

# TRUSTEES' SCHOLAR NEWSLETTER

University of Missouri–Kansas City | Spring 2022

Scholars pose at the Liberty Memorial – one of the stops in their “Tour of Kansas City” professional enrichment session this past fall.



**Back row, left to right:** Tim Nguyen, Mouada Allan, Ethan Kauffman, Grace Yu, Maddie Kunz, Whitney Schweiger, Aubrey Brown, Maddy Bremer, Emma Taylor  
**Front row, left to right:** Izzy Daab, Lily Dang, Mary Gipson, Isabella del Cid, Z Kemp, Sydnee Flowers, Karen Griffin (tour guide)

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Media Committee

Aubrey Brown | Izzy Daab | Sydnee Flowers | Carlos Silva | Emma Taylor

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# Scholar Alumnus Feature: Sean Doran

By Aubrey Brown, second-year scholar  
Sponsor: Tom and Mary Bloch



**Sean Doran**, 2009 graduate of the School of Biological Sciences, is currently working as a gastroenterologist in private practice in the Kansas City area with Consultants in Gastroenterology. He received his D.O. degree from Kansas City University (previously Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences), where he met his wife. Both were able to complete their residencies in the KC area.

Sean practiced internal medicine through UMKC and stayed there after to do his GI fellowship. Once he completed his fellowship, Sean began to work for his current employer starting in August of 2020. Sean said that he is extremely happy with his job; it is regularly intellectually challenging and provides new experiences every day, keeping it fun and entertaining. He has been married to his wife for almost eight years and has two children, Olivia (3 years) and William (3 months).

## **“Take time to devote to your studies, but also use your resources to your utmost advantage”**

When asked for advice to current scholars, Sean says to make the most of your unique college experience as you can:

“College is an amazing time of growth, both intellectual and personal, but it flies by and will be over before you know it. Take time to devote to your studies, but also use your resources to your utmost advantage. Having the scholarship gives you avenues and connections that very few college students are afforded so don't be afraid to use them. This will only help you in your advancement and may even help establish a career. Try to be involved in extracurriculars and don't forget to take time to give back to the community that has given you so much. Enjoy the free time you have because those are memories you will never forget, and friendships will be made that will last forever. At the end of it all, don't forget to remember how blessed you are to be a part of such an amazing group of people at such an outstanding institution, and always try to bring UMKC with you wherever the future takes you.”

# Awards and Accolades

By Emma Taylor, first-year scholar  
Sponsor: Zimmer Family Foundation



**Karah Chappel** presented her second study, titled “Exploration of the Education and Experiences of Music Therapists in Trauma Care” at the Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship. This study is intended to elucidate how music therapists prepare to work in trauma care and make recommendations for possible changes to current music therapy education. Karah was also recently awarded the designation of Undergraduate Research Fellow. Fellows are deeply engaged in the processes of research, scholarly and artistic production.

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**Sydnee Flowers** was selected to be a presenter for UMKC ENACTUS, which is a diverse group of students committed to making the world a better place through entrepreneurial action. They have started several projects to meet community needs, such as food insecurity and food waste. At nationals, they had the opportunity to present these projects and the progress they made to a panel of judges, and Sydnee was one of the three presenters. Sydnee was also elected to be a cohort leader for Bloch Launchpad, which is a professional and leadership development organization.

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**Carlos Silva** was recently accepted into the University of Kansas School of Medicine. KU's School of Medicine is an extremely competitive program with an acceptance rate of only 14 percent. Carlos is planning to study sports medicine at KU following his graduation from UMKC.

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**Gavin Ott** is graduating summa cum laude from the Class of 2022. Gavin will be graduating as a business major with an emphasis in finance in May. Following his graduation, he will be continuing his work at NorthPoint Development as an Investment Analyst.



# Looking Back on Freshman Year

By Aubrey Brown, second-year scholar

Sponsor: Tom and Mary Bloch



**Emma Taylor**, business administration major with an emphasis in marketing and a minor in visual communications, says she had an amazing freshman year at UMKC. She kept herself busy making lots of new friends and participating in events around campus. Emma has become especially involved in a student organization called Cru – an interdenominational Christian organization. She hopes to pursue a leadership position next semester to see how she can help grow the organization. Regarding her classes, Emma says, “I’ve enjoyed getting to grow my knowledge of business and marketing throughout my first semester.” Above all, she is extremely thankful for the support she has received from the Trustees and UMKC staff.



**Ethan Kauffman**, music education major, says his freshman year has been really great. He has made friends and reports that he has “found [his] place on campus.” Ethan has become involved in Alpha Phi Omega and is the organization’s current service chair. He also participates and volunteers in Conservatory activities and hopes to take on more leadership positions in the future. Lastly, Ethan says he is very appreciative for the opportunities the Trustees have afforded him, and he can’t wait to see how he grows at UMKC.



**Z Kemp**, majoring in mechanical engineering with a minor in communication studies, reports having a great first year at UMKC. They have become involved with the student government body at the School of Computing and Engineering, become an ambassador and taken prospective students on tours of the new Plaster Center. Z has also been able to access networking opportunities, both with other students on campus and professionals in the Kansas City community. Z says, “I’ve been able to learn about myself so much and ... live authentically with people who truly support me. I couldn’t have asked for a better freshman year!”

# Scholars' Summer Plans

By Izzy Daab, third-year scholar  
Sponsor: UMKC Trustees



This summer, **Sydnee Flowers** will be starting an internship at NorthPoint Development as an investment analyst. Gavin Ott, a third-year Trustees' Scholar, works full-time at NorthPoint Development and helped Sydnee get connected. NorthPoint Development is a commercial real estate developer specializing in industrial and multi-family development and has been awarded Kansas City's best place to work for the last nine years. Sydnee will be doing a variety of tasks for the company. She begins her internship on June 1, and it will last until classes start next fall.

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To complete her training as a music therapist, **Karah Chappel** will start a six-month internship in July at an American Music Therapy Association-accredited site prior to taking the board certification exam. She will be shadowing and co-leading before eventually managing her own caseload of groups and individual sessions. Karah will be seeing clients diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, multiple personality disorder, depression and anxiety with a range of symptoms such as psychotic breaks, suicidal ideation and visual and auditory hallucinations. Many of the clients are indigent, which adds an additional layer of complexity due to trauma they may have sustained in addition to their diagnosis.





For **Lily Dang**, this summer will be a summer of travel and music. In Colorado, Lily will be spending time with her cousins and learning to successfully ski. In addition to ski school, Lily will be hiking and seeing Keshi, an alternative and indie artist, at Cervantes' Masterpiece Ballroom. Lily will also see Said the Sky at Oklahoma City's Farmers Market, Monsta in Fort Worth, Texas, and Big Time Rush at the Walmart Arkansas Music Pavilion. To top off her concert-filled summer, she will be attending two family reunions and a wedding in both Dallas and Houston, Texas.

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**Aubrey Brown** will be traveling around the world this summer. To begin, she will be staying in Mykonos and Santorini, Greece, for a total of nine days. This will be her first time ever traveling to Greece, and she will be embarking on this trip with a sorority sister. "It has been my dream to visit here ever since I was little," she said. On top of her big Greek trip, Aubrey will be spending four days with her pledge class in Cancun. This will be a wonderful opportunity for her to relax and bond with her sorority sisters. Additionally, her family is currently planning a trip to New York City, which is another big bucket-list item for Aubrey. She is most looking forward to seeing a show on Broadway, because she and her family thoroughly enjoy theater.





# Sleep in Heavenly Peace Service Project

By Sydnee Flowers, first-year scholar  
Sponsor: Scott Boswell/Commerce Bank



**The Scholars with staff from Sleep in Heavenly Peace posing with the 40 head and foot boards they assembled and stained.**

Every child deserves a comfortable place to rest. Having access to appropriate sleeping conditions is essential to their health. Nevertheless, many children are still forced to sleep on couches, blankets and the floor.

To help improve this global problem within our community, Trustees' Scholars gathered to build beds for children with unfavorable sleeping conditions. This community service project was made possible through NorthPoint Development's generous donation and Sleep in Heavenly Peace – a non-profit that builds, assembles and delivers bunk beds to those in need.

Grace Yu (second-year scholar) commented on the community service: "I'm always grateful for an opportunity to get involved and give back to the Kansas City community, especially through such a unique organization! I rarely break out my drill (okay, never), nor do I usually get the chance to build bunk beds. Sleep in Heavenly Peace really does work hard to serve and address a specific need often overlooked. I really support their cause to give a child a place to comfortably sleep at night and am happy that we got to be a part of it!"

The Sleep in Heavenly Peace staff noted the Scholars were extremely efficient. In fact, they set a new standard in the number of pieces assembled and stained in two hours. After the scholars finished building, the staff expressed their gratitude and offered to let the scholars tag along to deliver the beds. As the organization's tagline goes: "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!"

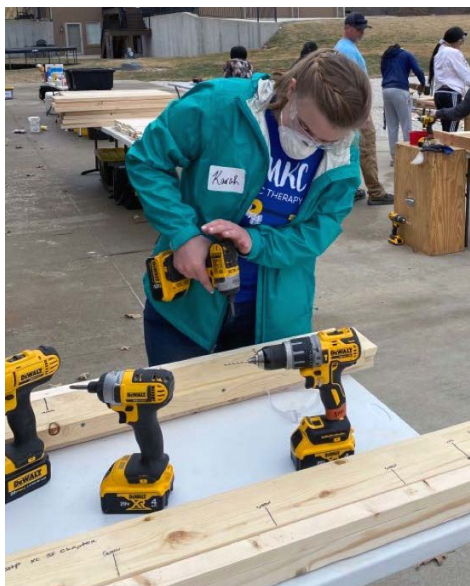




**Whitney Schweiger and Mouada Allan complete the first step of building bunk beds: sanding the wood.**



**Sydnee Flowers, Mary Gipson and Maddie Kunz staining the wood.**



**Karah Chappel uses a drill to begin constructing the bunk beds.**

# Graduating Scholar Spotlights

By Sydnee Flowers and Emma Taylor, first-year scholars  
Sponsors: Scott Boswell/Commerce Bank and Zimmer Family Foundation

**The following scholars will be celebrated at the Trustees' Scholars Graduate Reception on Friday, May 13, 2022 at Lathrop GPM.**



**Niki Joshi** anticipates attending graduate school and beginning her M.A. in history this coming fall. She is grateful to the Trustees' Scholar program for providing her with the opportunity to attend professional enrichment sessions and cultivate rich relationships with other scholars. She would also like to extend a special thanks to Rachel Merlo for being the greatest, kindest and most supportive mentor she could've wished for.

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**Gavin Ott** will continue working at NorthPoint Development as an investment analyst post-graduation. He thanks the Trustees' Scholar Program for giving him the opportunity to network with community leaders. Gavin is looking forward to staying involved, working and making meaningful connections within the Kansas City area.

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**Karah Chappel** will be completing a six-month internship at the University Health Acute Behavioral Care Unit prior to sitting for her board certification exam in January. Karah's goal is to help individuals who have experienced trauma related to the criminal justice system. Karah emphasizes that being a Trustees' Scholar has given her the opportunity and confidence to reach for her highest dreams.



**Tim Nguyen** will be attending UMKC's School of Dentistry following his graduation in May. Tim has stayed very active at UMKC during his senior year by becoming president of the Student Government Association along with his many other roles on campus. As his senior year comes to an end, he would like to thank the Trustees for all of the experiences and friendships that he has received over his time at UMKC.

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**Carlos Silva** will be attending the University of Kansas School of Medicine and studying sports medicine following his graduation. Carlos will always cherish the friendships and opportunities this program has granted him. He specifically spotlighted the memories of being able to talk with the Trustees and grow from their knowledge. Carlos would like to thank the Trustees for providing him with the resources to be able to focus solely on school without having to worry about the financial strain college can create and also for the guidance he has received.

## **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, over 100 Scholars have completed their undergraduate degrees at UMKC.**

For information about the Trustees' Scholars Program, contact Joe Constantino at [constantinoj@umkc.edu](mailto:constantinoj@umkc.edu)

