

Trustees' Alumna Forges Her Own Path

By: Ben Rankin, 2nd year scholar

Sponsor: Barbara Hall Marshall

Kathleen Jackson is not afraid of being seen as unconventional. She graduated from UMKC in 2015 with a dual degree in communication studies and accounting. Following her dual degree program, it's only appropriate that Kathleen is currently dually employed. She works as a certified public accountant for two accounting firms, spending six months out of the year at each.

Many job-seekers today may avoid risky, unconventional and untested career moves like these, but Kathleen doesn't see risk in the same way. The experiences that seem intolerably risky to us today might not even matter in the long term. "When you think you've failed, ask yourself: will this matter to me in five years?" Kathleen suggests. More often than not, she thinks, the answer is no.

Kathleen was an enthusiastic member of the Trustees' Scholars Alumni Panel on Monday, April 16, and she impressed on the students the importance of leveraging the connections they make during the program. When asked what she felt her role should be as an alumna of the program, she replied that she saw her role as an evolving one, undergoing change as her life and the program itself developed. "I really want to stay involved," Kathleen said, "the Trustees did a lot for me."

Gratitude for the opportunities the Trustees' scholarship offered was a recurring topic in our conversation. She recalled one particularly influential moment when a pair of mentors brought her to an event produced by Central Exchange, a local group dedicated to promoting gender equality, empowering women and promoting women in leadership roles. Kathleen remembers feeling inspired saying, "It was eye-opening to see what I could be involved in after school."

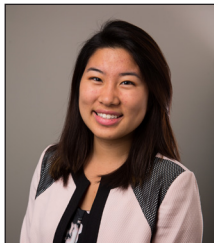
Maybe we won't remember the things we tried and failed at five years from now. Instead, as Kathleen Jackson might say, we should be thinking about the opportunities we pass up for being too difficult, risky or unconventional. To her, the risk of trying and failing pales in comparison to the prospect of doing nothing and living with the regret for years to come.



Kathleen (Bruggemann) Jackson
Class of 2015 Scholar, Sponsor: Alan Atterbury
Senior Accountant, MarksNelson LLC
Assurance Associate, PwC

Summer Agendas

By: Jennifer Nguyen, 2nd year scholar, Sponsor: The UMKC Trustees



Sarah Shin, 3rd year scholar, will be joining students from across the nation in a nine-week Summer Undergraduate Research Program sponsored by NYU School of Medicine. Designed as a program for pre-MD, MD/PhD students interested in biomedical sciences, the internship consists of full-time research, weekly seminars, journal clubs and lunch sessions with physicians and researchers at the forefront of medicine.

While she has yet to be assigned to a specific lab, Sarah hopes to engage in research concerning reproductive infertility, neonatal lupus, or Alzheimer's vaccines. She believes the internship will strengthen and reinforce her passion for research as well as aid her in the pursuit of becoming an MD/PhD.

Sponsor: The UMKC Trustees



Bayley Brooks, 1st year scholar, was recognized this spring as an Outstanding Freshman by the UMKC School of Computing and Engineering and has accepted a summer internship with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT). She'll serve as a construction materials intern, testing different mixtures of concrete and learning about various construction materials. She'll also work alongside MODOT engineers on jobsites around Kansas City.

Sponsor: The UMKC Trustees



Landon Volkmann, 2nd year scholar, will be traveling alongside other students from the University of Missouri System and practicing attorneys to Oxford, England, for an engaging two weeks in a legal education program sponsored by the UMKC School of Law.

Eager to be immersed in the cultural experience, Landon is preparing for an intense schedule of classes and critical analysis. He also looks forward to visiting Florence, Italy, during the weekend between his classes.

Sponsor: Bill and Linda French



Emily Wesley, 1st year scholar, is scheduled to travel to the Kyetume Community Based Health Care Programme in Uganda this summer. She will be traveling with a UMKC student organization, GlobeMed, to further strengthen their existing partnership with the community. The group will also administer vaccines, teach basic hygiene and health as well as observe physicians at the local clinics.

"I'm very excited to truly make a difference within this rural community and be able to connect with the people that I have been raising money for this entire year," said Emily.

Sponsor: Schutte Foundation

Freshman Reflection

By: Ciera Ayala, Sponsor: Tom & Mary Bloch

It feels like yesterday that I was moving into Oak Street Residence Hall and figuring out my way around UMKC's campus. Now, here I am, wrapping up my first year of college and preparing to begin nursing school this fall.

A few months ago, the thought of nursing school was daunting — I wasn't sure what I needed to do or how to do it. Thankfully, Carolyn Pjecha, a 3rd year scholar in the nursing program, helped me navigate the process. Because of her knowledge, I learned that UMKC's nursing program offers direct admission with certain qualifications and that I met the criteria. I was also concerned about the fact that there are so many specialties in the nursing field, I wasn't sure what my interests were. Thanks to the Trustees' program, I met Karen Cox, the chief operating officer at Children's Mercy. Through Karen, I was able to shadow both the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and the Cardiac Unit. This experience made me excited about my future career and helped me decide to pursue pediatrics as a specialty.

The Trustees' program has really expanded my resources and opportunities and I will be forever grateful for this once in a lifetime opportunity. It was a big transition, and I surely accomplished a lot more than I could have ever imagined.



Senior Reflection

By: Bridget McSorley, Sponsor: Atterbury Family Foundation

It's hard to sum up the past four years of my life — there are so many memories and experiences that it would be impossible to do them all justice.

That said, my academic knowledge has grown immensely during my time at UMKC and there are a lot of lessons I'll take with me. I'm better at speaking French than I thought possible, I can write a research paper and analyze poetry.

In addition, there are many things I've experienced because I am a Trustees' scholar. The relationships that I've built with other scholars, the Trustees and everyone involved with the program, have been a huge part of my college career.

There is a duality to the Trustees' scholar program that is hard to explain. The first part is our education: the scholarship provides an accessibility to education that we would not have had otherwise. It allows us to grow to our full potential without fear of reaching too far. For that, I can't thank the Trustees enough.

The second portion is the community that comes with the scholarship. The enrichment sessions, the lunches, the casual gatherings — we learn and grow as a family throughout the four years.

It's impossible to separate the academic and community benefits the Trustees' program offers, and I would hate to try. As I graduate this May, I know my family isn't the only one cheering me on, I have an entire extended family at UMKC.



Trustees' Scholar Begins Lead2Feed Legacy

By: Jennifer Nguyen, 2nd year scholar, Sponsor: The UMKC Trustees



Katelyn McAlister, 2nd year scholar sponsored by Kansas City Southern, created a legacy in her hometown of Raytown, Missouri. During her senior year of high school at Raytown High, Katelyn founded the Raytown Lead2Feed chapter. Lead2Feed is a national organization that aims to promote food sustainability and combat food insecurity on a national level.

During the first year, Katelyn served as president of the chapter and oversaw pep rallies at 16 different schools within the district. As a result, the chapter raised more than \$10,000 and collected nearly 7,000 nonperishable items. The proceeds went to support the Raytown Emergency Assistance Program (REAP).

In March of this year, the mayor of Raytown signed a proclamation that deemed the third Saturday of March as an annual Raytown Day where businesses are encouraged to donate to Lead2Feed. This year saw the collection of an estimated 20,000 nonperishable items and around \$5,000 in cash donations.

In the future, Katelyn plans to use her experience in the nonprofit industry and business degree to create an alumni branch of the Lead2Feed Raytown chapter.



Donations from March 2018 Lead2Feed food drive with Raytown High School. Photo: REAP

Making Time for Extra-Curriculars

By: Carolyn Pjecha, 3rd year scholar, Sponsor: Woman's City Club of Kansas City

In a typical week, I have two 10-hour clinical days, three lectures and online classwork. It's really important to me to pursue interesting things outside of my career. A lot of my time belongs to UMKC, a lot belongs to my job and a lot belongs to my family, so I try to be very intentional with time that belongs to me. That's why my partner, Julian French, and I started the "Julian and Carolyn Salsa Project."

We aim to offer fun, engaging, and low-pressure beginner salsa classes. We teach social, nightclub-style salsa. Our goal is to help build the KC salsa community!

Our curriculum is four weeks long and starts at the beginning of each month. We also welcome drop-in students, but recommend taking the full month! We charge \$60 for a month of classes, or \$20 for a single class. Our Facebook page is "Julian and Carolyn Salsa Project" and our Instagram handle is @julianandcarolyn.



Alumni Scholars Return to Share Wisdom

By: Ben Rankin, 2nd year scholar, Sponsor: Barbara Hall Marshall

The UMKC Trustees' scholars program has an emphasis on alumni engagement, and scholars often find mentors among the graduates of the program. An alumni panel event on Monday, April 16 was a continuation of that tradition as current scholars were eager to spend an afternoon seeking advice from those who came before them.

When asked for professional development tips, the panelists emphasized the importance of networking. Azani Fitten, who graduated in 2017 with a communications studies degree, reflected on her own experiences networking as an introvert. "You will regret fear more than anything, don't let it dictate your decisions," Azani said, describing how she overcame her nervousness as an undergraduate.

Nathan Johnson, a 2011 graduate with degrees in Spanish and communication studies, spoke about the changing nature of the economy and what students can do to prepare themselves for it. "The work space is shifting," Nathan said, adding that "nearly every field demands entrepreneurship."

Though the panelists offered different advice, it was clear they shared a unique background in the Trustees' scholars program that had affected their readiness for life as young professionals. Azani said that her time in professional environments gave her an upper hand in the job application process, "Recruiters are looking for college students who are mature, who know how to interact in corporate environments."

Many of the panelists regretted not taking full advantage of the resources the program offered. Panelist Salvatore Scavuzzo, class of 2010, suggested, "Don't feel like you're bothering someone if you're approaching them and asking to meet." He explained that college students can benefit from the goodwill of professionals, if they are not afraid to ask.



Pictured, L to R: Salvatore Scavuzzo, '10, Sponsor: Alan Atterbury; Kelli Schmidt, '13, Sponsor: UMKC Trustees; Kathleen (Bruggemann) Jackson, '15, Sponsor: Alan Atterbury; Azani Fitten, '17; Sponsor: Sprint Foundation; Nathan Johnson, '11, Sponsor: Sprint Foundation

Early Acceptance

By: Jennifer Nguyen, 2nd year scholar, Sponsor: The UMKC Trustees



Allison Spunaugle, 3rd year scholar sponsored by anonymous, often wears a Missouri-shaped necklace engraved with the coordinates of her hometown, Warsaw. It serves as a daily reminder of her small town roots.

Although she's only a junior, Allison has been accepted into the Rural Track Pipeline program at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. Through that program, she'll receive specialized medical training tailored for students who plan to work in rural communities.

Allison says, "I'd be unfulfilled if I didn't give back to a community that played such a large role in shaping the person I am today."

2018 Graduating Seniors

By: Carolyn Pjecha, 3rd year scholar, Sponsor: Woman's City Club of Kansas City



Abigail Brown

Sponsor: The UMKC Trustees

Abigail will graduate in December 2018 with a degree in biology. During her time at UMKC, she was involved in the Honors College, the associated Advisory Board and was a tutor for math and science. Abigail was recognized as a Rising Roo by UMKC Mortar Board in 2016, was the recipient of the 2016 UMKC Social Justice Scholar Award, and was a Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps Member World Class Finalist in 2017. After graduation, Abigail plans to perform with Lexis World Winter Guard, work as an EMT and assist in pathology research. In May 2019, Abigail is joining the Peace Corps before pursuing medical school.



Douglas Croy

Sponsor: UMB

Douglas will graduate in December 2018 with a degree in business administration with an emphasis on entrepreneurship. On campus, Douglas was involved in Cru, the UMKC Honors College and UMKC Mortar Board. This summer, Douglas is one of five Bloch students chosen to participate in the Edwards A. Smith Leadership Intern Program through the Henry W. Bloch School of Management. After graduation, Douglas plans to live and work in Kansas City.



Kameron Fisher

Sponsor: J.B. Reynolds Foundation

Kameron will graduate in December 2018 with a degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. Kameron received several opportunities and recognitions during her UMKC career including two summer internships at Duke University Hospital. She was also chosen as a Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute Scholar and named a Rising Roo by UMKC Mortar Board. Kameron is hopeful her second summer interning at Duke will help her determine her next steps post-graduation. She plans to continue her education in the healthcare field.



Adam Holthus

Sponsor: Copaken Family Foundation

Adam graduates in May with a bachelor of arts degree in music education. During his UMKC career, Adam was involved in the American Choral Director's Association's Student Chapter, University Singers and the UMKC Gamer Roos. After graduation, Adam will perform for his fourth summer at Worlds of Fun in *Road Trip: Sounds of the City* at the Moulin Rouge Theater. In the fall, Adam plans to audition for cruise ship musical theater shows while substitute teaching in Kansas City.



Bridget McSorley

Sponsor: Atterbury Family Foundation

Bridget graduates in May with a degree in French languages and literature and a minor in business administration. During her time at UMKC, Bridget served as a Global Ambassador for the Study Abroad office. She studied abroad in Ireland and France, and also received the Sherman & Irene Dreiseszun Scholarship for International Studies from the Harry S. Truman Award Foundation. After graduation, Bridget plans to travel in Europe before returning to Kansas City to work in sales.



In April, the scholars gathered to celebrate the graduating seniors. Pictured from left: Bridget McSorley, Adam Holthus, Kameron Fisher, Abigail Brown and Ayesha Mahomed.

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, 95 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.

Special thanks
UMKC Strategic Marketing and Communications, Julie Bunge

For information about the Trustees' Scholars program, contact Amy Loughman at loughmana@umkc.edu

Spring 2018 Media Committee

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Bridget McSorley
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Jennifer Nguyen
(‘20)

Carolyn Pjecha
(‘19)

Ben Rankin
(‘20)

Spring activities



In March, the scholars attended a session on “Managing Your Impression” with Doranne Husdon, Executive in Residence at UMKC.



In March, scholars went to First Fridays in the Crossroads Arts District of Kansas City.



In February, scholars attended A Call for Backup, the KCMO Police Foundation Gala.