

Trustees' Scholar *NEWSLETTER*

University of Missouri–Kansas City

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Media Committee

Karah Chappel | Adam Larson | Caroline Moriarty | Jennifer Nguyen | Landon Volkmann



ALUMNUS CHANGES
CAREERS

SCHOLARS'
SUMMER PLANS

FAREWELL,
SENIORS!

Alumnus Changes Careers

By: Caroline Moriarty, 2nd year scholar, Sponsor: G. Kenneth & Ann Baum

During his last semester at UMKC in 2014, **Fabian Gonzalez** was living every college students' dream: he already had a job waiting for him after graduation. Even before he had his bachelor's degree in secondary education, Fabian was hired to teach science at Liberty North High School in Liberty, Mo.

He taught for two years and loved it; however, he realized that he was more interested in helping people emotionally rather than teaching the content outlined in the curriculum. He decided to change careers and work as a young adult pastor while enrolling in seminary coursework at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City.



This shift in careers was supported by experiences Fabian had at UMKC. First, he served as a Supplemental Instruction leader and the skills he gained in public speaking and organization help him daily in both teaching and preaching. Second, he was a member of a fraternity, which honed his networking skills. Finally, as a Trustees' scholar, Fabian credits the program with supporting his growth as an individual. He recounts how the bus tour of Kansas City's neighborhoods — including the West Side, 18th & Vine and east of Troost — expanded his perspective and introduced him to the work of local organizations like Operation Breakthrough, which assists families

"I have a passion to do work that is life-changing and community-changing."

in poverty by providing early childhood education, access to healthcare and basic necessities like food, clothing and household supplies. Fabian's advice to current scholars stems from the individual growth he had during the program — the

ability to adapt, which comes from knowing your emotional center and being able to find peace even in the most stressful situations.

Fabian has used his skills to adapt to find a new home: beginning July 1st, he will become a pastor of the Platte County campus of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church. When asked about his future, he said, "I have a passion to do work that is life-changing and community-changing and I'm not sure exactly what that'll look like. But I've learned how important it is to be present in the here and now, so in some ways, I trust that future Fabian will be prepared to handle what happens."

Looking Back on Freshman Year

By: Adam Larson, 1st year scholar, Sponsor: Atterbury Family Foundation



Freshman scholar **Ruby Rios** wasn't sure what to expect when starting at UMKC last fall to study computer science and business administration. She feared there wouldn't be enough opportunities to develop both herself and the university. Fortunately, she found a number of ways to get involved on and off campus. Ruby joined Women in STEM at the UMKC Women's Center, allowing her to volunteer and network with other women in STEM fields. Off campus, Ruby works with the KC STEM Alliance as a student worker. She helps develop curriculum, manages their website and works with the robotics team. Ruby also traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in a United Nations workshop for gender equality and to Texas for SXSW EDU. Ruby's favorite part of UMKC so far is her new "connection to the community" as a student.



Tim Nguyen is a biology major on the pre-dentistry track. Though the coursework presents many challenges, he's excited to continue his education at UMKC. Tim works as a Supplemental Instruction (SI) leader for Chemistry 211 students. It's rare for a freshman student to serve as an SI leader and it is a great opportunity to build relationships with professors and solidify knowledge through teaching. Tim is also a member of the Pre-Dental Society and currently serves as the organization's treasurer. His schedule keeps him busy but outside of class, work and studying, Tim enjoys participating in intramural sports and regularly puts in time at Swinney Recreation Center. This summer, Tim has been selected to participate in the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute.



Scholars attended a Kansas City neighborhood tour this spring. Pictured: back row l-r: Tim Nguyen, Orlando Quintana, Carlos Silva; front row l-r: Emily Wesley, Ruby Rios, Camila Aponte, Bayley Brooks, Caroline Moriarty, Kerrisa Myvett, Adam Larson, Karah Chappel, Camille Poulain.

Scholars' Summer Plans

By: Karah Chappel, 1st year scholar, Sponsor: Copaken Family Foundation



Jacob Furry, 2nd year scholar studying music education, will be studying abroad this summer in Denmark. Through the Danish Institute for Studying Abroad, he will spend six weeks in Copenhagen taking classes for teaching children with special needs and children in a multicultural context, as well as practicums in schools, community centers and childcare facilities throughout the city. Jacob chose this program because while the classes will not fulfill degree requirements, he will gain applicable knowledge about teaching in different educational systems that can be applied to his classes and work here. He is excited to travel to a country outside of typical study abroad destinations. Sponsor: Women's Committee—Conservatory of Music and Dance

Fun Fact: Denmark will have a day with 18 hours of sunlight while Jacob is visiting.



Katelyn McAlister, 3rd year scholar majoring in business administration, is traveling abroad for the first time this summer with the Bloch School of Business to London, England. During her time overseas, she'll be taking an International Business Management class and visiting government organizations, business firms and cultural sites with fellow UMKC students. Katelyn hopes to gain more knowledge of international work environments and see real-world application of her studies. She's also excited to step out of her comfort zone to travel across the pond and make new friends along the way. Sponsor: Kansas City Southern

Fun Fact: Ms. Doranne Hudson will be leading students on the trip.



Caroline Moriarty, 2nd year scholar studying political science, will travel to Amman, Jordan, to study abroad this summer. Through AMIDEAST, she'll study the Arabic language to complement classes she's taken on campus. Caroline looks forward to learning more about the culture and improving her language skills. At the beginning of the trip, she will visit Cairo, Egypt. Caroline was inspired to study abroad by her mentor, Mr. Joel Voran, who shared stories of his own traveling experiences and encouraged travel as a way to gain a more worldly perspective. Sponsor: G. Kenneth & Ann Baum

Fun Fact: Caroline will be studying two forms of the Arabic language: Modern Standard Arabic and the Jordanian dialect.

Girl Scout Scholar

By: Jennifer Nguyen, 3rd year scholar, Sponsor: UMKC Trustees

Karah Chappel, 1st year scholar

sponsored by Copaken Family Foundation, maintains the spirit of the Girl Scouts as a troop leader for Troop 6211 at the Ewing Marion Kauffman School. Karah's involvement in Girl Scouts began in kindergarten and she has earned Bronze, Silver and Gold awards as well as served as a council delegate member of the planning team for the Girl Scout National Convention and G.I.R.L. 2017 (G-TEAM).



"Girl Scouts absolutely changed the person that I am today. It gave me courage and strength to be myself, and taught me so many things that I could never have learned in school," said Karah.

Currently a lifetime adult member of the Girl Scouts, Karah sought involvement in the community to continue to impact young women in the same way she'd been supported and encouraged as a scout. In the past year, she mentored 15 girls between the ages of 11 and 13. Her troop met once a week and earned badges in Babysitting, First Aid, Girl Scout Traditions, Special Investigation, Nutrition, Mental Health and Internet Etiquette. Additionally, the troop sold 230 boxes of Girl Scout cookies and earned the Silver Award for planning more activities for the Ewing Marion Kauffman School clubs program.

"I am so proud of everything the girls have accomplished, not only in official Girl Scout achievements, but also in their new abilities to work as a team, understand bullying and talk about real problems with each other and me," Karah said.

Reflecting on the many lessons learned from her Girl Scout experience, Karah found self-confidence to be the most valuable skill. Moving forward, she hopes to continue her involvement

with the Girl Scouts and the local Kansas City community.

"I love being in an environment with female peers and so many amazing female role models who showed me that there was no limit to what I can do. As I learned skills, they affirmed my abilities and taught me that I am strong and capable," Karah said.



2019 Graduating Seniors

By: Jennifer Nguyen, 3rd year scholar, Sponsor: UMKC Trustees and
Landon Volkman, 3rd year scholar, Sponsor: Bill French



Ayesha Mahomed

Major: Elementary Education | Sponsor: UMKC Trustees

Ayesha is traveling to South Korea in July to teach English as a Second Language and gather insights into establishing bi-literacy/ dual-immersion programs. She was also chosen to be a literacy ambassador by The Literacy Crusade saying, "My ambassadorship lets me reach a greater audience, one that I hope to inspire to enact change in their own communities by supporting educational institutions."



Carolyn Pjecha

Major: Nursing | Sponsor: Woman's City Club of Kansas City

Carolyn plans to move to Chicago and begin her career as a labor and delivery nurse. Prior to graduation, she was an actor for the KC Improv Company and taught salsa classes with her dance partner Julian. The best advice she received was to always smile when encountering new people.



Ben Rankin

**Major: Political Science
Sponsor: Barbara Hall Marshall Advisory Fund**

Before graduating with honors and minors in business administration and economics in May, Ben served as president of the UMKC College Democrats and Financial Management Association. He was also inducted as a member of Pi Sigma Alpha. He plans to work in the legal field in Kansas City for a year and attend law school in 2020. The best advice he received was to create connections saying, "I learned how to network here and it has made a tremendous difference in my career."



Scholars spent a Saturday volunteering at the Great Plains ASPCA where they helped socialize the dogs and make treats.



Sarah Shin

Major: Biology | Sponsor: UMKC Trustees

In addition to a degree in Biology, Sarah graduated with minors in chemistry and mathematics. She served as a Supplemental Instruction leader and peer mentor and participated in the Mortar Board Honor Society. She won the Elks National Most Valuable Student Scholarship and the Cullen Trust Fellowship Travel Award. Sarah plans to spend her summer visiting family and traveling. She spent previous summers as an intern at the Kekc Graduate Institute, NYU and the Mayo Clinic. She will be attending the University of Texas–Houston in the fall to earn her M.D./Ph.D.



Allison Spunaugle

**Major: Biology, Biomedical Sciences
Sponsor: Anonymous**

In July, Allison will begin medical school at the University of Missouri–Columbia as a student in the Bryant Scholars Rural Track Program. “I hope to gain education and experience in serving underserved rural communities during medical school so that I can serve communities like the one in which I was raised,” Allison said. She graduated in May with honors and minors in chemistry and psychology and received the Dean of Students Honors Award.



Caroline Moriarty, 2nd year scholar sponsored by G. Kenneth & Ann Baum, represented UMKC at the Delegation of the European Union to the United States this spring. With the help of two classmates, Caroline prepared a proposal and presented it to a panel of judges that included diplomats and professors.



Megan Cross, Troy Lillebo, Morgan Adrales, Jennifer Nguyen, Emily Wesley, Camila Aponte and Tim Nguyen in costume as Kasey Kangaroo help during the AIDS walk.



Scholars during a tour and presentation at Burns & McDonnell. Scholar alumnus Douglas Croy ('18) spoke to the group about his position at the company.

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, 105 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