

# **NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS**

**Emily Balentine** is a psychology freshman at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The inspiration for her essay came from watching her great-grandfather's literacy struggles over the years compared to her own. Upon completion of high school, she moved in with him and is now a caretaker and hopes to have many more years of quality time with him. In her free time, she likes to listen to music and explore new areas of the city. She is a peer mentor on campus for the PAL and First Gen Roo programs.

**August Forck** is a first-year student at UMKC, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in English. He moved from Jefferson City, Missouri, to Kansas City in the summer of 2022 to continue his education. He is passionate about learning about the development of language, and how language allows people to share their own unique experiences.

As a math major, I (**Monica Kelne**) possess a deep understanding of mathematical principles and problem-solving techniques. I have honed my analytical skills through rigorous coursework and practice, allowing me to tackle complex mathematical concepts with ease. With a strong foundation in mathematical theory and computational methods, I am equipped to pursue a diverse range of career paths, from data analysis and finance to research and academia. As a mother, I know the value of time management and balance. I understand the importance of prioritizing and planning, and how it can help achieve personal and professional goals. I have learned to juggle multiple responsibilities while still making time for myself and my family.

**Rebecca Lampe** is a spring 2023 graduate of UMKC who has earned Bachelor's degrees in Art History and Communications with an Emphasis on Professional Communications. She intends to use her degrees to work in a curatorial or museum education department at an art museum after she completes her Master's degree in Art History. In her spare time, Rebecca enjoys baking, reading, and spending time with her partner, Josh, and their cat, Bear.

**Rowan Long** is from Lincoln, Nebraska, and is a Sophomore Majoring in Music Therapy (Violin Primary) and Psychology at UMKC. In high school, she was a part of several honors orchestras such as NMEA ALL-STATE, Lincoln Youth Symphony, and the Wesleyan Honors Orchestra. In her free time, her hobbies include writing, photography, archery, and playing piano and guitar.

**Abby Mauldin** is a sophomore at UMKC studying Music Education. She aspires to become a band director and hopes to continue playing bassoon after graduating. Whenever Abby is not practicing bassoon, she enjoys reading. Abby is also a member of the National Association of Music Education - Collegiate and the Conservatory Bassoon Association. She has a passion for music education.

**Alanie Rivera** is a freshman student-athlete at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She loves learning about different cultures and the psychology behind the choices people make, and hopes to travel in the future to expand her perspective. Alanie plans to go to graduate school after completing her undergraduate studies for her doctorate in Psychology.

**Scanlon** is a 17-year-old performing, visual, and recording artist born and raised in KCMO. They're part of the graduating class of 2023 of University Academy Charter School and plan to travel the world, pursue prosperity, and live on a farm with pet cows in the future.

**Isabelle Schroeder** is a Freshman pursuing an undergraduate degree in English. While she's enrolled at UMKC and after graduation, she plans on using her education to serve neglected communities wherever she's at. She loves Greek classics, archery, and spending time with her family.

My name is **Briana Tolbert**, and this academic year I was able to take a dual credit course through my high school. Next fall, I plan to attend Tennessee State University to further my education. I have hopes of double majoring in History and English.