



# 2016

ONE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS



*Friends of*  
UNIVERSITY ACADEMY

# A look at our JOURNEY

University Academy was founded by Tom Bloch, Lynne Brown, and Shirley & Barnett Helzberg.

The student body makeup is 47 percent male and 53 percent female, and the total minority enrollment is 99 percent.

## 1999

UMKC sponsors UA's 5 year charter.

## 2000

UA opens doors to 218 students in grades 7-9.

## 2001

Second school year begins with grades 6-10.

## 2002

UA accredited by North Central Association (NCA) AdvanceED.

## 2004

Construction begins on new campus.

**UA graduates its first senior class.**

## 2005

UA moves into a new 172,000 sq. ft. facility and adds grades K-5.

UMKC sponsors a new 10 year charter.

## 2007

UA accredited by NCA AdvancED.

## VISION

*Friends of University Academy aspires to be the best K-12 school support organization in the country based on 6 year alumni college graduation rates.*



Recognized & featured by:

Newsweek



2009

**UA's board adopts current vision:** to be the best K-12 college-prep charter public school in the country with an emphasis on college prep, career development, and leadership.

2010

**Friends of University Academy, a separate 501(c)3, is established.**

2011

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) recognizes UA for meeting 14/14 of its performance standards.

2012-16

UA recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the nation's best public high schools.

2014

Class of 2014 earns a record \$2.8 million in scholarships.

2015

**Ranked 199th best high school in the U.S. in "Beating the Odds" category by Newsweek Magazine.**

Class of 2015 earns a record \$3.1 million in scholarships.

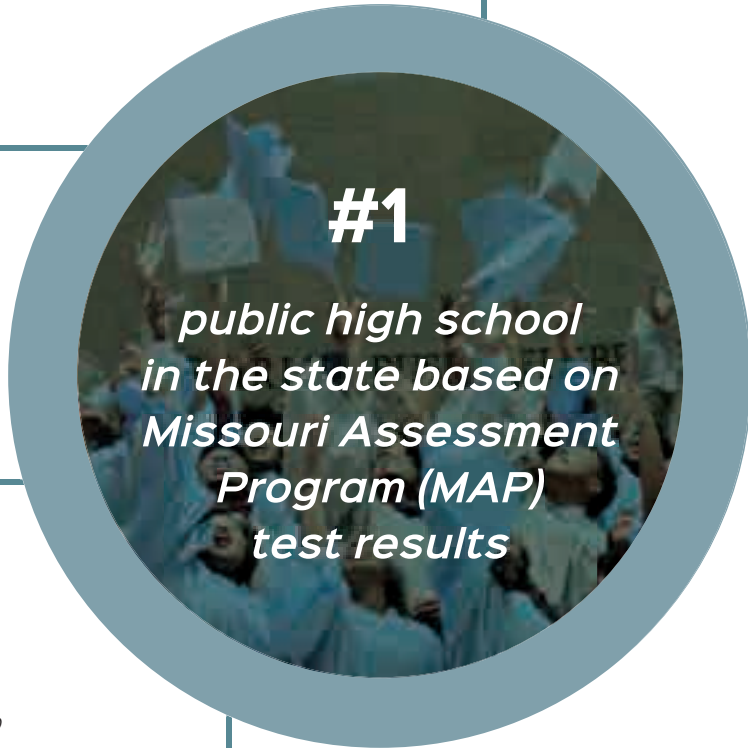
2016

**One for the history books...**

## MISSION

*Friends of University Academy facilitates unique educational opportunities and programs for University Academy students and alumni.*

# 2016 at a GLANCE



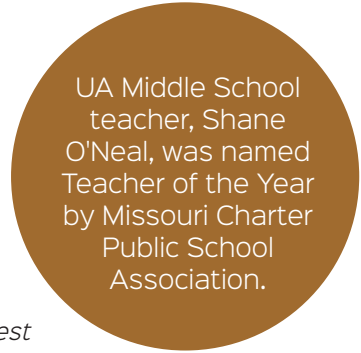
**100%**

*UA's score for its  
Annual Performance  
Report, tied for #1  
in the state*



**79%**

*A jump from  
47% in 2015,  
UA's Lower  
School MAP test  
results in math,  
English & science*



*UA Middle School  
teacher, Shane  
O'Neal, was named  
Teacher of the Year  
by Missouri Charter  
Public School  
Association.*



**100%**

*Percentage of  
the Class of 2016  
accepted to college*



**\$6.3 million**

*Record-breaking scholarship  
amount collectively earned by  
the Class of 2016's 38 students*



**53%**

*Accepted to  
TOP 150 institutions*

**2**

*Attending  
TOP 10 institutions*



**3.13**

*Average GPA\* of 227 UA alumni persisting through college*

\*Based on College Incentive Program data

*Dear Supporters,*

Thank you! Your support is having a dramatic impact on the lives of the 1000 students at University Academy, our 400+ alumni, and their families. Your support makes life-changing special programs and opportunities possible for University Academy students and alumni. Along with rigorous academics, these opportunities have made UA one of the best open admissions college-preparatory schools in the country.

The 2015-2016 year at University Academy was arguably the best in the history of the school. Based on State of Missouri test scores, University Academy's High School was ranked #1 out of 397 public high schools in Missouri. Additionally, University Academy received a 100% Annual Performance Report (APR) score from the State of Missouri. University Academy's High School was also recognized for excellence by U.S. News & World Report for the fifth year in a row. Finally, The National Title I Association named University Academy a National Title I Distinguished School, an honor that is given to only two schools in each state.

In addition to supporting special programs and opportunities for UA students, Friends of UA operates an innovative and one-of-a-kind Alumni Success Program which helps our alumni through college and into their careers. UA's rigorous college-preparatory academics combined with special opportunities and the Alumni Success Program is making a huge difference. Measured six years after high school graduation, University Academy alumni have earned bachelor's degrees at more than five times the rate of our nation's lowest income students.

The work Friends of UA and University Academy are doing is incredibly important, not just for our students and alumni, but also for Kansas City. Together we are proving what is possible and creating a competitive educational landscape in Kansas City where students and the community are winners.

Thank you for helping us make history! We deeply appreciate your support.

**Bush Helzberg**  
President

## BOARDS OF DIRECTORS



Bush Helzberg, *President*

Sonya Nutter

Kit Smith

Byron White (*UA Class of '04*)

Mindy Wilson

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### *Lifetime Honorary Board Members*

Mary Bloch

Vicki Reisler



David Dickey

E. Bernard Franklin, Ph.D.

Barnett C. Helzberg, Jr.

Bush Helzberg, *Chairman*

Shirley Bush Helzberg

Nicole Jacobs-Silvey

Christine Kemper

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Tom Bloch, *President Emeritus*

## K-12 PROGRAMS

UA Wellness Center/Children's Mercy Clinic  
 UMKC Dental Clinic  
 ACT Prep/Tests  
 Dual Credit Classes  
 National Honor Society Trip  
 Senior College Trip  
 KC Symphony Program  
 Kansas City Young Audiences  
 Advanced Studies Program  
 Lower School Book Program  
 Minddrive  
 College Visit Field Trips  
 Exchange City  
 Kansas City Chalk & Walk Festival  
 National Junior Honor Society Trip  
 Hygiene Kits  
 Sports in American Culture Unit  
 Study Abroad Program  
 Wilderness Summer Program  
 Field Day  
 Students in Transition Fund  
 Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) Incentives



**\$25,000**  
 amount awarded  
 to students for  
 MAP Incentives  
 through Friends  
 of UA.





# Working PARTNERSHIPS

06

**18%**

of kindergarten students exited reading 2 grade levels ahead\*

*\*Based on the F&P Reading Assessment*

## Lower School Book Program



**1,226 books**

*Provided at no charge to lower school students' home libraries*



**1.62 years**

*Average reading growth for Kindergarten students & 1st graders in 2015-16*

## UA Wellness Center Operated by Children's Mercy

Many thanks to the Baptist-Trinity Lutheran Legacy Foundation, Arvin Gottlieb Charitable Foundation, and Jewish Community Foundation-Sam & Lucy Gould Fund, as well as an anonymous donor, for funding the UA Wellness Center.

In July 2016, The UA Wellness Center received approval from Children's Mercy Hospital for a Quality Improvement project titled "Telehealth at a School Based Health Center."

This new technology allows parents to participate in visits at the UA Wellness Center via video conferencing in an effort to improve communication with parents and increase parent satisfaction.



# STUDY ABROAD & WILDERNESS SUMMER PROGRAMS

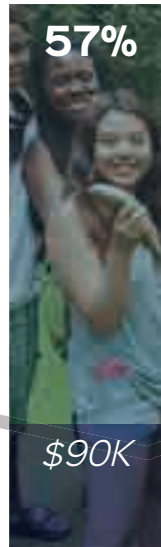
Friends of UA provides inspiring outdoor and study abroad experiences that make a difference. Students build social capital with life-changing impact, and college graduation rates are significantly higher for participants in the programs than non-participants.

## Impact on Graduation & Scholarships

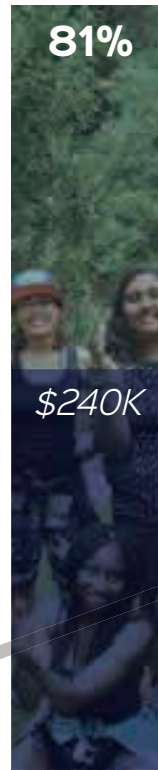
68% of students from the 2002-2010 classes, who participated in summer study abroad programs while in high school have since graduated from – or are currently enrolled in – college compared to 48% of non-program participants.

Additionally, participants from the Class of 2016 received 2.7 times more dollars in scholarships than non-program participants.

Key	
	College graduation & enrollment rates, Classes of 2011-2015.
	Avg. scholarship dollars awarded per student, Class of 2016.



Non-Participants



Participants

71%

Summer Program participation rates tripled from 14% in the Classes of 2004-10, to 44% in the Class of 2016. More impressive are the numbers from this year's Class of 2017, with a 71% participation rate, the highest since the program began.



*“SDC taught me the value of learning about people and cultures different from me. I learned to listen to other people and seek other perspectives.”*

- Alexis Tolbert, Class of 2016  
SDC '14, NOLS '15  
Carlton College



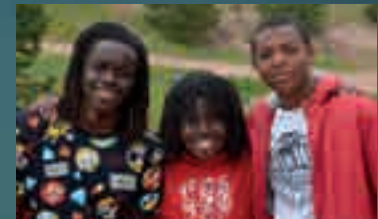
National Outdoor Leadership School



Experiment in International Living



Middle School Camps



*“Tess and I both learned we were capable of being apart from each other for 4 weeks. Before she heads off to college, this was an experience we both needed. Thank you for the wonderful opportunity you provided my daughter by sending her to Camp Lake Hubert.”*

- Dawonna Blythe, mother of Tess Blythe,  
UA Class of 2020

## ALUMNI PROGRAMS

### Alumni Success Program

- Dedicated Staff
- Summer Bridge Programs
- Alumni Mentoring Program
- Care Packages
- Winter Reunion
- Campus Visits
- Other Alumni events

### Career Acceleration

- Summer Internship Support
- Graduate School Prep & Testing

### Scholarships

- College Incentive Program (CIP)
- Top 15 College Scholarship

*Pictured: UA high school students stuff care packages for UA alums in college.*

*We work to create  
**opportunities for students**  
past and present...*

*and bear witness to the  
**undeniable impact**  
in the lives of our alumni...*





**Patrick Corley**  
Class of 2009

With a lot of **encouragement and guidance** from David Rucker at Friends of UA, I landed a spot in Northwestern University's MFA program for Writing for Stage & Screen.

Through school I've now done three wonderful internships in Hollywood and met some really cool people.

**\$142,615**

Total amount of 227 College Incentive Program (CIP) rewards



**D'Angela Sims**  
Class of 2009

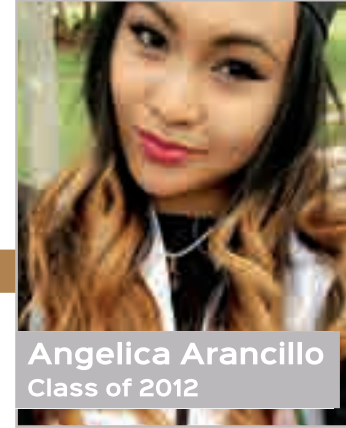
During college, I was offered an internship at St. Luke's Medical Center by applying through the **Career Acceleration Program** offered by Friends of UA.

The experience gave me in-depth exposure and encouraged me to look for career opportunities in healthcare.

I'm proud to say I accepted a job offer with Cerner Corporation as an application services consultant.

**5**

summer internships completed



**Angelica Arancillo**  
Class of 2012

The incentive program motivated me to strive to succeed academically.

Whenever I received **care packages or incentives**, my college friends got jealous that I was still getting support from my high school.

**179**

care packages sent to alums persisting through college

At UA, I learned to take the risks necessary to benefit from the resources and opportunities available. By doing so, I was able to earn my position at PwC straight out of college.



# Alumni SPOTLIGHTS

## Jackie Crawford

### UA CLASS OF 2012

Creighton University, 2012-2016

Pursuing a Masters of Social Work, Barry University

As a first-generation and low-income student, I had no idea how I would make it to and through college. Many of the University Academy faculty and teachers were very helpful in encouraging me to do my best work in school and inspired me to further my education. In May, I earned my B.A. in Medical Anthropology with a double minor in Sociology and Criminal Justice Policy. I currently work as an office staff assistant and tutor coordinator for the Creighton University TRIO Upward Bound Programs, and I am a Behavioral Health Specialist Intern for the Children's Respite Care Center (CRCC) in Omaha, Nebraska. Following graduation and through the summer, I continued as a full-time behavioral health specialist for CRCC.

**UA always taught me to be a leader**, whether in class or in the community, and I have carried that with me throughout my undergrad experience. I served as the treasurer and president of the Creighton University African American Student Association, the parliamentarian and president of the Association of Multicultural Greek Organization, and the student representative of the Black Studies Department. I was initiated in Delta Sigma Theta in April 2013 where I served as the treasurer, vice-president, and the current president of the Omaha chapter. Because of my collegiate involvement, I was the recipient of the 2016 Rev. N. Thomas Schloemer, S.J. Outstanding Leadership Award and Creighton University's Office of Multicultural Affairs Volunteer of the Year award.

This fall, I began my Masters of Social Work at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida. My ultimate goal is to be a federal probations officer while establishing a rehabilitation and second chance foundation for felons re-entering society after incarceration.



# Terrence Ross

## UA CLASS OF 2010

Grand View University, 2010-2014  
Youth Service Worker at Juvenile Detention Center



Congratulations to Alexis Tolbert and Jazmyne Smith (left to right) who were admitted to Top 10 colleges. Alexis is attending Carleton College and Jazmyne attends University of Pennsylvania as UA's first Ivy-Leaguer.

I attended Grand View University where I earned a B.A. in Criminal Justice and Sociology with a minor in Psychology. Currently, I work full time at Polk County Juvenile Detention Center where I serve as a youth service worker. I really enjoy the career path I have chosen. My goal in my career is to implement change, engage, inspire, and encourage delinquent youth. I want them to build a better future for themselves and their families by understanding the positive alternatives to choose over the negative choices that have derailed their past plans and brought them pain and disappointment.

*“It takes hard work, preparation, and consistency to be successful.”*

Looking back at my time spent at UA, I cannot express how fortunate I was to attend such a tremendous institution. UA's mission of preparing students to succeed in higher education and to become leaders in society was very beneficial for me. It taught me that it takes hard work, preparation, and consistency to be successful. Anyone can be successful once you set your mind to it, but it's the little things you do to separate yourself from the rest that make you a leader. I cannot imagine attending any other school than UA because there were so many resources and teachers available to help me pursue all of my goals.

After graduating from UA, the **alumni program helped me attain an internship** at Kansas City Crime Commission. That internship helped me bridge the gap in contemplating what I wanted to do for my career. My goal for the future is to make a lasting impact on a larger percentage of the kids I work with. One thing UA taught me is to never give up on my dreams, no matter the circumstances. I also learned to stay persistent and persevere through any and every obstacle I may face, because anything is achievable if I set my mind to it.



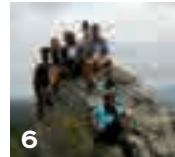
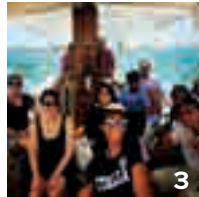
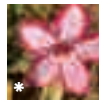
# This year's SNAPSHOTS

\*Landscape photos taken and provided by UA Upper School students on their travels around the world.



(1, 2)

Nineteen Middle School students had the opportunity to participate in sleep-away camps such as Camp Lincoln/Lake Hubert, Camp Birchwood, and Sanborn Western Camps.



(3,4,5,6)

Twenty-two students from UA's Upper School participated in summer programs located in 13 different countries.

71% of the Class of 2017 studied abroad in high school. (According to World Learning, the national average for college study abroad participation is just 1%.)



(7,8)

UA and Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy students were highlighted on KCUR's Up to Date where they were interviewed about their Civil Rights Tour of the South.



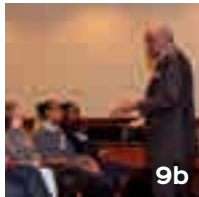


*“The most lasting effect reported by our students was discovering their common humanity.”*

Dr. Uakoma, UA Upper School Principal, commenting on the National Honor Society students' Civil Rights Tour of the South.

(9a, 9b)

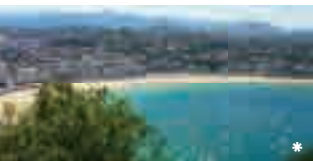
UA's National Honor Society students from the Upper School embarked on an adventure with their peers at Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy on the first joint Civil Rights Tour,



9b



9a



\*



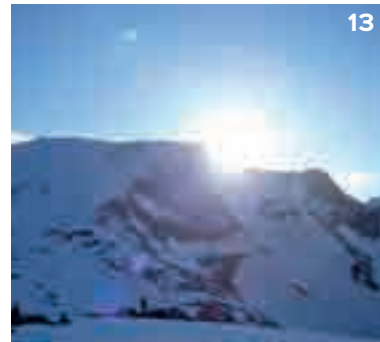
10



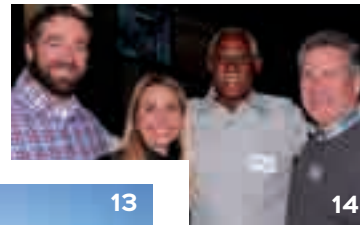
11



12



13



14

(12,13,14,15)

Friends of UA hosted a community event and private screening of the award winning film "An American Ascent." Special guests included producers, filmmakers & climbers from the film which featured the first all-black group of climbers to attempt to summit Mt. Denali.



15



16

(16)

Construction of the new, state of the art athletic facility will be completed in early 2017 on UA's campus. UA will be the only public school in the Kansas City area with its own turf football field.

(10,11)

Each K-5 student got to pick out a book to take to their home libraries at the "Groovy Book Fair" funded by Friends of UA.



\*

# Building the FUTURE

## Financial Highlights

### K-12 Program Expenses

Summer Educational Opportunities.....	\$223,380.33
Special Programs & Opportunities.....	\$101,712.67
<b>Total K-12 Program Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$325,093.00</b>

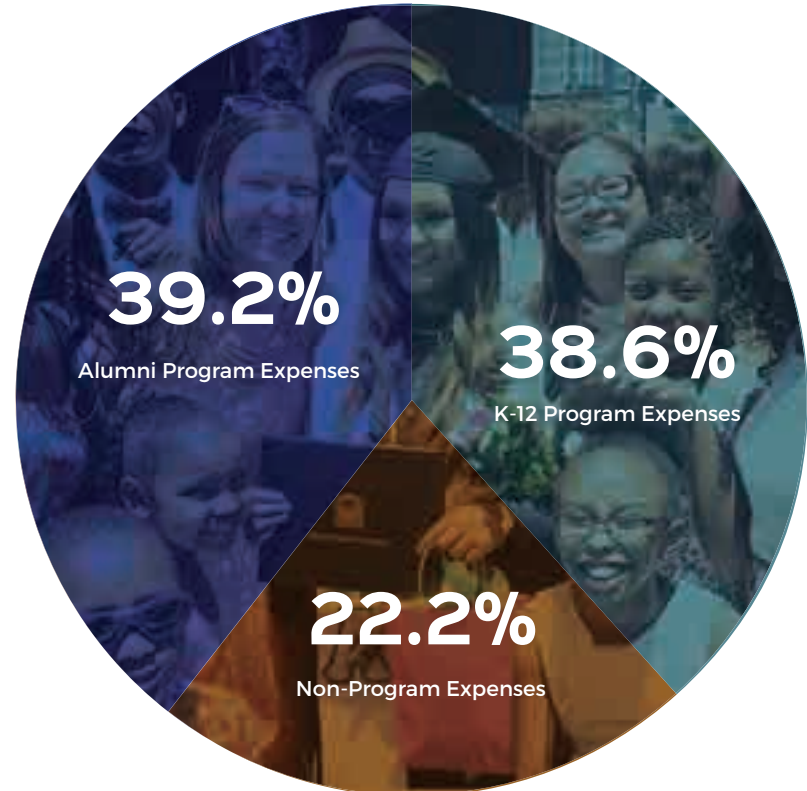
### Alumni Program Expenses

Alumni Success Program.....	\$166,960.27
Career Acceleration Program.....	\$22,476.18
Scholarships.....	\$132,611.75
<b>Total Alumni Program Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$322,048.20</b>

### Non-Program Expenses

Fundraising Events.....	\$68,616.37
General & Administrative.....	\$116,778.70
<b>Total Non-Program Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$185,395.07</b>

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$832,536.27**



*Friends of UA Expenditures, through 6/30/16*

# Dear Friends,

*Your gift to Friends of University Academy is making history.*

As often quoted by University Academy co-founder, Shirley Helzberg, "Change one life and you change the world." Through K-12 college preparatory experiences and the Alumni Success Program, more than 1500 lives are being changed. The visionary contributions of Friends of UA supporters are thrusting students and alumni forward. Through the programs offered by Friends of UA, daily academics happen in the context of health and dental care, experiential extracurriculars, preparatory exposure to the minutia of college, and friendships forged across cultures and countries. UA is an educational institution of its own kind.

The participation of many community supporters makes a way forward to close the gap between UA alumni college completion rates (49%) and those of the wealthiest students in our country (77%). **In fact, we already see how Friends of UA programs have an impact: 68% of participants in high school study abroad and wilderness programs have completed bachelor degrees.** Over and over we have seen our students meet significant challenge with success. We see success in alumni saving for homes, working through dental school, finishing college as the first in their family, starting businesses, and returning to UA to inspire those Gryphons still in-process. Our students, simply by pursuing their goals, are changing our community.

*As UA students and graduates strive for their dreams, we strive with them.*

Your giving energizes our work, fires our imaginations, and commits us to the mission: University Academy alumni becoming leaders in society. In the daily patterns of family, work, and play we may not naturally reflect on the tapestry knitted by the moments of our lives. This report is such an opportunity. We hope you can see that the ordinary activities of your daily routine are happening at the same time as your generosity is fostering extraordinary outcomes. UA students and alumni are altering the pattern of our society. They are pioneers of a new community. Their dreams grow daily because of your participation in the mission of University Academy.

*We look forward to building a new history through your continued visionary support.*

**David Rucker**  
Executive Director

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

01

### Donations

- Cash or Pledges
- Real Estate
- Marketable Securities
- Corporate Matching Contributions

*As a 501(c)3 organization, all donations are tax-deductible.*

02

### Your Time

**Mentoring: Share your knowledge & experience**

Contact Kristin Moats: [kristin@friendsofua.org](mailto:kristin@friendsofua.org)

**Volunteer: Help at an event or other opportunity**

UA contact Kellie Brady: [bradyk@universityacademy.org](mailto:bradyk@universityacademy.org)

Friends contact Maria Dickson: [maria@friendsofua.org](mailto:maria@friendsofua.org)

03

### Internships

Provide alums real world experience critical for future careers and graduate school opportunities:

- Fund a nonprofit internship
- Hire alumni interns

04

### Annual Gala

Support Friends of UA's only fundraising event of the year on April 8, 2017.

**Sponsorship Opportunities**

**Ticket Purchases**

Contact Maria Dickson: 816-561-7602

[maria@friendsofua.org](mailto:maria@friendsofua.org)



# 2016 BENEFACTORS

## Globetrotter (\$25,000)

Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Blitt  
Mr. Robert Epsten  
Mr. and Mrs. Bush Helzberg  
Mr. and Mrs. Barnett C. Helzberg, Jr.  
Ewing Kauffman Fund - Cathy and Michael Schultz

## Adventurer (\$10,000)

Anonymous  
Mr. and Mrs. G. Kenneth Baum  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Bloch  
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Helzberg Diamonds Shops, Inc.  
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Mr. and Mrs. John Sherman

## Voyager (\$5,000)

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Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Kelly  
Mrs. James T. Lacy  
Jay and Beverly Wolfe Charitable Lead Annuity Trust  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wolff

## Tourist (\$2,500)

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Mr. and Mrs. Peter Brown  
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The Ellis Foundation  
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Mr. and Mrs. William Gautreaux  
Mr. Tony Gleason  
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Sunflower Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. West Valentine  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Walsh  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen  
Zanone



**\$371,000**

amount raised at  
the 14th annual  
gala to support  
programs for  
students &  
alumni

## Sightseer (\$1,500)

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Atlas  
 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Bash  
 Stanley J. Bushman Philanthropic Fund  
   Gift of Ms. Ann Canfield and  
   Mr. Stanley J. Bushman  
 Children's Mercy Hospital  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Coughlin  
 Mr. Paul DeBruce  
 Ann Dickinson & The Gary Dickinson  
   Family Charitable Foundation  
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Friedman  
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 Mr. Donald J. Hall  
 Mr. and Mrs. Steve Harmon  
 Ms. Sandra Baer and  
   Mr. Charles M. Helzberg  
 Ms. Anne Hickok  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hoffman  
 JE Dunn Construction Company

## In-Kind Support

DMH  
 Bloch Wine  
 Price Chopper  
 Crane Brewing Co.  
 John Valentine Photography

Kansas City Zoo  
 Dr. Jan-Marie and Mr. Brad Kroh  
 Lacy & Company  
 Mr. and Mrs. Brian Landers  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Lyons  
 Mr. Paul S. McKie  
 The McMeel Family Foundation  
 Metropolitan Community College  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pearson  
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 Ellen Miller and Irv Robinson  
 Dr. Courtney and  
   Mr. Brandon Scarborough  
 The Family of Gerean Rudnick  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Stowers, III  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Don Trigg  
 UMB Financial Corporation  
 Mr. Byron White (UA Class of '04)  
 Mr. and Mrs. Josh Wilson

Bic Media  
 The Roasterie  
 Digital Lagoon  
 Tavern in the Village  
 Christy & Bill Gautreaux

## Passenger (\$500)

Anonymous  
 Atterbury Family Foundation  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Berg  
 Dr. Paul Chan and Mrs. Katherine Lorand  
 CTC | myCFO  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Dickey  
 Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Goza  
 Mr. and Mrs. Stacy Graff  
 Mr. Howard Haas  
   Head of School, Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy  
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 Mr. Alexis Tarumianz, III  
 Ms. Irene Thomas  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Valentine  
 Mr. Le'Ray Warrior (UA Class of '04)

*“This may be the single best investment  
 I've ever made.”*

**Marlin F. Fiola**

Managing Director, Private Wealth Management | Morgan Stanley

Laura Greenbaum      Rita and Irwin Blitt  
 The Reisler Family      Hasna Zekeria-Salam  
 Marcia and Bob Wolff      Tom and John Isenberg  
 The Bloch Family Foundation  
 Oppenstein Brothers Foundation  
 David Woods Kemper Foundation  
   and James M. Kemper (of blessed memory)

Thank you to  
 our donors who  
 also included  
 special gifts  
 as part of  
 their giving.





*Friends of University Academy supports the success of UA students, for life.*

4049 Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 400  
Kansas City, MO 64111

816-561-7602  
[FriendsofUA.org](http://FriendsofUA.org)