

# Trustees' Scholar *NEWSLETTER*

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Fall 2018

Media Committee

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



ALUMNA EXPANDS  
HER RESUME

SCHOLARS'  
SUMMER TRAVELS

MEET THE INCOMING  
FRESHMEN

# Trustees' Alumna Expands Resume

By: Jennifer Nguyen, 3<sup>rd</sup> year scholar, Sponsor: The UMKC Trustees

Ally Cunningham, class of 2009 Trustees' scholar, spends her days working on high-profile environmental cases that take her all over the U.S. "I couldn't ask for a better lawyer job," Ally says, "Every day is a new adventure."

During her time at UMKC, Ally received a bachelor's degree in American Studies and was part of the Honors Program. Following graduation, Ally attended law school at the University of Missouri-Columbia. After passing the bar exam, Ally started as an associate at Lathrop Gage in Kansas City. In 2019, she will begin the process of interviewing for partnership.

"I think one of the major tenets of the Trustees' program is to recruit and retain high-caliber students to study and then stay in Missouri, and hopefully, Kansas City. I like to think that I'm a prime example of that philosophy working perfectly," said Ally.

With opportunities presented through the Trustees' program, Ally was able to engage in networking with Lathrop Gage attorneys early in her career. She currently works with the Environmental and Toxic Torts Practice Group while assisting with class action defense and insurance recovery cases. Ally spends a majority of her time traveling for depositions, witness interviews, court hearings and court appearances.

Ally says spending a lot of time in the field is one of the major perks of environmental law. "I love getting to spend time one-on-one with clients and helping them work through their current challenges, and fortunately, Lathrop Gage has afforded me the opportunity to do just that."

Apart from practicing law, Ally recently started The Tricky Pig, an online boutique.

***"A huge thanks to the UMKC Board of Trustees for all that they did for me and continue to do for the Kansas City community."***

and continue to do for the Kansas City community to recruit and retain talented students in Missouri. They really are making a difference across our state and it's a model that I hope other universities will consider adopting as well."



Through this creative outlet, she is able to design her own materials and practice entrepreneurship. Moving forward, she hopes to continue expanding her business while balancing her work at Lathrop Gage.

Reflecting on her time as a Trustees' scholar, Ally says, "A huge thanks to the UMKC Board of Trustees for all that they did for me

# Lending a Hand in Houston

By: Landon Volkmann, 3<sup>rd</sup> year scholar, Sponsor: Bill French

Hurricane Harvey struck the American south more than a year ago, but the wreckage left in its wake persists to this day. Tim Nguyen, 1<sup>st</sup> year scholar, heard the south's cry for help and swiftly answered their call.

Through a small mission group out of Journey Church International, Tim spent a little over a week contributing to the reconstruction of homes in Humble, Texas, just outside of Houston. With so much work to be done, the group formed a plan. Tim explained, "It's like going to Disney World and saying, 'I'm going to four parks in a day' and feeling rushed and tired and not really doing any one part right." Tim said that focusing on one component of one house at a time made a world of difference in what they were able to accomplish.



Not all the support provided was through manual labor, Tim said that they also participated in block parties and soccer games with the families they were helping.



The mission trip provided Tim with an unexpected shift in perspective. "The world is not just where we live in Kansas City, Missouri," he said. He hopes this won't be his last mission trip and, if anything, hopes to dive deeper into this type of service work saying, "I learned the importance of being part of the community, not just someone in the community."

## Congratulations, Jacob!

**Jacob Furry, 2<sup>nd</sup> year scholar**

**Major: Music Education**

**Sponsor: Women's Committee—Conservatory of Music and Dance**

**Mentor: Mary Lou Turner**

Jacob has been awarded a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for study abroad. He'll be traveling to Denmark in the summer of 2019.



# A Summer with Scholars

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

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## **Morgan Adrales,**

3<sup>rd</sup> year scholar, was a software development intern at Bentley Systems, a global company that creates modeling software for infrastructure. She contributed by writing code for projects and databases and in turn received valuable experience both professionally and personally. Sponsor: Zimmer Family Foundation

## **Camila Aponte,**

2<sup>nd</sup> year scholar, was chosen for the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute's summer program. It immersed her in Kansas City healthcare and opened her eyes to community health issues facing minority groups. Camila took away a number of valuable skills, but learning to see discrimination against race and age as a challenge rather than a limiting factor and having compassion for individuals that come from different backgrounds will shape her perspective forever. Sponsor: The UMKC Trustees

## **Bayley Brooks,**

2<sup>nd</sup> year scholar, started interning with the Missouri Department of Transportation over the

summer and has continued her work this fall. Bayley visited bridge construction sites in Kansas City and worked with inspectors to ensure the projects were being done safely and in accordance with the plans. She recalls witnessing the bridge deck pour on the 291 bridge in Liberty, Missouri, and how fascinating it was to see the whole bridge come together. Sponsor: The UMKC Trustees

## **Caroline Moriarty,**

2<sup>nd</sup> year scholar, served as office intern for Senator John Thune in Washington, D.C., over the summer. She was able to attend briefings and committee hearings and acted as the first line of communication between constituents and the Senator. Caroline left D.C. with a broader understanding of how our government works and what a career in public service would look like. Sponsor: G. Kenneth & Ann Baum

## **Sarah Shin,**

4<sup>th</sup> year scholar, spent her summer on the east coast at the NYU School of Medicine where she

worked in an orthopedics lab as part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Program. Sarah conducted experiments with bone marrow stem cells, analyzed the leg bones of mice and heard seminars on fracture healing and regenerative medicine. She also attended the Leadership Alliance National Symposium where she presented her own research and met with students from other organizations. Sponsor: The UMKC Trustees

## **Helene Slinker,**

3<sup>rd</sup> year scholar, interned with McAnany, Van Cleave and Phillips, a regional law firm that handles workers' compensation, tort liability, employment law and public sector law. As a legal filing clerk, she gained experience navigating an office environment and assisted attorneys with preparing case files for court dockets. By seeing what attorneys do on a daily basis, Helene is more informed about the law profession as she considers attending law school after graduation. Sponsor: The UMKC Trustees



Camila Aponte, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left



Caroline Moriarty



Morgan Adrales, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left

## Congratulations, Douglas and Kameron!



### Douglas Croy

**Major:** Business Administration

**Sponsor:** UMB

**Mentor:** Ed Honesty

Douglas graduated on December 15 and has accepted a position in Kansas City as a business analyst at Burns & McDonnell.



### Kameron Fisher

**Major:** Biology

**Sponsor:** J.B. Reynolds Foundation

**Mentor:** Debby Ballard

Kameron graduated on December 15 and took a job at OU Physicians in Oklahoma City while she applies for physician assistant school.

# Incoming Freshmen

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By: Karah Chappel, 1<sup>st</sup> year scholar

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## Karah Chappel

**Major: Music Therapy | Hometown: Independence, OH**

Karah is a member of St. Paul's Outreach and the Association for Music Therapy Students. She also serves as secretary for Mock Trial and as a Girl Scout troop leader at the Kauffman School. Karah loves UMKC because her professors advocate for her education and well-being.



## Adam Larson

**Major: Business Administration | Hometown: Kansas City, MO**

Adam's emphasis is marketing. He's involved in Arts and Entrepreneurship through Enactus and works for the UMKC Athletics ticketing department as well as the Regnier Institute. Adam likes living on campus because everything is close together.



## Kerrisa Myvett

**Major: Nursing | Hometown: Liberty, MO**

Kerrisa is a member of the Cru Worship Team and works at Olive Garden. Kerrisa enjoys living on campus because it is easy to get involved. She loves UMKC because her professors challenge her, but also want her to succeed.



## Tim Nguyen

**Major: Biology | Hometown: Lee's Summit, MO**

Tim is on the pre-dentistry track. He's a member of intramural sports, GlobeMed, Pre-Dental Society and the School of Biological Sciences' student government. Tim likes living on campus because it allows him to grow relationships with other students on his floor.



## Camille Poulain

**Major: Secondary Education | Hometown: DeSoto, KS**

Camille plans to teach social studies. She is a member of the Feed Kansas City initiative of Enactus, the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, Cru Worship Team and the Kauffman School Mentorship Program. She currently works at Starbucks. Camille enjoys living on campus because she's close to her friends.



## Ruby Rios

**Major: Computer Science and Business Administration |  
Hometown: Kansas City, MO**

Ruby is involved in Enactus, the Society for Women Engineers, Women in Science and the Women's Center. She works in the Women in STEM department of the Kansas City STEM Alliance. Ruby's favorite part of UMKC is being connected to the Kansas City community.



## Carlos Silva

**Major: Biology | Hometown: Lenexa, KS**

Carlos is on the pre-dentistry track. He is participating in GlobeMed and Pre-Dental Society as well as playing intramural sports. Carlos likes that UMKC is an urban university that feels like a college town. He enjoys living on campus because of proximity to opportunities on and off campus.

# A Trip to Africa

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By: Emily Wesley, 2<sup>nd</sup> year scholar, Sponsor: The UMKC Trustees

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Over the summer, I worked in a small clinic in the village of Kyakuterekera in Uganda, Africa, with a team of interns from the UMKC organization, GlobeMed. While we certainly missed running water and added sugars, we were given the opportunity to contribute everything that we could with the \$6,000 we raised over the semester. With that money, we were able to bring a reliable source of power to the clinic and start a reusable pad project for women in the community. Our team of three interns helped provide health education to schools in the region and shadowed physicians at area clinics. Through the experience, I learned the value of our community and our partnership with this health clinic. Building a partnership with the clinic has enabled us to uncover the most effective means to aid them.



Emily Wesley, front row left

I cannot wait to see what the future holds for our partnership, and am thankful to have been afforded the opportunity to be a part of it. Coming home with these life-changing lessons from Uganda, I hope to empower my peers with a passion for serving others both here and abroad.



**Community service at Ronald McDonald House's Trunk or Treat.**



**Scholars at UMKC Conservatory's Jazz & BBQ benefit.**

## **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, 100 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.

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Special thanks  
UMKC Strategic Marketing and Communications, Julie Bunge

For information about the Trustees' Scholars program, contact Amy Loughman at [loughmana@umkc.edu](mailto:loughmana@umkc.edu)