

Bishop Scholar NETWORK

NEWS AND STORIES FROM BISHOP SCHOLARS

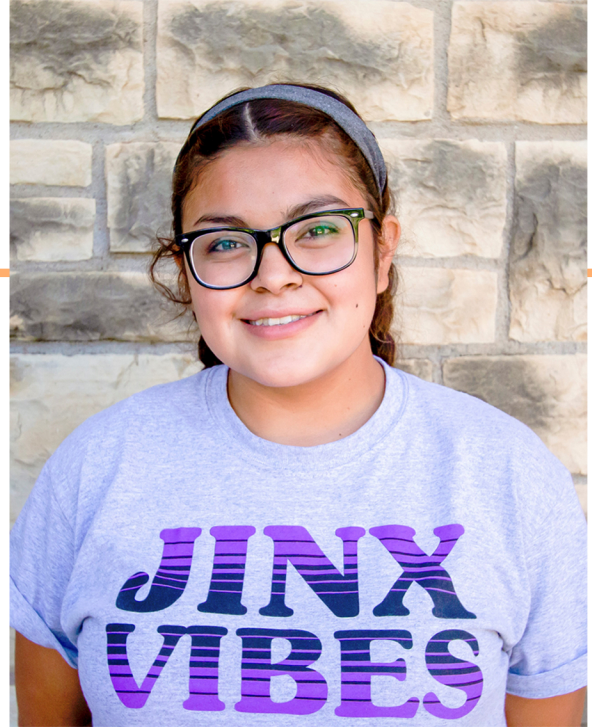


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Meet Ruth Moreno

Ruth Moreno is our most recent Bishop Scholar recipient. She is a freshman from Juarez, Mexico, and is majoring in Elementary Education at Southwestern College.

Hello! My name is Ruth and I'm a joyful young woman who loves God. If you get to know me you would realize that my passion is to work with children. This is one of the reasons why I chose to major in Elementary Education. Another reason is that I aspire for a better future for our world, and I believe that the only way to achieve that is by investing in the next generation. I believe in nurturing kids because what they learn in their early life defines their character as adults. Overall, I want to serve God and others through my gifts, and loving little ones is one of them.



Students Cook-Out



This semester, Bishop Scholar students gathered for a cook-out! They played cornhole, ultimate frisbee, and shared dinner. It was a beautiful day to spend outdoors and with good friends. We want to give a special thanks to senior Joefirkus Giat who prepared the food for this event. He made a delicious Japanese dish that everyone loved. Thank you Joe for your passion and generosity towards your fellow Bishop Scholars!

Letters to My Younger Self

The Social Science Division hosted an event called Letters to My Younger Self in which alums wrote literal letters to their younger, college self.

The letters were shared in a “Reader’s Theater” with current students reading the alums’ words. Our very own Bishop Scholar Rutendo Jokomo wrote a letter and current Bishop Scholar Rebeca Dominguez read it. The event was a great opportunity for current students to be encouraged by the words of graduates.



Rutendo Jokomo-Nyakabau received her Bachelor’s Degree in 2013 from Southwestern College as a Bishop’s Scholar from

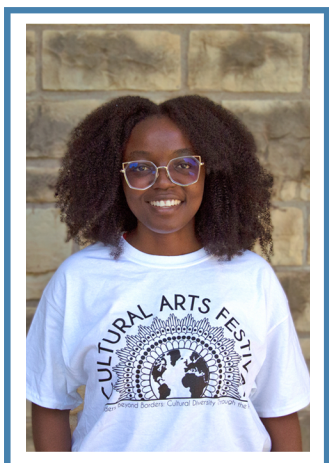
Harare Zimbabwe, trained in the fields of Public Health and Medicine. Rutendo obtained a Master’s degree in Population Environmental Health from Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. She then worked in the non-profit industry for some time before pursuing a Medical degree from St George’s University School of Medicine. She is currently an Internal Medicine Resident at Creighton University in Omaha. Outside of work, Rutendo enjoys reading, spending time with family, traveling, cooking and playing tennis.

Rebeca Dominguez,
current Bishop
Scholar, reading
Rutendo’s letter to
her younger self



*“Dear Younger Self,
Over the next few years, you
will learn a lot about yourself
and the world around you.
Immersed within a diverse
group of students, you will
learn how to engage in healthy
dialogue with people whose
opinions differ from your own.
You will learn what your own
opinions are in the first place;
and how to articulate them. You
will discover your gifts and
how to maximize them in God’s
Kingdom. Life at SC will be a
roller coaster. Make it count!
Be present. Take risks.
That’s how you will grow.”
-Rutendo Jokomo*

Summer Highlight



Sheka Olenga is from the Democratic Republic of Congo and this is her second year at Southwestern College. Olenga is majoring in Philosophy and Religion and this summer she

was an intern for the Micah Corps program of the United Methodist Church. Micah Corps is designed to give young college students the opportunity to link faith and social justice action. Take a moment to read this interview and discover how her internship opportunities changed due to COVID-19.

What were the original plans?

Before COVID-19, Micah Corps told us that we would be in Omaha, NE, living together and visiting churches to speak about social justice issues. Also, Micah Corps gave each intern a topic to focus on, so the plan was to go to Washington DC the last week of our internship and speak with Senators about the injustices that we would be learning all summer about, and asking them what they could do about them.

How were your plans changed after COVID-19?

A lot of things changed, instead of us being together in Omaha we had to stay home. I was lucky enough to have my sister in Grand Island, NE, and I did Micah Corps over zoom in her house.

We met every day over zoom and did devotionals together, discussed books, and met with organizations. I went from thinking I would spend my summer in Omaha seeing what Nebraska is all about, to being in my nephew's room on a daily basis on a computer.

What were some of the challenges?

The hardest part was not to be around people. Working alone was good at the beginning but as time went on working alone became difficult. I definitely felt zoom fatigue. Even though I saw the other interns on Zoom every day, I still missed having contact with people. We missed the opportunity to be able to sit down and talk about things that we would talk about if we were living together. We missed out on even having disagreements. We did form friendships, but at the same time, our friendship could have developed more.

What is something you learned?

When we started Micah Corps, within two weeks George Floyd was murdered and we had to have a discussion on racism, biases, and privileges. My eyes were opened by the books, discussions, and Bible studies to the biases that I have as a black person, not only against other races but also to my own race, and to the biases I bring to my interpretations of Scripture.

What are your final thoughts?

As COVID-19 closed many doors, it also opened up doors that we would never have thought of. It was challenging, but it opened us up to different ways to praise, worship, and learn together.

Homecoming!

BISHOP SCHOLAR VIRTUAL REUNION

Oct. 31, 2020 - Zoom - 10:00am

On Oct. 31st, 2020 we had our very first Bishop Scholar Virtual Reunion! This event was part of Southwestern's Homecoming festivities.

We had 19 people attend, between staff, students, and Bishop Scholar alumni from all around the world.



Alumni and students who led the Virtual Reunion:



Andrew Singh
Class 2004

Isaac Chua
Class 2011

Raquel Resendiz
Class 2019

Jacob Maforo
Class 2002

Sheka Olenga
Sophomore

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