

Meet Aaron Quisenberry!

Some achievements and recognition I am proud of:

- Married to my wife Tricia for 14 years- father of three boys (A.J., Ty, and Asher)
- Completed undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Kansas
- C.L.A.S.S. Award winner in 2007
- Men of Merit recipient 2010

How I became interested in my area of study/research/discipline:

My master's degree was in Sport Administration/Sport Psychology and my goal was to work with either a college or professional team, or get involved with sport and/or recreation on a college campus. While in graduate school I worked at KU Recreation Services which introduced me to the world of Higher Education.

Upon finishing my master's degree at KU, I accepted a position with the Student Involvement & Leadership Center (SILC) and have been working there the past 14 years. I truly love working with college students!

My mother once asked me "What is Student Affairs- what do you do at work?" I told her I get to work with doctors, lawyers, teachers, politicians, athletes...they just don't know who they are yet!

A "real man" to me is:

Well, I'm still striving to attain that status! For me, being able to balance work time and family time...being able to realize the importance of family and being able to make time for your spouse and children...being able to be a positive role model for my children and the other kids in the neighborhood/school...being able to treat all individuals with respect...I guess that is what it means to me. I work on these things every day but understand I am far from being a real man. I can only continue to work on these things and do the best I can!

Someone who has been a role model for me:

Simply put, my grandma and grandpa. I spent a lot of time with my grandparents growing up, and learned many valuable life-lessons in my time with them.

My most favorite KU memory:

Hands down it has to be winning the National Championship in basketball during my first year as a student at KU in 1988. What an amazing time!

An important life lesson I have learned:

I have learned the importance of spending time with family members. Life is short and every moment/opportunity needs to be enjoyed and celebrated. I tell students all the time to call their mom and dad and stay in touch with them as much as possible. You can't get back lost time with family members...

I believe it is important for men to take action and challenge norms around masculinity and gender because:

I've always said I do not want my boys growing up in a world of hate. It is important for my kids to see me be a positive role model. It is hard to step outside of your comfort zone, but it is important for men to take on other roles. Whether it's feeding my newborn Asher in the middle of the night so my wife has some time to sleep...whether it's doing the dishes for everyone at Thanksgiving and letting the entire family know it's OK for guys to help out...maybe it's doing the family laundry and showing your kids how to do it...or explaining to your kids why NFL players are wearing pink in support of Breast Cancer Awareness and what that means...and above all I want my boys to have respect for women and be able to respect and love their mother.

If an opportunity comes up that I think will better my kids and their learning experiences, you can bet I'm going to take advantage of them!

Meet Alex Earles!

Some achievements and recognition I am proud of:

- President and a Founding Father of Delta Lambda Phi Fraternity. A fraternity geared toward gay, bisexual, and progressive men.
- Student Senate four years of involvement, the last two in executive staff positions serving currently as the Development Director
- Interned for Log Cabin Republicans lobbying firm, Washington DC 2010

Meet Alex Ross!

Some achievements and recognition I am proud of:

- Founding Executive Director of Dance Marathon
- Board Member, United Way of Douglas County
- LeaderShape 2009 Graduate and 2010 On-Site Coordinator

A “real man” to me is:

To me a “real man” is someone who stays true to himself, someone who stands by his morals, ethical beliefs, and most importantly his character. As the saying goes a truly honest person does the right thing no matter what, even when the cameras or the eyes aren't on them.

Someone who has been a role model for me:

My father, Richard Ross, is without a doubt my biggest role model in my life. Growing up with four older sisters he was the only man that I had in my life and was someone who I looked up to every day. Growing up I have been able to learn so many different lessons whether its putting my seatbelt on, how to play defense in basketball, or how to live your life with morals and ethics my father has shown me what it means to be a person of character.

My most favorite KU memory:

My favorite KU memory was on April 10th, 2010, I guess technically it was April 11th at 3:30am. The Marathon was just ending and after 12 hours we still had about 125 participants there along with my mother, two miracle families, as well as some other volunteers and onlookers. The Steering Committee and Executive Board was all on stage and we were awaiting the final donation amount that we would be making for Children's Miracle Network. To say I was stressed and nervous would be a huge understatement. 3-2-1 the countdown happen and the number was revealed: \$37,000. The amount almost doubled what we had the first year (\$20,000) and meant that Dance Marathon cemented itself as one of the 3 largest student non-profit organizations on campus.

An important life lesson I have learned:

Honesty. I can remember a certain night that I had gotten in trouble with my parents that has stuck with me ever since. We were driving in the car, I was in the back seat, my dad was driving and my mother was in the front seat. My dad was screaming at me at the top of his lungs and I had never seen him so angry. I finally

said, “Dad I don’t get why you’re so angry at me it isn’t that big of a deal”. He looked back at me and said “Alex, don’t you get it? You lied to me! You lied right to my face! I trusted you and now you ruined it!” I don’t think that I will ever forget this night because it was the first time that I really understood the value of trust and honesty and what it meant to lie to someone, especially someone you love.

Meet Bill Tuttle!

Some achievements and recognition I am proud of:

I have received KU's highest faculty awards for teaching, research, and service:

- H.O.P.E. Award, 2000
- Higuchi/Balfour S. Jeffrey Research Achievement Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences, 2004
- Steeples Service to Kansans Award, 2006

I am especially proud of the books I have written. These include:

- With Mary Beth Norton *et al.*, *A People and a Nation: A History of the United States* (Houghton Mifflin, seven editions, 1982-2005).
- *Race Riot: Chicago in the Red Summer of 1919* (University of Illinois Press, second edition, 1996; The Award of Merit, American Association for State and Local History, 1972; The Award of Merit for State History, Illinois State Historical Society, 1971; finalist, Francis Parkman Prize, 1971).
- *"Daddy's Gone to War": The Second World War in the Lives of America's Children* (Oxford University Press, 1993; Pulitzer Prize nominee; *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year).
- With David M. Katzman, *Plain Folk: The Life Stories of Undistinguished Americans* (University of Illinois Press, 1982).
- *W.E.B. Du Bois* (Prentice-Hall, 1973).

How I became interested in my area of study/research/discipline:

While an undergraduate in college, I decided to pursue a career as a university history professor. In my three years as a training officer of a bomb wing in the US Air Force, I served with incredibly impressive Black men, and this experience made me want to study, teach, and write books in African American history.

A “real man” to me is:

To me, the best description of a "real man" is that which KU's Men of Merit Selection Committee used in selecting this year's awardees: That is, a real man "positively defines masculinity by challenging norms, taking action and leading by example while making outstanding contributions to KU and/or the Lawrence community."

Someone who has been a role model for me

I have had countless role models, particularly the courageous men who put their lives on the line during the Civil Rights Movement, such as John Lewis and Bob Moses of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

My most favorite KU memory:

My favorite memory is of Kathryn Nemeth, a KU undergraduate from a small town in western Kansas who took my Recent American History course in 1970, earning the highest grade in this class of 55 students. In 1987, we had our first date, and we were married in 1995.

An important life lesson I have learned:

I have learned on many occasions that it is essential to be true to oneself and to deliver on one's commitments regardless of the consequences.

It is important for men to take action and challenge norms around masculinity and gender because:

In a multitude of situations -- for example, when one is in a group of other men, whether in a military unit, on a sports team, or in a fraternity gathering -- men are often best situated to defend gender and racial equality and to denounce sexism, racism, and homophobia.

Meet Curtis Marsh!

Some achievements and recognition I am proud of:

- Volunteer bugler for military services
- 2010 C.L.A.S.S. award winner
- Advisor for Omicron Delta Kappa and KU Rotaract
- Instructor, Leadership Studies minor
- Paul Harris Fellow (Rotary International, 2009)
- 2008 KU Staff Fellows Program, inaugural class
- Board member, Lawrence Rotary Club and Leadership Lawrence
- 2004 Community Leadership Award, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce
- Proud husband and father of two little boys

How I became interested in my area of study/research/discipline:

I've been at KU for over 15 years, in three very different capacities. It has afforded me a variety of contacts across campus, which ultimately led me to my position at KU Info and the Learning Studios. I get so energized by connecting people and creating inter-departmental collaborations. Plus, I am a confirmed Jayhawk evangelist, so it makes sense my job is to promote the benefits of a KU degree and assure that people have the best experience possible while they're here!

A "real man" to me is:

A real man has to manage a tricky balancing act. He is a leader and a strong advocate for family and colleagues. But he is also caring and sensitive to the needs and values of everyone around him. The notion that good guys finish last is outdated. You can reach all your dreams if you help enough other people reach theirs.

Someone who has been a role model for me:

Just last year, George Woodyard passed. He was a KU faculty member and administrator who taught me a great deal about humility and class. George led with an interminably quiet demeanor. I was still a student when he asked me to represent my entrepreneurs club on the Lawrence Chamber board. Whether I deserved it or not, he treated me with the same respect he treated the CEOs and government officials on the board. George taught me to keep my ego out of the picture and lead from the middle whenever possible.

My most favorite KU memory:

As both a past student and current employee of KU, there have been so many wonderful memories. It is with an admitted extreme bias that I tell people KU is the best school in the country. I will always remember walking down the hill for Commencement, and I feel blessed that I get to relive that day each May when we celebrate another year of successful KU graduates.

An important life lesson I have learned:

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. It is so important to understand the perspective of others so you can better connect and communicate with them.

It is important for men to take action and challenge norms around masculinity and gender because:

We all live in such totally different worlds. Each person's culture, values and experiences create very unique personal perspectives. Male leaders must embrace this and be sensitive to these perspectives. If it frustrates us when we are misunderstood, then doesn't it follow we should be slow to judge and quick to learn?

Meet Eric Sader!

Some achievements and recognition I am proud of:

- KU Public Interest Law Society Public Interest Fellow for the McPherson County Ulster Project
- AmeriCorps Member Serving the Reentry Program of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office
- Inaugural Justice of the University of Kansas Student Court of Appeals
- KU YES! Tutor/Mentor for Central Junior High School
- Faith Forum Cluster Facilitator at Ecumenical Christian Ministries
- Former Student President and Administrator of WesleyKU
- Past Resident Assistant for Inaugural Journey to J.D. Law School Summer Camp
- Graduate of LeaderShape at KU
- Past Counselor for Operation Purple
- Former Guinness World Records Title Holder
- Former Student President of McPherson College

How I became interested in my area of study/research/discipline:

Passion is insuppressible. Frankly, when I witness oppression or an otherwise unjust act, I get worked up. I am a very calm and collected individual, but as a Chinese herbalist once told me, I have a lot of fire within. It makes sense then to use this gift, burden, whatever you want to call it, in pursuit of a career of service. Acknowledging my connectedness to others and building relationships is what life is about. Studying social welfare ensures I recognize areas in society most in need of uplift that trigger my passion. Mastering the law grants me the teeth necessary to make certain I am able to lend my assistance effectively.

A "real man" to me is:

A "real man" is no different than any individual who stays true to one's self and convictions held dear. He pursues what is right, not always what is popular. He is willing to acknowledge and foster the whole person. He is strong and sensitive, raw and refined. He recognizes what is good, yet constantly strives for improvement, both within himself and in his surrounding world.

My most favorite KU memory:

My time at KU has been full of great memories, with many more to come, ranging from letting loose "riding that pony" at LeaderShape to even attending a Tech N9ne concert. Frankly though, it's hard to beat the relief after finishing finals my first semester at law school.

An important life lesson I have learned:

Embrace unity amidst diversity. Differences matter but our shared humanity matters more. Confidence does not include belittling others but more often living a life of solemn pride, sharing yourself, not forcing yourself, in regard to your fellow person.

It is important for men to take action and challenge norms around masculinity and gender because:

There is often talk of male privilege. This is true. It exists. But too often a divide in the argument dominates. Some contend no such privilege is real. Others almost seem to suggest men are immune to oppression, merely benefactors of inherited power. The fact is, when looking at power, few are at the top of the chain. More importantly, power is not the only privilege in society. Men yearn, even if not always consciously,

to foster the need to feel, to connect with others. They, like all groups, are diverse. Applying a “standard” is illogical. Hobbies, dress, even toys, all nicely regulated through mute expectations accompanying the designated sex on the birth certificate. I won’t contend there’s no truth behind the leanings of maleness. But nothing is universal, and no mountain is impervious to erosion. Seek change when merited. The biggest concern I see is the inability of men to express vulnerability. They are frequently left to silently suffer, and in this silence, those around them suffer alongside.

Further, there are existing components of masculinity that should be questioned. Thankfully, violence against women has at least recently received greater attention. Unfortunately, same-gender violence continues to be largely condoned as a first-line problem-solving method. Humans physically are in many ways frail and pathetic creatures. It is not difficult to harm another person. If a man truly wishes to display his prowess, to surmount a real challenge, he should utilize his brain, his intellect, his true gift, to positively impact the world.

Meet Frank DeSalvo!

Some achievements and recognition I am proud of:

- Development of Counseling and Psychological Services (1991)
- Development of the Character First Program for KU Football (2002)
- Chair, NCAA Certification Steering Committee (2008-09)

How I became interested in my area of study/research/discipline:

My role in my family was to pay attention to the emotional needs and limits of those around me. My career in social work practice and administration in the areas of mental health and student affairs has at its core, paying attention to human behavior and the environment in which it exists.

A “real man” to me is:

Real men, actually real people, are those who do not lie, cheat, steal, or intentionally hurt others. I appreciate those who are responsible for their own “stuff”, willing to lend a helping hand, and provide a kind word. I admire those who have the courage to set high standards and the commitment to do what is necessary to uphold them. They have the humility to stand to the side and follow, as well as the ability to stand in front and lead, when that is what is needed.

Someone who has been a role model for me:

Del Shankel has been a role model for many years. He has excelled in his academic research while also demonstrating superior ability as a teacher and mentor of undergraduate and graduate students. He clearly respects all students and has a special level of respect for student-athletes. He appreciates the level of dedication, discipline and determination it takes to be a student –athlete, and is often attends contests of the Olympic Sports as well as football and basketball. He has also served this University at the highest levels in both academics and athletics. He treats those around him, both famous and anonymous, with dignity and respect. He is the embodiment of the Jayhawk Spirit.

My most favorite KU memory:

Being in Allen Fieldhouse when Mario hit “the shot”.

An important life lesson I have learned:

Time is our most valuable resource and the ability to get along with others is our most important skill.

It is important for men to take action and challenge norms around masculinity and gender because:

Most people learn values and guiding principles by example. Those around us are influenced by our behavior. While we can't control how others behave, we can control our behavior and thus promote the standards and principles that the Men of Merit represent.

Meet Glen White!

Some achievements and recognition I am proud of:

- 1991-1994 Presidential Appointee and Charter Board Member of the 21-member Commission on National and Community Service (renamed the Corporation for National and Community Service), (served under President George Herbert Walker Bush and President Bill Clinton).
- 2008 National Phi Beta Delta Outstanding International Educator Award
- 2008 Elected Board Member to the United States International Council on Disability
- 2008 W. T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence

- I started the original concept of Alternate Spring Break at KU in the early 1990's with my then, HDFL 337 course entitled, "Community Service". Since our original trip to El Paso, Texas with 7 students in 1994, this program of student service has mushroomed into numerous alternate breaks, alternate winter break and alternate spring break with hundreds of KU students sharing their lives through community service across the United States each year.
- I have been conducting research and training projects with people with disabilities in Lima, Peru since 1997. Most recently, I brought a "dream team" of disability experts with me to Lima for a US-Peru Independent Living Summit that I had convened. It was very successful with our delegation speaking in the historic venue of the Peruvian Congress.

How I became interested in my area of study/research/discipline:

I am interested in my discipline of Applied Behavioral Science because I have seen how a scientific analysis of behavior and environment can inform us on ways to better improve the lives of people with disabilities—my research population of interest.

A "real man" to me is:

A "real man" is a person of integrity. A whole person. Not just a person who is interested in the trappings of the academy, or the accolades of others, but one who affirmatively seeks how to make the world a better place to live. To accomplish this, a real man must meld the knowledge he learns from science with the highest human values, such as independence, safety, choice and dignity.

Someone who has been a role model for me:

My father-in-law. Albert C. Mohr was a very successful banker, overseeing billions of dollars of assets and loans across a dozen states. Yet, he did not forget his humble roots nor his commitment to integrity and human values.

My most favorite KU memory:

Pulling "all nighters" when writing competitive federal grants and working to meet last minute deadlines. Working with my colleagues, proved to be a combination of high adrenaline to keep going, yet a bit of being silly because of lack of sleep. So while we worked diligently to get the grants in on time, sometimes during very short breaks we would laugh uncontrollably from stories we would bring up from our past. These brief respites proved to be valuable and we have been very fortunate with our grant production record. As I reflect back, it is important to maintain a sense of humor—even when you are under stressful conditions.

An important life lesson I have learned:

A good supervisor can step on your shoe without messing up the shine. I have learned that, and I practice that lesson with my staff.

It is important for men to take action and challenge norms around masculinity and gender because:

Nobody likes to be placed in a box or category for the sake of classification. There are a myriad of ways that men can express themselves and I am convinced that this process of expression can change over the course of the lifespan.

Meet Jason Kingman!

Some achievements and recognition I am proud of:

- 2011 Teach For America Corps Member
- Intern, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Summer 2010
- Honors Program Student Council Co-President, 2009-present
- Summerfield Scholar
- Honors Research and Development Program participant, 2008
- Outreach Coordinator for Oxfam at KU
- Education Intern at Lawrence Arts Center

How I became interested in my area of study/research/discipline:

I fell into my mix of studies; I entered my freshman as an Anthropology major, then added Religious Studies, and a French minor. I have been particularly interested in the intersection of religion, culture, and gender in Arab societies, and I consequently studied abroad in Morocco for an immersive Arabic language program. Recently, after studying art history and a museum internship, I have decided to pursue a career in museums. I am interested in the museum's ability to construct and communicate diverse cultures and artistic heritages through exhibitions and education.

Someone who has been a role model for me:

My dad has always been my role model. As a career pilot, he has continuously and relentlessly pursued his passion to fly in the military, commercial, and private sector. Despite a particularly demanding career, he has unquestioningly put my family first and made every effort to support the varied interests and pursuits of my mom, my sister, and myself. I have always aspired to be as calm, reasonable, focused, and genuine as my dad.

My most favorite KU memory:

This might not be my *favorite* memory, but I will certainly never forget when my auditorium seat in the middle of a large Wescoe classroom broke during lecture, throwing me into the lap of my surprised neighbor. The half of the class behind me laughed, my professor paused and decided to continue, and I struggled to gather my things quickly leave in embarrassment!

It is important for men to take action and challenge norms around masculinity and gender because:

Increasingly, our culture packages and offers a narrow definition of a contemporary American male. I think it is important to step back from this, and recognize the diversity of male roles in our quickly diversifying society. Much as the feminist movement explored alternative norms for women in the 1970s, I think it is necessary to explore such alternative and expanded norms for men in the future.

Meet John Younger!

Some achievements and recognition I am proud of:

- Shepherded a proposal for a PhD program in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies to approval (November 2010)
- J. Michael Young Academic Advisor Award (\$500 + \$500 added to salary), 2007
- 2nd male chair in the US of what is essentially a Women's Studies Department. As the Chancellor said, "how enlightened we are."

How I became interested in my area of study/research/discipline:

I'm gay; fighting for the rights of minorities is not a choice: it's a necessary passion.

A "real man" to me is:

Anyone who is honest, who is concerned about the rights and dignity of others, and who can laugh at himself- and you've got to like animals too, especially dogs.

Someone who has been a role model for me:

My eighth grade school teacher Martha Robinson who taught me art, music, history, defiance, and the importance of students.

My father who taught me that for you to continually love you must continually change.

My most favorite KU memory:

I haven't been here long (just since 2002), but I have been amazed at the openness of the faculty, administration, students, and staff -- I have friends everywhere.

KU has a wealth of gifted and interesting students. Here are three. My first class at KU had a student all in dress-whites, Navy ROTC. Four weeks later he came in jeans and purple hair: "ROTC - I chucked it, thanks to you." He's now an executive assistant at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. A woman first-year student shows up at my office, asking me what it is that I do. After I explain, I ask her, what does she want. She replies, "your job." She's now in graduate school at KU in Religious Studies. A second-year student wanders into one of my classes and we eventually talk about what he wants to do: "underwater archaeology." I ask him if he's ever seen the ocean. "Nope." "Well, that's your first assignment if you want us to talk again." He's now a graduate student in Anthropology at KU doing archaeology; attends an underwater archaeology institute this summer.

An important life lesson I have learned:

It just keeps getting more and more interesting.

It is important for men to take action and challenge norms around masculinity and gender because:

If we don't, we're just complacent, taking things for granted and being taken for granted. Complacency is our greatest enemy.

Meet Kameron Mack!

Some achievements and recognition I am proud of:

- 2009-2010 Big XII Conference on Black Student Government "Most Outstanding Sophomore of the Year"
- 2010 Big XII Alvin Ailey Award Winner
- Third year University Dance Company Dancer
- 2008-2009 Robert Dole Scholar

- Big XII Council on Black Student Government Vice-Chair
- Big XII Council on Black Student Government Freshman Action Team Chair
- University of Kansas Department of Dance Merchandise Chair
- University of Kansas Black Student Union Program Chair

How I became interested in my area of study/research/discipline:

I always was infatuated by the entertainment world; Music, dance, television and fashion have always been interests of mine. I wanted to work in a field that would allow me to be exposed to them all. Becoming an Entertainment Journalist would put my skills in communication to work while talking about topics that interest and that are apart of me.

A “real man” to me is:

A “real man” is a man, who takes on great responsibility in the world; rather it’s caring for your family, or taking on an influential role in society. Often times the definition of a real man is collated with a level of masculinity. However, I believe masculinity has little to do with what makes a real man. A real man is comfortable and confident with himself regardless of how masculine society believes he is. Men have an important role in this world. We all have a part and should aspire to be the best man we can be. A real man needs to be a role model to the youth and have a positive influence on younger boys, and even women. A real man is a trait that comes from within. It can be taught, but not always learned. The teachings of a real man come from his actions and not necessarily his words. A real man makes it his responsibility to show the youth the importance and strength of manhood. A real man is not labeled nor affected by sexuality, yet by his character.

Someone who has been a role model for me:

My older brother, Elbert Mack, has been the greatest role model for me. We lost our father at a young age causing my older brother to be the only positive role model myself and my younger brother had. My older brother broke so many barriers in race, sports, and life. He now plays professional football for the Tampa Bay, Buccaneers. All my life I watched my brother fight to become the man he is today. I feel that he had the world on his shoulders. So many people believed he wouldn’t be successful in sports because of his small physique, yet he prevailed. He also was the first person in my family to graduate from college proving to my younger brother and I, that we too could do it. In Black society, there aren’t many positive role models to look up to. So I’m truly blessed to have my brother as one. He makes me so proud and I hope to do the same for him. I know my dad would be proud.

My most favorite KU memory:

KU is a great University that over my time here has given me so many great memories. Learning of becoming a “Man of Merit” has to be my favorite KU memory to date. I’ve had to overcome so many obstacles in my life; therefore, to receive this honor really makes me feel so proud of my accomplishments. Masculinity is something that I have always had to battle hence making me feel this recognition as such an honor and memory. Although I have chose paths differently than ones that society would consider manly, my university honors me for it; this is something I will never forget.

An important life lesson I have learned:

It’s not how long you live, but what you do with the time that God has given you, and whom you touch.

It is important for men to take action and challenge norms around masculinity and gender because:

I feel in today’s world, there is great division. Throughout history, men have been viewed as the protectors of our youth and women. There’s a bond that men share, however over the years I feel that bond has been lost; the bond of brotherhood regardless of our differences. People are quick to judge or disapprove those who break the norm. It’s a fear that occurs do to lack of understanding. More people should challenge the norm in order to test our strength as a mankind and show more sides cultures and lifestyles.

Meet Kory Kirkegaard!

Some achievements and recognition I am proud of:

- Peer Health Coordinator
- KU Honor Roll

How I became interested in my area of study/research/discipline:

I have always been interested in the interworking of things and the details of details so to speak, so science has been something that has always captivated my interest. When I shadowed my local dentist I realized how much the profession blended science, technology, art and building relationships into one package and knew it was what I wanted to spend the rest of my life doing. Plus I am just a big nerd and like teeth.

A “real man” to me is:

Someone that keeps a genuinely open mind towards everything that is thrown at them and doesn't allow stereotypes or preconceived notions to determine their stance on a subject or opinion of a person. I think another important trait would be humbleness and respect for others. And it's corny, but “The Golden rule” is way up there!

Someone who has been a role model for me:

My mother has shown unbelievable strength and perseverance throughout my life and I look up to her for inspiration to keep working hard at what I love. Regardless of how tough things get or have gotten in the past, she is always there with her never-ending encouragement and belief in me. I attribute a lot of my success to her keeping me grounded and reminding me to always keep my head up. She's pretty awesome.

My most favorite KU memory:

My freshman year when about four of us on our floor in Oliver Hall didn't go to sleep until 3 am and then woke up around 5 am to paint ourselves for our ESPN gameday against Texas A&M and ended up getting on national television to shoot the half court shot! Sadly though, (knock on wood) this was last game we lost before our current 69 home game winning streak.

An important life lesson I have learned:

Cliché again but extremely true, don't sweat the small stuff. Life has a peculiar habit of falling into place if you put in some elbow grease along the way. “There's more than one way to skin a cat” so just keep your head up and accept help when it's offered.

Meet Shayne Henry!

Some achievements and recognition I am proud of”

- Graduated from the KU School of Education Undergraduate program with Honors.
- A recipient of the KU Graduate Studies Grant.
- Spent time tutoring students from Kindergarten all the way through Seniors in high school in the Lawrence area, and has spent time as a Boys and Girls Club staff member in their after-school programs.

How I became interested in my area of study/research/discipline:

A love of language has been growing in me for many, many years. I have also come to discover that I have an innate ability to connect with youth and support them in their learning. To me, the best way to combine these two passions is through the teaching of English.

A “real man” to me is:

A “real man” is not the stoic, detached, tear-ducts-as-arid-as-the-Sahara lone wolf that Hollywood and other forms of media might make him out to be. No, a real man is one who puts the needs and interests of his loved ones and also the world around him ahead of his own. And he does so not to become a martyr but because it brings him joy to see the needs of others met. In short, the world is a better place after a “real man” has been through it.

Someone who has been a role model for me:

I am more fortunate than most to have such a positive masculine role model in my father. For my whole life, he has set an example of hard work, compassion, sacrifice, and joy from life. Without the strength and love he and my mother have showed me, I would not be where I am today, nor would I have the exciting future that I am looking toward.

My most favorite KU memory:

Looking back, it seems that all of my best times happened on the 7th floor of Lewis, where I lived my first year at KU. I met the love of my life there, I made true friends there, and I just plain had fun, every day.

An important life lesson I have learned:

The sun has this tendency—no matter how difficult, challenging, unfair, or sad a day has been—to always set and rise again new the next day. As long as the sun keeps rising on a new day, we always have hope.

It is important for men to take action and challenge norms around masculinity and gender because:

It is too true that we live in a male-dominated society that often creates injustice and inequality. If we want all little girls and boys to grow up to live in an atmosphere of fairness and equity, then we—men alongside women—must oppose those systems, institutions, and even individuals that maintain “traditional” gender norms. As everyone knows, after all, the future isn’t ours but our children’s. Let’s take action now to ensure equal opportunity for them later.

Meet Tyrel Reed!

Some achievements and recognition I am proud of:

- A three-time Academic All Big 12 first team selection
- Accepted in KU Med’s Physical Therapy School
- Part of the 2008 Men’s Basketball National Championship team