis and hopes to one day work in a hospital as an inpatient therapist.



Claire Peterson

Sponsor: UMKC Trustees

Claire is graduating with a degree in Nursing. During her time at UMKC, she was involved with the Student Nurses Association where she served as the senior class co-chair, and on the volunteer committee to help set up and run volunteer events. Claire also works with elderly dementia patients, reading programs and bible school at her church in Baldwin. Her favorite aspect of the Trustees' Scholars program is the solid support group that has been her encouragement from the beginning. After graduation, she plans to stay in Kansas City and will be working as a nurse on the cardiac unit at Overland Park Regional Medical Center.



Alexis White

Sponsor: UMKC Alumni Association

Alexis is graduating with a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance. During her time at UMKC, Alexis was deeply involved with her professional business fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi, where she held multiple positions throughout her undergraduate career including Chancellor, Vice President of Scholarships and Awards, and Fundraising Chair. As a Trustees' Scholar, she appreciated the incredible network of scholars and board members that have influenced her undergraduate career. After graduation, Alexis plans on taking on a full-time position at her current job at the First Federal Bank. She hopes to obtain a management position in the near future.

JoAnna Muenks
(‘17)

Azani Fitten
(‘17)

Abigail Brown
(‘18)

Jordan Miles
(‘16)

Thuong Nguyen
(‘18)

Allison Spunaugle
(‘19)

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

Winter/Spring enrichment activities



Scholars pause for some holiday fun at an Ugly Sweater Party with university staff in December.



In January, scholars helped out at Harvester’s.



Trustees’ Scholars attended the Trustees’ Awards Ceremony and celebrated the first Trustees’ Scholar of the Year, Maria Gentry.



In early May, Trustees’ Scholars and Megan Cross, Tutoring and Special Projects Coordinator, volunteered at the AIDS Walk.