



2020 Joint Annual Impact Report

SUPPORTING UA STUDENTS, FOR LIFE.





table of CONTENTS



02 Mission and Vision	14 2020 Gala Donors
04 Message from Board Chair	16 Volunteers
05 Message from Superintendent	18 Mission and Vision
06 Alumni Spotlight - Jada Glover	19 President's Message
08 Stats, Facts and Figures	20 Path to Success
09 Financial Report	22 Alumni Spotlight - Domini Johnson
10 Class of 2020 and College Report	24 At a Glance
12 Alumni Spotlight - JaVon Hill	26 Financial Report
	27 Summer Programs
	28 Alumni Spotlight - Larry Wells
	30 Career Acceleration Program
	32 Gratitude



Most of the photos found throughout this report are by Larry Eichner, UA Librarian and Historian.



The Mission

Through high expectations, University Academy prepares students to succeed in institutions of higher education, and to serve as positive role models and valuable members of the community.

The Vision

The vision of University Academy is to be the best K-12 charter public school in the country with an emphasis on college preparation, career development, community service and leadership.

UA originally opened in 2000 on the corner of 55th and Troost, serving grades 7-9. In 2005, the school was moved to its current campus at 6801 Holmes Road and began serving grades K-12. The first graduating class was the Class of 2004. Since 2004, 100% of UA graduates have been accepted to college. Over the years, UA has been fortunate to earn many accolades, but no school is perfect. We are proud of our past, but focused on our future as we look to continuously improve. We want to thank our founders, Shirley Bush Helzberg, Barnett Helzberg, Tom Bloch, and Lynne Brown, for setting a vision and making UA become a reality. We also want to thank all the students, parents and staff members over the years who have built this legacy.



UA BOARD MEMBERS*

Barnett C. Helzberg, Jr.
Bush Helzberg
Shirley Bush Helzberg
Nicole Jacobs Silvey
Laura Greenbaum
LeRay Warrior (Class of '04)
Katie Kwo Gerson, *Board Chair*
Tom Bloch, *President Emeritus*

*as of 12/2020

DEAR UNIVERSITY ACADEMY COMMUNITY,

It goes without saying the 2019-2020 school year has been like no other. The perseverance and fortitude of teachers, staff, parents, and students in the face of the unknown has been remarkable. Under extraordinary circumstances, with a clear mission guiding all work, you remained true to UA’s core values of educating our students at the highest level possible.

Through high expectations, University Academy prepares students to succeed in higher education institutions and serve as positive role models and valuable members of the community.

In that spirit, as we worked to pivot to virtual learning in March, there were many “firsts” at UA. We found a way to equip all students with technology for effective remote classroom access through generous donations and swift action of the administration. Teachers found new ways to instruct and collaborate. And, despite the pandemic, UA was able to offer a shortened version of Summer School in-person successfully, with all safety protocols in place. Although it was touch-and-go when shutdowns were imminent, everyone involved worked hard to give students some sense of normalcy over the summer. We were delighted the first-ever Graduation ceremony on the athletic field was a success to honor 50 Seniors from the class of 2020 and congratulate them on their next steps.

The Board also conducted its first virtual meeting in April and worked hard to keep the pace going as things were moving rapidly. The health and safety of the UA community was always at the forefront of our deliberations.

As the world focused on Racial Justice in response to the murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and many more, the Board was intent on passing a resolution condemning violence and racism in support and solidarity. We joined many other public schools in unanimously passing our own Resolution Condemning Violence and Racism in early June of 2020.

This year we added two new board members, Laura Greenbaum and LeRay Warrior ’04, and elected Nicole Jacobs-Silvey into a new position on the Board as Vice-Chair. We also said a fond farewell to David Dickey, who served for over 5 years. In the words of Bush Helzberg, “David has always demonstrated the highest level of integrity and commitment to the things he is involved in. When David joined the University Academy board, we had high expectations, and he has more than lived up to them. David and Erika have been extremely generous and have also connected the school with resources that made a number of extraordinary things possible.”

The Board was pleased to receive a clean audit report that once again confirmed best practices are being followed, ensuring an accurate financial picture of the organization. As such, we have been fortunate to have strong footing and proactive work happening on behalf of UA. Guiding and accessing funds through proper state and federal avenues to operate at capacity during this unprecedented time has been successful thanks to the hard work of Tony Kline, Tyler Kemp and the Board.

As we look back on 2019-2020 and the many challenges we faced, it is my belief that within those challenges, opportunities grew. A better normal is at our doorstep if we choose to let it enter.




 **KATIE KWO GERSON**
Chairman of the Board

DEAR UA FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND STUDENTS,

2020 will be a year that none of us will ever forget. As a community, we simultaneously experienced a pandemic, a social justice awakening, and a budget crisis. University Academy (UA), University Academy Foundation (UAF), our constituents and partners were all deeply affected. The challenges have been immense, but so has the collective response, and through it all I believe we will ultimately pull through this time of crisis stronger, more adept, and better positioned to meet the needs of our students and alumni.

Rather than listing out all of the challenges and impediments UA and UAF dealt with, I would prefer to take this opportunity to acknowledge incredible efforts and achievements. In a year where many organizations unfortunately had to close or reduce services, we never stopped trying to move forward and I am so proud of us for that.

First, I want to thank our teachers, administrators and support staff for flipping us into sector-leading virtual education in a matter of weeks. Your efforts are appreciated by parents, students, donors, and state leaders. I want to thank UA parents and students. Your dedication to education has been on full display throughout this most difficult year.

Our stories and experiences do not match what I’ve heard from so many other schools. You have made sacrifices on a daily basis to keep up with virtual schooling. I also want to acknowledge the efforts of the federal government and Kansas City Public Schools. The federal government came through with additional funding when it was needed, and KCPS stepped up to more justly share local revenues meant for public schools, including charters like UA. I also want to thank SchoolSmartKC, who helped UA launch a Pre-K partnership, supported our efforts for diversity, equity and inclusion training, and helped our new teacher induction support program. I want to thank all the organizations and individuals who helped us get through the spring by providing food, resources,

technology, supplies, and expertise. We could not have made it through without you. I want to thank the Kansas City Chiefs for being great partners in our joint “Kingdom United” program and offering inspiring experiences for our students and faculty.

On the UAF side, I want to thank all the employers of the Summer Internship Program who stepped up and provided career development opportunities for UA alumni. I want to thank the Kauffman Foundation for working with UAF to give students an opportunity to participate in the regional Real World Learning Initiative, which will fundamentally change the opportunities afforded to our students for years to come.

I thank the board of directors for both UA and UAF, who met the challenges of 2020 with steady hands and experience, balancing high expectations and circumstantial realities. Finally, I want to thank supporters. We were able to keep moving forward because of the extra help we received from you. We got help from foundations, alumni, community organizations, and individual donors and each and every dollar made a huge difference.

UA and UAF will move into 2021 stronger, more adaptable, and more resilient than ever.




TONY KLINE
Superintendent & Executive Director



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

JADA GLOVER

VA class of 2017

Creighton University

AREA OF STUDY

BA in Marketing
and Business Intelligence
and Analytics, December 2020

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Carrier Sales Specialist at
Shamrock Trading Corporation

Who or what at VA had the greatest impact on where you are today? Why?

Dr. Ukaoma made the greatest impact on me during my time at UA. He was always challenging me to be a better learner. The staff and faculty at UA are all really motivating and want what's best for every student.

How have you utilized the education you received (or the skills you learned) at VA?

I have utilized what I learned at UA by always accepting opportunities with an open mind, and being consistent in being adaptable.

How is your experience at VA impacting you now?

My experience at UA is impacting me now with reminders that although I am an undergraduate and am pursuing my career, there are still staff and faculty that are supporting me, reaching out, and ensuring that I have everything I need and it has meant so much to me.

What if you chose to attend a school other than VA? Do you think you would be in the same place?

I do not think I would be in the same place if I had not attended UA. I say this because UA, although challenging, set out to do exactly what it says it will do for its students—and that is prepare them. I felt well prepared for college, and even more well prepared as I graduated early with the help of Dual-Credit courses at UA.

How has the VA Foundation impacted you and/or where you are today?

UA Foundation has impacted where I am today by being able to support me financially and by providing the extra support outside of family. I have been so grateful to have attended college with their help. I have also been appreciative of Mrs. Moats who has always been an ear when I needed advice. Super appreciative of Sonja who has helped me stand out in my career, as well!

What are your goals for the future and who/what has shaped them?

My goals for the future now are working hard and becoming a leader in my career at Shamrock. This goal is shaped by UA as it is one of the major things I was able to take away during my time there.

What are you doing to stay connected to VA and your fellow alums?

To stay connected with UA and my fellow alums I reach out via social media, and am ensuring I connect with everyone on LinkedIn.

Anything else you'd like to share?

I LOVE YOU GUYS! I would like to extend great thanks to the donors who have made so many things possible for me! I have had a lot of experiences without the worry of my financial situation. The donors give me so much inspiration to give back to UA students when that time comes because I am fully aware of the difference that is being made in students' lives.

ACHIEVEMENTS

2019-2020



US News and World
Report Recognition
(2012-2020)



100% college
acceptance rate
for Class of 2020



Class of 2020
earned \$8.7 million
in scholarship offers



Named “Exceptional
Charter School for
Special Education”
(4th consecutive year)



Distributed more than 700
laptops to meet the needs
of virtual education



Provided 2,300 meals per
week to the community
during the pandemic



Launched new preschool,
in collaboration with
United Inner City Services



Awarded a Real World
Learning planning grant
from the Kauffman
Foundation



Multiple staff nominated/
won educator/coach
of year awards from
various organizations



Student Athlete
Accolades: 1 All-State,
15 All-District, 19 All-
Conference



Team Accolades:
2 Tournament
Championships,
1 District Championship



University Academy FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenues

Local	\$3,019,176
State	\$10,079,873
Federal	\$1,522,378
Total	\$14,621,507

Expenditures Per Student (ADA)

University Academy	\$12,747.94
KCPS	\$19,361.76
Missouri	\$16,201.44

Expenditures

Instruction	\$6,507,963
Student Services	\$879,664
Instructional Staff Support	\$214,788
Building Level Admin	\$1,020,448
Central Services	\$2,105,862
Operations of Plant	\$2,612,281
Transportation	\$776,845
Food Services	\$609,112
Community Services	\$105,580
Debt Service	\$16,640
Total	\$14,849,183

congratulations to the
CLASS OF 2020



Yhani MiShele Abbott, Metropolitan Community College
Ariyonna Tah'jai Baston, Fort Scott Community College
Tiffany Lili Benites, Johnson County Community College
Tessa Corinne Qian Yao Blythe, University of Missouri Columbia
My'Aun Andrenae Camille Boyd, Evangel University
Cameron Bui, Wichita State University
Daija Nae Butler, University of Missouri Kansas City
D'Anthony Allen Casey, Metropolitan Community College
Aniyah Lynette Clark, Metropolitan Community College
Paul G. Coleman, Metropolitan Community College
Malia Dace, Metropolitan Community College
Michael Eugene Daniel, KC Skilled Institute
Nasyah Simone Day, Metropolitan Community College
Allyssa Janiece Dixon, University of Missouri Kansas City
Jaevon Drummer, University of Central Missouri
Tyesha Farley, Avila University
Paulina Michelle Garcia, University of Missouri Kansas City
Khamrin Monet' Grimes, St Lukes College of Nursing
Jamesha Nichole Hawkins, Pittsburg State University
Ashya Ronise Hearron, University of Missouri Kansas City
London Demi' Grace Howard, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
Elijah Miguel Hudson-Moore, University of Missouri Columbia
Ariel Michelle Johnson, University of Missouri Kansas City
Jayden Je'Rell Johnson, Wichita State University
Kam'Ron Lee Johnson, Metropolitan Community College
Aliyah Claudine Mukarugowma Kwizera, University of Missouri Kansas City
Germani Lee, University of Nebraska Lincoln

Jordan LeGrair, Metropolitan Community College
Tamea Joy Levingston, Johnson County Community College
Grace Christian Marshall, Hutchinson Community College
Javen James McCay, Metropolitan Community College
Jasmin Olivia McDonald, Metropolitan Community College
Mia A. Ray, The Borough of Manhattan Community College
Kearra Andrelle Rentie, University of Missouri Kansas City
Lillian M. B. Scanlon, Rockhurst University
Wayne Demetrius C. Sellers, Metropolitan Community College
Faryn Marie Smith, Metropolitan Community College
Jalen Miles Smith, Jackson State University
Sebastian Giancarlo Smith, University of Nebraska Lincoln
Dalesean Lamar Tatum, Metropolitan Community College
Arthur Jamar Timley Jr., Metropolitan Community College
Damion Deshawn Tripp, Fontbonne University
Rayanna Michelle Tucker, Howard University
Makeba A. Vaughn, Metropolitan Community College
Ja'Nae Marie Weaver, Philander Smith College
Le'Onia Kate' White, Fisk University
Tyoni Sh'Vel Williams, Kansas State University
Amanda Rachelle Wolfe, Vorhees College
Yaszymyne Ymonni' Workcuff, University of Missouri Kansas City
Autumn Rae Wyatt, Allen Community College
Da'Marion Young, Wichita State University

Due to the pandemic, many students chose to stay local.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

JAVON HILL

VA class of 2014

University of Missouri -
Columbia

DEGREE

BS in Parks, Recreation
and Sports, 2014 - 2018

ADVANCED DEGREE

MA in Higher Education |
Administration - UMKC, 2020

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Academic Support Intern
at Villanova University

The overall experience at UA has had the greatest impact on where I am today. The military-like college atmosphere is something we didn't always appreciate when we were younger, but most of us now have given thanks to what effect it's had on our current lives. UA taught us how to be mentally strong, persist through all adversity, and most importantly how to DREAM BIG! Without UA, I probably would've been the average kid from the inner city who wanted to play professional sports. In comparison to other schools in the area, UA shined light on a multitude of areas that sparked interest in our minds. We were able to look at life and pinpoint exactly what it is we wanted to achieve!

As I continued to further my education after high school - I began to realize how much more prepared I was for college than my peers. Mentally and academically - my peers just struggled a lot more than myself. Things that may have been simple to me at the time were extremely challenging for those around me. With the college-like atmosphere, UA provided me the necessary tools needed to adjust and adapt to certain environments.

In May of 2020, I completed my degree from UMKC with my Masters of Arts in Higher Education Administration. I recently had the opportunity of moving to Pennsylvania and attaining a position as an intern with Villanova (University) Athletics in their Office of Academic Support (OAS). In this role I'll be responsible for helping advance the Freshman Mentoring Program, facilitating one-on-one meetings, implementing student-athlete workshops, creating creative-interactive content (newsletters, social media posts, etc.) and preparing reports on academic status for coaches.

The UA Foundation has greatly impacted me personally and educationally. Early on, the peer mentoring program helped me a ton. Being a first-generation college student (& graduate), I knew nothing about college outside of attaining an athletic scholarship. Miles Connor was a good role model for me as someone who looks like me, played sports, and also happened to graduate from the institution I attended my first two years (Central Methodist University).

University Academy laid the foundation for how I view education holistically. Basketball has played a major role in my life since I was young. With the slow recruitment process, I quickly had to accept and learn that sports (in general) won't last forever. Education is a major reason why I'm where I am today! My grassroots basketball coaches and mentors helped shape the way I process life now. After graduating from Mizzou in 2018, I had a ton of time to reflect on who "JaVon" is and what I actually want to do with my life. I also come from a strong, wealthy (mentally & close-knit) family. The push for me to achieve everything that's on my table has always been immense.

Since I've graduated, I haven't been as connected with UA as I would have like to have been. Now that I'm completely done furthering my education, I plan to pay back my respects in the form of mentorship. I extend my contact out to anyone who's looking for advice on continuing their education or simple life expertise in general. As for fellow alums, I keep up with my core friends from high school. We're all still pretty close and try to stay engaged outside our professional realms.

After completing my internship at Villanova, I plan to acquire a full-time position as an Academic Advisor/Counselor or Student-Athlete Development Coordinator. Outside of sports, I now have found my passion for mentoring and advising the youth. Being an individual of color, I believe it's my duty to show the youth that mirror myself a new profound outlook on life. For the cliché saying "African-American kids only have aspirations of entertainment and sports," I'm here to be one that helps alter that narrative in a positive way.

For the students that currently attend University Academy - take FULL advantage of the resources being provided to you. You may not see the effect of what you're receiving right now, tomorrow, or even a year later - but when you do, I promise it's one of the most refreshing reflections. You just think about all the hard work and adversity you've overcome. Do the small things and dream BIG - manifestation and fruition are real things!



CELEBRATING

20 Years of University Academy

WE'VE GONE PLATINUM!



UNIVERSITY ACADEMY
FOUNDATION

**Many Thanks
to Our
2020 Gala
Benefactors**

gifts as of June 30, 2020

Hall of Fame
\$25,000+

Mr. & Mrs. Barnett C. Helzberg, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Bush Helzberg

We've Gone Platinum!
\$20,000+

Ellen & Irv Robinson
Ewing Kauffman Foundation -
Cathy & Michael Schultz

Legend
\$10,000+

Mr. & Mrs. Barnett C. Helzberg, III
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wolff
Sherman Family Foundation
Patterson Family Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. G. Kenneth Baum
Mr. Ed Milbank
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Bloch

Harry Portman Charitable Trust
Dashini Jeyathurai & Byron
White/Google Giving Week

Icon
\$5,000+

Mr. & Mrs. Pete Lacy
Mrs. James T. Lacy
Sunflower Foundation
Ewing M. Kauffman
Foundation
Teresa & Tom Walsh
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Friedman
Ms. Ann Canfield &
Mr. Stanley J. Bushman
Ms. Sandra Baer &
Mr. Charles Helzberg
JE Dunn Construction Co.
Virginia B. McCoy

Headliner
\$3,000+

Michele & Jim Stowers
Maura & Brian Landers
Katie Kwo Gerson

Producer
\$2,000+

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Brown
Mr. & Mrs. William Reisler
Kristen & Don Trigg
Mr. & Mrs. John Goodman
Anne N. Hickok &
Phillip Charlton
Katie Kwo Gerson &
Jim Gerson
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Barnett
BCWM
Laura & James Threatt
Mr. & Mrs. John Valentine

Mr. & Mrs. Barry Cooper
Straub Construction
Liz & John Hjalmarson

Songwriter
\$1,000+

Mr. & Mrs. Herb Buchbinder
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Haverty
Linda & Paul DeBruce
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Atlas
Dr. & Mrs. Dan Durrie
Ann & Tom Isenberg
Jenny & John Isenberg
Lisa & Tony Kline
Linda & Bill Kornitzer
Richard Pearson
Donald J Hall, Jr
Renee Nades & Steve Eklund
Clayton Funk
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Powell
Hollis + Miller
Charles Hoffman

Entertainer
\$500+

Melinda Beal
Frederic Guinot
Christina & Ron Robson
William Dunn
Aaron March
John Pearson
Kit Smith & Michael Goss
Betty Scott

Tasha & Julian Zugazagoitia
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Johnson
Helix Architecture + Design
Thornton Tomasetti
Kay Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Zeldin
Jan-Marie & Brad Kroh
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Don Alexander
Andrew Segal
Shelly & Stacy Graff
Becky & Drew Loboda
Kirk & Shirley Goza
Atterbury Family Foundation
Kenneth Fligg
Swanson Bernard
Margaret & Thomas L. Hall
Irene Bettinger
Bonnie & Doug Pearson
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lazorow
Joyce & Mark Hrinia
Courtney & Andrew Bash
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Shapiro

Thank you to our in-kind donors!

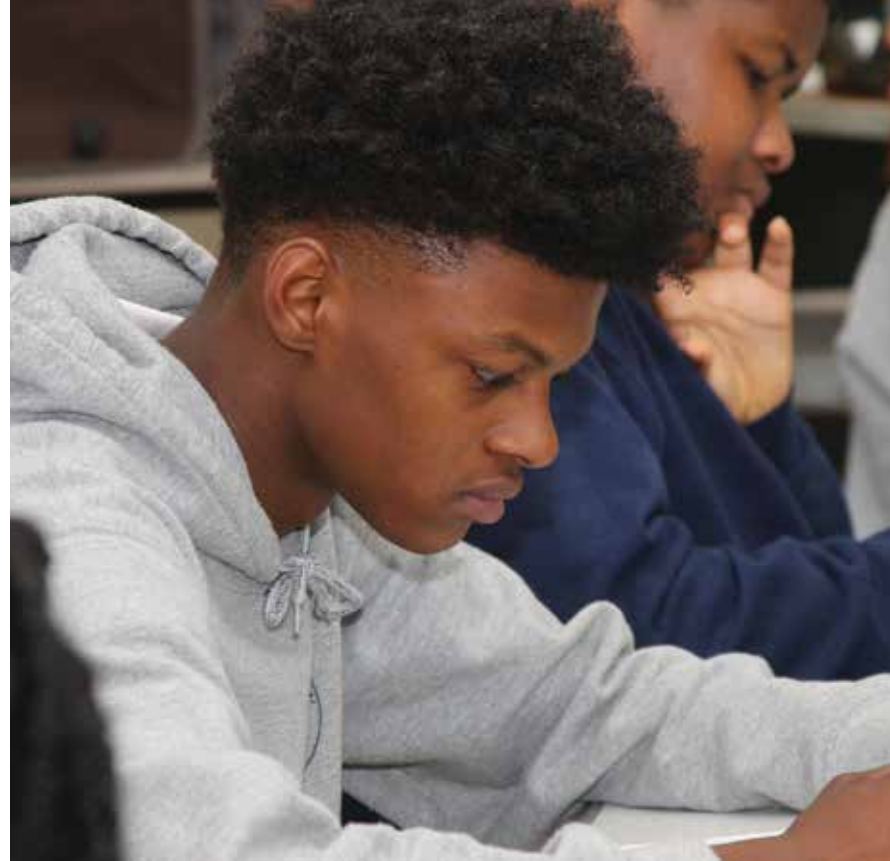
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Mos
The Roasterie
Helzberg Diamonds
Mr. & Mrs. David Dickey

Scenes from our first ever virtual gala!



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

- Barnett Helzberg, Co-Founder, and Irv Robinson, Past President, filmed at UA in Feb., 2020
- UA Board Chair, Katie Kwo Gerson, logged onto our virtual gala from her home office
- Katanna Clark, Class of '04



CHEERS TO VOLUNTEERS!

The following volunteers spent countless hours helping UA students and alumni in a variety of ways. We couldn't do it without you!

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| → Diane Arnell | → Bonnie Pearson |
| → Andrew Bash | → Matt Prusa |
| → Diana Brady | → Chris Purcell |
| → Myra Brown | → Christina Robson |
| → Marilyn Cohen | → Melynn Sight |
| → Alan Edelman | → Tekia Thompson |
| → Laura Johnson | → Margrit Wakefield |
| → Marlene Katz | → Ray Wakefield |
| → Suzi Kilbride | → Jim Wirtz |
| → Ed Lapin | |

beyond academics

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: UA Artists at KC Chalk and Walk Festival, UA Symphony musician, Brian Smith (UA Class of '12) inducted into the Gryphon's Athletic Hall of Fame, Michael Coleman (UA Class of '22) won the first conference wrestling title in UA history, UA's Middle and Upper School award-winning debate teams (the Talking Gryphons), Malon Lee (UA Class of '17) Track and Field athlete at UMKC (photo by Muna Lee), UA's Varsity Boys Basketball, 2019-20 District Champs, Ke'Ona Herron (UA Class of '17) provided custom art for UA's campus, UA's first ever soccer team



The mission of University Academy Foundation is to facilitate educational programs and opportunities that support college readiness, college completion, and career success for University Academy students and alumni.

The vision of University Academy Foundation is to empower University Academy students and alumni to reach their academic and professional aspirations by providing extraordinary life-long support.

UA FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

Jeremy Goff
Laura Greenbaum
Sonya Nutter
Kit Smith
Byron White (Class of '04)
Bush Helzberg, *President*
Mary Bloch, *Lifetime Honorary Board Member*
Vicki Reisler, *Lifetime Honorary Board Member*



Avionne Jones, UA Class of '17
Missouri State, Class of '21
Summer Intern, EdOps

DEAR STAKEHOLDERS,

For over 20 years University Academy has provided a college-preparatory education to students living within the boundaries of the Kansas City Missouri School District. And for over 10 years the University Academy Foundation (formerly Friends of UA) has funded and facilitated special educational opportunities and programs for UA students and alumni. In a year filled with unprecedented challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, UA and the UA Foundation, bolstered by extraordinary community support, have allowed our staff, students and alumni to continue to move forward.

The 2019-2020 year brought a lot of change. We changed our name to the University Academy Foundation to better reflect our purpose. We also moved our office. Our work is seamlessly aligned with University Academy with Superintendent Tony Kline now serving as Executive Director. Both UA and the UA Foundation nimbly responded to circumstances as they evolved throughout the year, adapting and doing whatever was necessary to deliver as much as possible for our students and community.

We were thrilled to be able to celebrate UA's class of 2020 in a socially distanced, outdoor graduation ceremony during the summer of 2020. This class of 50 students earned over \$8 million in college scholarship offers. And for the 9th year in a row, UA's Upper School was recognized as one of the best high schools in the country by U.S. News & World Report.

UA alumni have college completion rates that are in excess of five times the national average for students from lowest quartile income families. In their careers, UA alumni are contributing to society across industries including business, healthcare, engineering, technology, and the nonprofit sector. The continuously growing Career Acceleration Program, managed by the UA Foundation, supports our alumni's career aspirations with meaningful

internships with local companies of all sizes (both remote and in-person). Additionally, it provides career services including resume reviews and mock interviews to UA alumni who live all over the country. Exciting things are happening, despite the challenges of the current environment.

This is all possible because of the collective commitment and dedication of students, families, faculty, administration, community partners and our amazing community of supporters. Thank you for being there for us in this challenging time. We deeply appreciate your support.



Bush Helzberg
 **BUSH HELZBERG**
President

UA Foundation Provides SPECIAL PROGRAMS & OPPORTUNITIES

THAT LEAD TO COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

K-12 PROGRAMS



Summer Programs

- Experiment in International Living (EIL)
- Student Diplomacy Corps (SDC)
- National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)
- Summer College Campus Experiences
- Middle School Summer Camps
 - Sanborn Western Camps
 - Camp Birchwood/Birchwood Wilderness Camp
 - Camp Lincoln/Lake Hubert



- Dual Credit Courses
- ACT Prep Course
- Senior College Tours

college preparation



- Missouri Assessment Program Incentives
- National Honor Society Trip
- Advanced Studies Program
- Kansas City Symphony Partnership
- Kansas City Young Audiences Partnership
- Lower School Book Program
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Entrepreneurship Course
- MindDrive
- Brain POP
- Tablets for Classrooms
- Kansas City Chalk & Walk
- Meaningful Field Trips

unique student opportunities



- UA Wellness Center - Children's Mercy Clinic & UMKC Dental Clinic

Thanks to these special donors, the UA Wellness Center is offered to all UA students free of charge: Baptist-Trinity Lutheran Legacy Foundation, Arvin Gottlieb Charitable Foundation, Peter W. Brown, Barton J. Cohen, UMB Bank, n.a., trustees, Cathy and Mike Schultz, and an Anonymous Donor.

serving the whole child



ALUMNI SUCCESS PROGRAM

financial resources

UAF provides unique funding opportunities for UA alumni in college based upon GPA benchmarks and financial need. Removing financial barriers allows for more focus on academic goals.

- College Incentive Program (CIP)
- Top 15 Scholarship
- Scholarships for Alumni Success
- Education Emergency Fund

career acceleration program

UAF offers multiple opportunities for alumni to network, learn, explore and hone their skills leading to career success.

- Resume review
- Networking events
- Monthly newsletters
- Exclusive internship opportunities
- Training workshops
- Career exploration events

data tracking - enrollment & graduation rates

UA alums are completing their Bachelor's degree at more than 5x the rate of students in the same income quartile nationally. UAF continuously tracks the following:

- Contact Information
- College Graduation Information
- Career Information

social connection & leadership opportunities

UAF provides multiple services and opportunities for all UA alumni.

- Care Packages
- Special Alumni Events & Organizations
- Campus Visits
- Monthly Alumni Newsletter

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

DOMINI JOHNSON

VA class of 2019

Tulane University

working towards BS in
Neuroscience with a double
minor in Spanish and Psychology

EXPECTED GRADUATION: 2023



Who or what at VA had the greatest impact on where you are today? Why?

My teachers at UA have had the greatest impact on me. They pushed me, helped me, and made me more confident as a student. Because of them I am able to build strong connections with my professors and supervisors.

What if you chose to attend a school other than VA? Do you think you would be in the same place?

At one point my family wanted me to transfer to a bigger, public high school. I tell my family all the time that I believe that if I would have transferred I would not be as successful in my journey as I am today.

How has VA Foundation (formerly Friends of VA) impacted you and/or where you are today?

The UA Foundation has allowed me to experience many things that other students my age do not have the opportunity to. These experiences have made me a more well-rounded and experienced student, and will hopefully allow me to be ahead in my future endeavors.

What are your goals for the future and who/what has shaped them?

My career goal is to be a surgeon. I would like to study at one of the top medical schools in the country, and be able to be included in future innovations in medicine. Ever since I studied abroad in high school, I knew that medicine was the path that I needed to be on. My family, friends, and support

systems (including the UA Foundation) have always been there to keep me on track and help me create my goals.

What are you doing to stay connected to VA and your fellow alums?

Before COVID-19, I visited UA all the time when I was home. I usually speak to the junior seminar classes about what it's like to be in college, and help them narrow down what they are looking for. I also have been participating in the UA Foundation internships.

What would you like to say to the donors who give to VAF?

Thank you. These classes and experiences allowed me to be prepared for college and the real world. Dual credit courses gave me a taste of what it's like to be in college. Study abroad allowed me to see the world in different ways. CIP (College Incentive Program) allows me to feel motivated by the end of the semesters, and takes some of the financial burden off of being a college student. I cannot thank you all enough.

AT A GLANCE

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020



3.23

Average GPA of UA students persisting through college who participated in the College Incentive Program (CIP)



224

Number of unique College Incentive Program (CIP) rewards paid out to UA alums persisting through college



189

Care packages sent to UA alums in college at finals time



35

Number of UA alums in college who were visited on campus by a UAF staff member



71%

Combined enrollment/graduation rate for UA alumni from the classes of 2015-2019



500+

Number of alumni, students, parents and staff who attended UA's 20 Year Celebration Event in August 2019



204

Number of UA graduates who were enrolled in college during the 2019-2020 school year



23

Number of UA alums who received exclusive internships through the Career Acceleration Program (CAP)



\$238,560

The average amount awarded in scholarship dollars per student from the Class of 2020 who participated in summer study abroad programs (compared to non-participant average scholarship awards = \$88,035)



\$141,408

Amount given in College Incentive Program semester GPA awards to UA alumni persisting through college



21

Number of area businesses who participated in the Career Acceleration Program through internships, career workshop presentations and hosting business events for UA alums



UAF moved to their new, shared office space at 8080 Ward Parkway in December 2019. Many thanks to McHenry Shaffer Architecture for their excellent work!



VA Foundation FINANCIAL REPORT

K-12 Program Expenses

Summer Educational Opportunities	\$75,920
Special Program Opportunities	\$99,520
Total	\$175,440

Alumni Program Expenses

Alumni Success Program	\$173,031
Career Acceleration Program	\$31,136
College Incentive Program	\$141,408
Scholarships	\$162,034
Total	\$507,608

Operations

Fundraising	\$95,912
General & Administrative	\$123,867
Total	\$219,779



Che Williams, UA Class of '17
USC, Class of '21
Summer Intern, Tortoise Capital Advisors

Summer 2020

22 Upper School students received scholarships to study abroad in summer of 2020:

- 12 Experiment in International Living (EIL)
- 9 Student Diplomacy Corp (SDC)
- 1 National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)

While all programs canceled due to the pandemic, all 24 scholarship recipients were offered the opportunity to defer to summer 2021 and all opted to defer.

Additionally, 5 students participated in a 15-class series of virtual Master Classes hosted by SDC, learning about Japanese culture, Maori indigenous rights, the art of Spanish protest, meditation and more! SDC also hired Alexis Tolbert, an SDC/UA alumna to help run some of these classes. UA was very well represented!

Looking ahead to 2021

The 22 students who deferred to 2021 plan to participate in the following study abroad programs:

EIL

- **Argentina:** Community Service and the Great Outdoors
- **Costa Rica:** Biodiversity, Ecology and Sustainability
- **Ecuador:** The Galápagos Islands and the Andes
- **France:** Cultural Discovery
- **France:** French Language and Culture
- **Japan:** Japanimation - Anime and Manga
- **Japan:** Language and Culture
- **Spain:** Cultural Discovery
- **Spain:** Language and Culture
- **Thailand:** From Ancient Temples to Bangkok

- **The Netherlands:** LGBTQ+ Rights & Advocacy

SDC

- **Albania:** Where the Eagles Soar
- **France:** A Moveable Feast
- **Italy:** Between Heaven and Earth
- **Italy:** Slow Food. Rich Culture.
- **Japan:** Drums for Peace
- **Mexico:** On a Taco a Day
- **Morocco:** Songs for Peace
- **Spain:** Picasso Y Flamenco
- **Spain:** The Importance of Being Basque

NOLS

- **Wyoming:** Wilderness Horsepacking

Middle School Summer Sleep-Away Camp

15 Middle School students received scholarships to attend sleep-away camp in summer 2020:

- 2 Sanborn Western Camps, Colorado
- 7 Camp Birchwood/Birchwood Wilderness Camp, Minnesota
- 6 Camp Lincoln/Camp Lake Hubert, Minnesota

While all programs cancelled, all 15 students were given opportunity to defer their scholarship. Out of those 15, 11 deferred to 2021.

SUMMER PROGRAMS



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

LARRY WELLS

UA class of 2010

Avila University

AREA OF STUDY

BS in Kinesiology, May 2015

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Physical Therapy Aide (Children's Mercy Sports Medicine Center - Village West); PRN Supervisor/Family & Youth Specialist II (University of Kansas Health Systems)

Who or what at UA had the greatest impact on where you are today? Why?

Considering the greatest impacts I encountered at UA, I would highly consider my success to both individuals, Coach Damon Paul and Mr. Burdette. During his tenure, Coach Paul not only inspired the entire football team, but instilled the term "Gryphon Pride" into every individual that walked through University Academy. Through his coaching, he was able to demonstrate his teachings while demanding high levels of excellence from his players and our peers. In doing so, he assisted in changing the culture that you now see at UA. Coach Paul assisted me during some of the hardest times of my life and left an imprint on my life that will never be forgotten.

In my opinion, Mr. Burdette is one of the greatest teachers University Academy has had the pleasure of having in their building. I am not sure if he actually remembers this specific moment; however, setting aside time to spend with his family, he graciously put in after-hours to tutor his students allowing us to master our mathematical skills. After a few tutoring sessions, we were able to build a positive rapport with each other and he learned quickly of my love for the game of football. In doing so, he introduced me to Coach Paul and the rest of the coaching staff, which resulted in me not only taking more of his courses, but excelling in his classes, and having a great high school football career. My performance as a student-athlete assisted in gathering multiple collegiate football offers, allowing me to receive my Bachelors degree at Avila University. Even in college, Mr. Burdette was one of my main points of contact regarding assistance with mathematical courses, such as Physics I and II.

How have you utilized the education you received (or the skills you learned) at UA?

The education and skills I received and learned at UA are unmatched. The level of understanding from the education I received at UA helped shape my belief and inspiration into maximizing my potential and further follow my dreams of becoming a future Doctor of Physical Therapy. While at University Academy, a major highlight I can recount was specifically being chosen as one of several participants for 20/20 Leadership to represent our school, while learning networking skills, attending career workshops, building stronger communities, and the ability to showcase our lifelong leadership skills. Experiences such as 20/20 Leadership are not only once in a lifetime memories, but they help students prepare themselves beyond the classroom and well after graduation.

How is your experience at UA impacting you now?

My experiences at UA stand as a true blessing to my life. From the advanced coursework to the University Academy Foundation, I feel immensely indebted to fully use the gifts and tools I learned while at UA. In the Summer of 2013, with University Academy Foundation's partnership, I was given the opportunity to earn a competitive position as one of four Health Sciences Interns at Children's Mercy Hospital. During this system-based observational rotation throughout the hospital system, I was able to network with various health professionals. In doing so, I was able to build a strong rapport with many Physical and Occupational Therapists at Children's Mercy, landing my first full-time healthcare position as a Physical Therapy Aide the following year. With consistent action and hard work, I was able to later return and transfer over to Children's Mercy Sports Medicine Center working alongside our team of orthopedic surgeons, physical therapists, and other medical professionals in the 13,000-square-foot gymnasium consisting of state-of-the-art equipment to meet the needs of our athletes that need sports rehabilitation. Due to the gym also being used by Sporting Kansas City and U.S. Soccer, I am also able to network, engage, and learn manual therapeutic techniques from Sporting Kansas City's medical

team as well. I deeply feel that this entire process would have been much more difficult if I did not have the help I received from the University Academy Foundation.

What if you chose to attend a school other than UA? Do you think you would be in the same place?

If I chose to attend any school other than UA, I feel that I would not be in the same position that I am in right now. I believe the reputation that UA holds amongst the community is a sense of pride and admiration towards the school's strength of coursework, the importance of instilling successful habits into their students, and the lifelong impression that the UA Foundation program devotes towards assisting their alumni in achieving their goals.

How has the UA Foundation impacted you and/or where you are today?

The UA Foundation has impacted my life in several ways. The UA Foundation holds the reputation to stand out as a helping hand and assist their alumni in any way possible. Several of the amazing events that the UA Foundation offers include Monday Mixers, Resume Building Workshops, Alumni Career Workshops, Internship Opportunities, Monthly Newsletter Alumni Spotlights, hosting Mock Interviews, serving as a representative for the UA Gala, and etc. I was able to attend all of these listed events and appreciate the sense of care and personalism that our Alumni program has displayed over the years.

What are your goals for the future and who/what has shaped them?

My goal for the future is becoming a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), working with professional athletes to regain independent function and return back to their respective sport, and eventually owning my own Private Practice Physical Therapy/Sports Performance Training facility targeted towards athletes of all ages.

CAP HIGHLIGHTS

Career Acceleration Program

The UAF Summer Internship Program connects UA alumni currently enrolled in college with relevant summer internships.

SUMMER 2020 SUMMARY

Internships

- Obtained 27 internship opportunities through 16 business partnerships
- Filled 20 paid internships with 12 businesses

EXPECTATIONS OF EMPLOYERS

- Provide a full-time, paid (\$500/week), 8-week internship
- Provide a job description
- Ensure interns have a meaningful work experience with real assignments/projects
- Assign intern a direct supervisor willing to

participate in pre-internship workshop (and offer varied learning opportunities)

- Provide periodic feedback regarding performance to both the intern and UAF

EXPECTATIONS OF UA INTERNS

- Provide a polished resume and references
- Work full-time (40 hours/week) for 8 weeks
- Participate in UAF's pre-internship training program
- Demonstrate professionalism at all times
- Always arrive on time, work hard, ask questions and strive to make the most of the opportunity
- Provide end of internship feedback to employer/UAF
- Strive for an excellent professional reference



Thank you to all the companies who offered a summer internship to UA alums!



We'd like to thank the following businesses and individuals for participating in our FY20 career programs!

- BNIM
- Children's Mercy Hospital
- EdOps
- Fenaroli & Associates
- LEAD Bank
- The Kansas City Zoo
- Helzberg Diamonds
- MPact Physical Therapy
- Redemption Plus
- Rouse Law
- Seyferth, Blumenthal & Harris Law

- Tortoise Capital Advisors
- Black Healthcare Coalition
- Swope Health
- University Academy
- Connection Coach KC
- Indigo Wild
- Thornton Tomasetti
- Ruskin Manufacturing

END OF INTERNSHIP

EVENT JUDGES

- William Dowdell, Hire KC
- Katie Kwo Gerson, Chair, UA Board of Directors
- Andrew Blakemore, UA teacher

INTERN ORIENTATION & CAREER SUCCESS SERIES VOLUNTEERS

- Aaron Fulk, Lillian James Creative
- Tonya Guin, The Kauffman Foundation
- LeRay Warrior, Paychex
- Byron White (UA '04), Google, Inc.
- Phifer Turner, Google, Inc.
- Chandra Clark, Big Brothers Big Sisters of KC
- Alana Muller, Alana Muller Enterprises

- Jeron Ravin, Swope Health
- Tracie Ransom, Ransom Strategies Group
- Nicole Jacobs-Silvey, Connection Coach KC
- Tiffany Chow, Children's Mercy Hospital
- Angelique Foye-Fletcher, Children's Mercy Hospital
- Barnett Helzberg
- Joan Bubacz

attitudes of GRATITUDE



Many thanks to these special donors who have gone above and beyond for UA students and alumni. The following contributed \$500 or more in donations or in-kind services:

- Baptist-Trinity Lutheran Legacy Foundation
- Bloch Family Foundation
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Mark Bowland
- Daughters of the American Revolution - KC Chapter
- Robert Epsten
- Margaret and Marlin Fiola
- Laura Greenbaum
- Randall Greene
- Shirley and Barnett Helzberg
- Ann Slegman and Tom Isenberg
- Jenny and John Isenberg
- Kahn Family
- The Kauffman Foundation
- Kauffman Performing Arts Center
- Learning Resource
- McHenry Shaffer Architecture
- The Murphy Charitable Trust
- Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
- Dr. Ryan Powell
- Reisler Family
- SchoolSmartKC
- Cathy and Mike Schultz
- Melynn Sight
- UA Parents and Students
- UMKC
- University Academy Supporting Foundation
- Devin and Le'Ray Warrior
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wolff

The following donors stepped up during the early days of the pandemic in Spring 2020. They gave so generously, supporting us in a variety of ways during a very challenging time. Thank you, Gryphon Angels!

- Anonymous
- Anonymous II
- Bush & Jamie Helzberg
- Community Action Agency
- Erika Dickey
- Steve Eklund
- First Call
- Katie Kwo Gerson
- Kanbe's Markets
- Lucky International
- MO Department of Mental Health
- Murphy Charitable Trust
- SchoolSmartKC
- Sgt. Carter
- Laura Johnson Threatt
- United Inner City Services Pre-K
- Urban Prevention Coalition
- Webster House (Shirley Bush Helzberg)

Cornerstone Benefactors

- Mary and Tom Bloch
- Lynne and Peter Brown
- Ann K. Dickinson, in memory of Gary Dickinson
- J.E. Dunn Construction Company
- Hall Family Foundation
- Jamie and Bush Helzberg
- Jen and Bar Helzberg
- Shirley and Barnett Helzberg Foundation
- Julia Irene Kauffman Donor Advised Fund
- Lois and James* Lacy
- William T. Kemper Foundation, Commerce Bank Trustee
- Pryor Family

**of blessed memory*



formerly known as



Friends of UA changed their name to UA Foundation in order to make clear to the community and funders that UAF exists to support programs and opportunities for all UA students and alumni.



UNIVERSITY ACADEMY

6801 Holmes Road
Kansas City, MO 64131
816.412.5900

WWW.UNIVERSITYACADEMY.ORG



UNIVERSITY ACADEMY FOUNDATION

8080 Ward Parkway, Ste 201
Kansas City, MO 64114
816.412.9205

WWW.UAFOUNDATIONKC.ORG