

Kyle Berkley (he/him/his)  
Current resident (Stephenson)

The main reason the idea of the Strategic Planning Committee excites me is that it is empowering to the residents. You will find that the majority of conflict that arises between residents and housing affiliates stems from resident frustration about not being able to improve their own living situation - sometimes this flame is ignited by something as silly as a TV. The Scholarship Hall complex has well over a hundred leadership roles to fill each year yet each year it does so. Each year, new students acknowledge all that they are owed by this stupendously singular living experience and they rise up to give back to it. The Strategic Planning Committee could be the much-needed antithesis to residents' fear that KU Housing does not actively seek input from its own student constituents. Many residents, myself included, have an idea of what will improve the scholarship halls, and each resident has their own perspective. It is my wish that each of these perspectives could be shared, but because this is infeasible, I would like to at least bring my own.

Ashley Grande (she/her/hers)  
Current resident (Sellards 2018-2019, Rieger 2018, Margaret Amini 2017)

The Scholarship Hall community has served as my second home, and has succeeded in helping me in improving my academics as well as day to day life. My family lived in Europe my freshman year of college, and without my schol hall family I would not have succeeded. I have been beyond active in the community since I moved here. My freshman year I was on selections committee and volunteered with many social events. I also was on the All Scholarship Hall Council as a freshman, acting as the Health and Wellness Chair. This year as a Sophomore I am also on ASHC as the Orientation and Recruitment chair, as well as a Food Board Manager. The experience I have within this community has given me a wide range of knowledge on how the halls work, the community, and the issues that need to be addressed.

Levi Wakeman (he/him/his)  
Current resident (Pearson)

I want to serve on this board because I believe that it is important to be involved in the logistical features of the scholarship and I know that it is helpful to other members in the hall because I can help them with taking some of the work.

Randee Wisdom (she/her/hers)  
Current resident (Sellards)

The scholarship hall community is now my home, and likely will be for a number of years during my time here at KU. I want everyone who lives/works/visits the scholarship hall community to have a pleasant experience, an experience that leaves a lasting impression. In my short time here I have felt the lasting impact of good planning and strong leadership. I would like to be a part of the Scholarship Hall Strategic Planning Committee because I am diligent, straight-forward, and work well with others. I view this as an opportunity to exercise my ability to plan and lead, while also helping my hall and community.

Dr. Diana B. Carlin (she/her/hers)  
Alumni (Douthart 1968-1971)

The scholarship hall experience was one of the best parts of my years at KU. My stepson is a Stephenson alum and many of my friends were in scholarship halls. We all believe that the mentoring we received from upper class women, the small size and the cooperative living arrangement were vital to our development. I taught at KU for 24 years and am currently teaching a freshman seminar as a retiree. Many of my students were or are in scholarship halls. My interest in pursuing this opportunity is to ensure that the halls continue to provide a unique experience, keep costs lower, and provide support for students who could get lost in the system (I was a first generation student and needed the type of support I received).

Robert Girard (he/him/his)  
Alumni (Pearson 2013-2014 & Battenfeld 2016-2016)

Ever since arriving halfway through my sophomore year of undergraduate to both KU and the Scholarship Halls, I have been a staunch defender of how the Scholarship Hall community model is an incredibly unique, inclusive, and developmental boon to the students that inhabit it. Many of my professional networking connections that are not exclusively set in my field(s) of study are the people I met while living in the scholarship hall community, and I can confidently say the relationships fostered within that community helped mold the individual I am today. I believe that by having lived in two different halls, having been both a regular resident and a scholarship hall staff member (proctor), and by being a current M.Ed. student seeking my degree in Higher Education & Student Affairs Administration, I can bring some unique insights to the committee. I believe I could do well for the committee by serving as a nexus for the student experience, the undergraduate staff experience, and the student affairs practitioner's understanding of Student Housing's more realistic needs and practices. Truly I could go into much greater depths as to my investment in the scholarship halls and their success, and I would happily do so on request. If you would like further detail and information, I am more than happy to provide a more extensive and elaborate explanation as a follow-up to this application.

Stephen Hass (he/him/his)  
Alumni (Stephenson 2011-2014)

I want to serve on this committee to help improve relationships between the Scholarship Halls and the greater University of Kansas so that these relationships grow into ones that are of mutual benefit to one another. From being invested as a student in the well-being of Stephenson Scholarship Hall through various roles of service to now being an alumnus who still is in touch with the greater alumni community as well as current residents, my overall understanding is that the relationship between the Scholarship Hall community and the greater University was and continues to be one that lacks harmony and unity in agreeing upon what is best for the Scholarship Halls. Knowing from experience how beloved and beneficial the Scholarship Hall community is and can be, I think a lot is lost for future Jayhawks as well as current Scholarship Hall residents when this relationship between the greater University and the Scholarships Halls lacks harmony and unity, which I think promotes distrust between one another. I think that one of my strengths is observing and listening, which I think would be of benefit to this committee

Alex Hyler (she/her/hers)  
Alumni (Sellards 2009-2013)

I've been disheartened and sad to hear the struggles the halls are having filling spots and retaining residents. At my current university, their motto is "That I May Serve." Well, this is one way I want to serve and give back to my favorite place on earth. My memories at Sellards and with the wide diversity of women I met are some of my most cherished memories as a Jayhawk, and I remain so close to many of my fellow schol hallers now 5 years later. The camaraderie-laden, tradition-filled, and academic-focused environment of the schol halls is truly unique to KU, and I want to ensure this incredible community can thrive. As a townie from Lawrence, I grew up hearing about them and wanting to be a part of the hall community where we had a nice cross between standard dorm life and sororities. Additionally having now come to another institution for graduate school and observing their student life and residence hall experiences, the most valuable and successful are those closest to a schol hall setup (such as living-learning communities). Perhaps rebranding and refocusing is necessary to bring the scholarship halls into a different era of college life, but I think their value is immeasurable. Additionally, I can bring alternative perspectives from experiencing another campus and its residential approaches.

Jessica Small (she/her/hers)  
Alumni (Douthart 1992-1993 & Watkins 1994-1995)

I, like I am sure everyone that is sending in an application, have very fond memories of my time at KU and the majority of them are related to living in the scholarship halls until I graduated. However, there are a few things about me that might set me apart. I lived in Douthart and Watkins and therefore have experience with a more common shared meal hall as well as the individual kitchen model. My background is architecture and I was the KU project manager for Krehbiel Hall and also did the initial feasibility studies for the upgrades of the older halls. Therefore, I am familiar with all of the buildings even though I have not lived in one for over 20 years. Finally, I am currently a facility manager at KU so I have a working knowledge of how both the university and its buildings are currently operated.

Sara Vancil (she/her/hers)  
Alumni (Sellards 1997-2001)

I am uniquely positioned to be an asset to this committee. First, I loved living in the scholarship halls from 1997 to 2001. I was named Outstanding Woman Student in a Scholarship Hall, Sellards Distinguished Resident of the Year, and ASHC Member of the year. Living there, contributing there, making it a community was the best part of my college experience. I want to see the schol hall system be what it can be--a crowning jewel in what KU has to offer to students to make their time in college a life-changing one. Second, I am currently an Assistant Director in the KU Financial Aid office. I work with students daily (including those in the Hixson Scholars Program, a program for first-generation, low-income students) as well as am in charge of setting the University's Cost of Attendance guidelines. I have lots of opinions on how KU can do a better job at attracting, retaining and graduating low-income students using the scholarship halls as a tool in that arsenal. I am also concerned about the rising costs of living on campus and want to promote the scholarship halls as much as possible, particularly to our more vulnerable populations. We need to be more strategic in how we retain the innovation, autonomy and creative spirit of the halls while also making them someplace that students are dearly wanting to experience. Given the fact that the halls (particularly men's halls) have been

underutilized lately, it's clear that work needs to be done to celebrate what is there and also improve what can be made better.

Phillip Wrigley (he/him/his)  
Alumni (Battenfeld 2004-2008)

I come to this work through three lenses:

1) I teach at Topeka High School, working primarily with English Language Learners. I have taught AVID, a program for students who would be the first in their family to attend college. Nearly all of my students see a college education as a huge and difficult leap. I see every day the extraordinary economic and social barriers my students face. Brilliant students decide against college. Affordable housing is a key component of helping students like mine afford a university education and succeed at a university like KU.

2) As an alumnus of Battenfeld and the husband of an alumna of Miller, I have lived the value of the halls. They made both our educations affordable and helped us develop leadership skills such as compromise, valuing diversity, and teamwork. Our careers and marriage are better for having been schol haller. For both of us, the halls were the community that enabled us to succeed at a large university.

3) My great-great grandparents' home was donated to KU after their passing. It briefly became Sterling Scholarship Hall from 1948 to 1955. It was a valuable home for those who lived there, but it was a housing arrangement that was not built to last. Without quality long term planning, all of the halls could one day join Jolliffe, Oliver, Templin, and Sterling Scholarship Halls as only a memory for a few. I would like to help prevent an amazing system like the Scholarship Hall from fading.

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