



Honors students Kathryn Smith, Emily Wesley, and Carmen Zatezalo spent part of their summer in Uganda, volunteering at a health clinic as part of the GlobeMed program.

## Honors students serve patients and providers at Uganda health clinic

Honors College students participate in all kinds of amazing activities during summer breaks, but most of them do not go as far from home as Kathryn Smith, Emily Wesley and Carmen Zatezalo. The students spent June in Uganda as part of the GlobeMed program, a national network of 60 university-based chapters that sends student interns to affiliated health organizations in Africa, Asia and the Americas.

Working at a health clinic in the small remote village of Kyakuterekera, the students made presentations about personal hygiene, sexual reproductive health and family planning for school groups. They helped medical assistants and the clinic staff treat as many as 70 patients a day. And finally, they introduced the “Pad Project,” which supplied young women with feminine hygiene products to improve sanitation and enable the girls to avoid missing school.

All three students have career aspirations within the health-care industry. They found the clinic’s staff members to be particularly inspiring.

“Most of them had to leave their homes and give up their more comfortable way of life to come to the Kyakuterekera Health Center,” says Smith, a senior and double major in chemistry and psychology. “They made themselves available 24/7.”

Zatezalo, a biology major who is also pursuing a minor in chemistry, remembers putting up electric poles to help the clinic maintain its sustainable energy sources.

“The clinic has been working with solar electricity since it was built in 2008, and they were not able to use electricity as often during the rainy season,” she says. “We all felt overjoyed to know we played a major role in helping them achieving this goal.”

Wesley, also a biology major, found that connecting with actual patients and health-care providers was especially powerful.

“Building such an outstanding relationship with our partner has enabled us to uncover the most effective means to aid them in establishing an independent and sustainable clinic, bringing hope to a community that was once described as ‘hopeless.’ I cannot wait to see what the future holds for our partnership.”

Before the students went to Uganda, they raised money to help provide electricity at the clinic and for the Pad Project through events sponsored by the UMKC GlobeMed chapter, which has 20 active members.

“What is really cool about GlobeMed is that we don’t just send money or what we think our partner needs,” Smith says. “Our GlobeMed chapter is a partner with the clinic, so we can learn from the staff about how they want us to serve them.”

For more stories about Honors College students giving back around the world, visit [honors.umkc.edu/honors-college-news](https://honors.umkc.edu/honors-college-news).



# Honors graduates excel on both coasts as corporate attorneys

Honors College alumni embody the UMKC slogan: “The place for people going places.” Two great examples of this aspiration are Ariel Green and Madison Roberts, two Honors College graduates serving as attorneys on the east and west coasts.



**Ariel Green**  
*Los Angeles*

**Advice for Honors students:** “Think about what you like to do on a day-to-day basis and ask, ‘Am I good at those things?’ Pick a thing that you love doing and are good at and look at what your career options are.”

Green graduated from UMKC in 2010 with

bachelor’s degrees in philosophy, chemistry and biology. Green says she honed her critical thinking skills by getting to know Honors professors and working with them on research projects in challenging classes. She originally considered a career in medicine, but taking an Honors philosophy class opened her eyes to other possibilities. She is now a corporate litigator in Los Angeles with Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP.



**Madison Roberts**  
*New York City*

**Advice for Honors students:** “Think big and find professors and others to mentor you, support your dreams and help you achieve your goals in life.”

Roberts graduated with a degree in political science in 2013. She entered the Honors College because she believes in

surrounding yourself with people who are smarter than you are. Connecting with Honors alumni and getting their advice and support has been important to her career as well.

Today, Roberts is a corporate litigator in New York City with Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP. Her work focuses on providing regulatory advice to many of the largest banks in the United States and worldwide. As part of her job, she reads legislative proposals, tracks them through the Congressional process and provides guidance to clients on the impact of the legislative action or regulation.



Serena Baker, a 2018 Honors College graduate, hard at work in her new fashion-focused “makerspace.”



Baker with friends at the grand opening of BeeHouse, her fashion and photography space in the Crossroads.



Baker fleshed out her business ideas as part of her senior honors thesis.

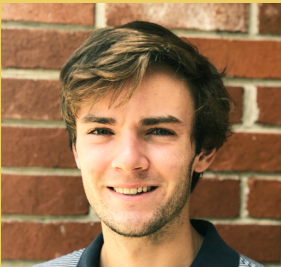
## Talbott Scholarships allow Honors students to thrive

The Linda H. and Thomas H. Talbott Scholarship is awarded annually to outstanding Honors College students of all majors to support their undergraduate studies. Congratulations to this year’s recipients, Katie Rice and Lachlan Moore.



**Katie Rice** is a sophomore studying chemistry who wants to pursue a career as a pharmacist. She is a member of the Pre-Pharmacy Society and Alpha Lambda Delta.

“Support comes in all shapes and sizes—a hug, words of assurance, or in my case, being selected as one of the Talbott Scholars,” Rice says. “Pursuing your dreams is no easy task, but the Talbott Scholarship makes the difficult journey a little easier. Being a recipient provides me with the tools, resources and motivation to continue at UMKC, with the hopes of going to pharmacy school next year. It has also shown me that no matter what kind of background you come from, there will always be someone who wants to support you and see you succeed, which is something that everyone needs!”



**Lachlan Moore** is a junior working on a bachelor’s degree in health sciences with the aim of attending medical school. He is an Honors College Ambassador, competes as a member of the UMKC track and field and cross-country teams, and is an officer for the Bachelor of Health Sciences Society. In July 2017, he participated in the Honors College Scotland Study Abroad Program.

“Earning the Talbott Scholarship was an incredible financial and emotional relief that will allow me to further engage in my studies, my community and the Honors College,” Moore says. “The support provided to students by the Honors College and donors like Dr. Talbott play a pivotal role in the success of the students.”

*Scholarships are vital to the success of our Honors College students. For more information on how to give, visit [honors.umkc.edu/how-to-give](https://honors.umkc.edu/how-to-give).*

## Alumna starts fashion business as part of honors thesis

Two months before Honors College alumna Serena Baker graduated in May 2018, she launched BeeHouse, a fashion “makerspace” in the Crossroads Arts District of Kansas City.

“BeeHouse provides resources for fashion designers and sewing hobbyists who need equipment and a place to work in Kansas City,” Baker says. “We also have a studio for photography and film.”

Baker says that her experience as the co-president of the Honors College Student Association (HCSA) helped her realize that she wanted to start her own business.

“Felix Amparano, the co-president of HCSA, and I decided to try to rejuvenate this organization in 2016. It was kind of like co-founding a small business venture, and I realized that I wanted to make a career out of startups.”

A chemistry major with a minor in entrepreneurship, Serena applied to E-Scholars, a program sponsored by the UMKC Henry W. Bloch School of Management that helps people in Kansas City start businesses. She knew she wanted to found a collaborative work space, but was not sure which market to target.

In July 2017, Serena had an epiphany while participating in the Honors College Scotland Study Abroad Program.

“I was Skyping with my sister in the United States, brainstorming ideas, and we realized that the fashion market could benefit from this kind of business,” she says.

Drawing on her six years of experience as a model and her knowledge of the burgeoning fashion industry in Kansas City, Baker pushed forward.

She told a business school classmate, Kris Mahan, about her idea, and they decided to work together. For the next year, Baker, with assistance from Mahan,

developed the BeeHouse business plan. In fact, she made it the basis of her senior honors thesis, a first in the history of the UMKC Honors College.

In June, Baker and Mahan hosted the grand opening of BeeHouse.

“The theme of our party was the 1940s because that was a time when Kansas City had a big garment industry, and I hope to be a part of continuing the revival of that industry,” Baker says. “We encouraged guests to wear vintage clothing, and one of the BeeHouse members made my dress. The DJ played swing jazz, and we danced.”

Baker says running BeeHouse is one of the biggest challenges that she ever has taken on, but the skills that she developed as an Honors student have prepared her for this challenge.

“I tried to take advantage of every opportunity that the Honors College presented, whether that was helping to plan the Honors College banquet for three years, traveling abroad or being pushed academically.”



# Honors students around the world

## Ireland

Honors College student Rhiannon Minster studied Irish history with eight other students in July during the Honors College Ireland Study Abroad Program, led by Diane Mutti Burke and John Herron. Traveling across the island nation by foot, train and bus, they explored castles and cathedrals, parks and pubs, shops and sheep.

"As we were gone for Independence Day, we decided to celebrate at one of our weekly movie nights," Minster reports. "Our professors found us hot dogs and 'American style' mustard, and then spent about two hours trying to cook them on a charcoal grill for us. It refused to get hot, began smoking, and was shut down by officials at the University College Cork, where we were staying. We had only been in Ireland for a few days at that point and it was nice to spend time together."

## South America

Honors College alumnus Drew Cox and senior Felix Amparano spent four weeks traveling in Colombia and Ecuador last summer. The highlight of the trip for Drew was standing on the equator near Quito, Ecuador.

"There are all kinds of unique things to do on the equator, like balancing an egg on a nail, which is almost impossible anywhere else in world," says Drew, who graduated with majors in biology, chemistry and Spanish in May and began medical school at Brown University in July. Felix, who will graduate in December and plans to attend medical school, traveled to Argentina in June for a study abroad program.

"I loved getting acquainted with the culture of each town and city we visited," Felix says. "Colombia, Ecuador and Argentina combined for an amazing summer I will never forget."



Rhiannon Minster and her peers while studying abroad in Ireland.



Honors students Drew Cox and Felix Amparano at the equator.

# Join Honors College students and faculty on a study abroad trip to China!

May 25 – June 8, 2019

Participants will travel to Beijing and Shanghai, where we will meet with top managers from a variety of multinational and Chinese organizations. Cultural excursions in Beijing will include a half-day visit to the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square and a full-day visit to the Great Wall. During the course we will compare and contrast doing business in China and the U.S. from economic, political and cultural perspectives.

Faculty leaders are Sidne Ward, associate professor of management information systems, and Jim McKusick, dean of the Honors College.

*For more information, visit [honors.umkc.edu/study-abroad](http://honors.umkc.edu/study-abroad).*