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FALL  
2012

# Update

News From The A. Q. Miller School of  
Journalism and Mass Communications  
Kansas State University



# Update

## Our Staff



Photo by Ashlee Mayo

From left to right: Deb Skidmore, Mark Kern, Kelly McHugh, Deme Kopulos, Madison Moyd and Sean Frye.

**Deb Skidmore** is this semester's instructor for the Magazine and Feature Writing class that produces *Update Magazine*.

**Mark Kern** is a senior in journalism and mass communications with a focus in print. Kern is currently working his second semester as sports editor for the *Kansas State Collegian* and specializes in sports writing. Spending the spring 2012 semester in Charlotte, N.C., Kern interned as a beat writer for the Charlotte Bobcats. While writing is his focus, Kern has found a new passion for broadcast as he currently announces for K-State athletic event's play-by-play on The Wildcat 91.9 KSDB, K-State's student-run radio station.

**Kelly McHugh** is a senior in journalism and mass communications with a focus in print. McHugh currently works as a sports writer for the *Manhattan Mercury* and contributes feature stories to Kansas City's Major League Soccer team, Sporting Kansas City. Kansas City Press Club award recipient, Spring 2012 sports editor of the *Kansas State Collegian* and published writer to websites such as *The Huffington Post* and *ESPN's Big 12 Blog*, McHugh plans to continue her career as a sports writer after graduating in May 2013.

**Deme Kopulos** is a senior in journalism and mass communications with a focus in digital media and an outside concentration in sociology. She has a well-rounded media background, as Kopulos was the web designer

for her sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha, during her junior year, and she currently writes features for *Hype Weekly*, Manhattan's arts update magazine. With her creative personality and the experience she's gained, Kopulos' ideal job after graduating in May 2013 would be to publish stories about the arts. Story telling is something timeless, Kopulos said, and the creative yet challenging aspect of the field drew her in.

**Madison Moyd** is a senior in journalism and mass communications with focus in advertising. With a keen eye for design, Moyd played a leading role in the design of this semester's *Update Magazine*. Moyd spent a year working with the *Kansas State Collegian's* ad production department and will graduate from K-State in December 2012. Talented with programs like InDesign and Photoshop, after graduation Moyd said she would love to work with magazines like *Cosmopolitan* as a layout designer.

**Sean Frye** is a junior in journalism and mass communications with a focus in electronic journalism. Frye's specialty is writing sports, as he has worked as a sports writer for the *Kansas State Collegian* and currently is working as a co-founder of Heartland Sports Media, an up and coming website with sports news from around the Midwest. When not writing about sports, Frye spends time as a manager for the Kansas State men's basketball team. With his passion for sports and for sharing the stories of others, Frye hopes to go into a career as a sports writer after graduating in May 2014.

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### ON THE COVER

The moon sets over Anderson Hall lighting the way for students taking night classes.

Photo by Andy Nelson

# Message From Interim Director



Louise Benjamin

How wonderful it is to be working with such a marvelous group of faculty and staff! Many of you already know me, as I came to Kansas State University in 2008 to become the Ross Beach Chair. For this coming year, I am honored to serve as the school's interim director, as we move forward, building on the legacy of Angela Powers, Todd Simon and Carol Oukrup. We have so much going on, as you will see in the pages of this edition of *Update*.

We began the year by welcoming two new faculty members to the JMC family – Debra Skidmore and Barbara DeSanto. These two women bring a world of experience and excitement into the classroom. Read all about them, beginning on Page 5.

The first ever Kedziepalooza was a hit! We hope this celebration will become an annual “welcome back” for all JMC pre-majors and majors. Over 200 students packed the lawn on the eastside of Kedzie for pizza, pop and prizes. Representatives of JMC's student organizations were there to answer students' questions about getting involved in student media groups and clubs. Check out the story on Page 5, and go to the JMC website to see the videos!

Some of you will fondly remember the old photo lab and darkroom in Kedzie. Well, the space has been “recycled” through the efforts of faculty over the summer into the “Kedzie Think Tank.” The School purchased paint, carpet and some furniture for the room, and a generous gift from alumna Lucy Reilly Fitch helped us with the purchase of the rest of the room's furniture. Then, as I was writing this message, we received word that the University's Academic Excellence Program will help us complete the transformation with funds to purchase computers, upgrade software and add a flat screen TV to the Think Tank's furnishings. The full story of this exciting makeover begins on Page 2, and I want to invite you to check out the renovation on your next visit to campus.

So, as you can see, there's a lot going on here at the A.Q. Miller School. We continue to be one of the most energetic journalism and mass communications programs in the country, thanks to all of you!!

Louise Benjamin  
Interim Director

## Updates

### Ad Club

The Kansas State University School of Journalism's Advertising Club is helping students of all majors dive into the world of advertising with hands-on experience and opportunities to talk to professionals knowledgeable in the field.

With events like “ADvice,” an evening where students are given the chance to talk to professors about advertising in a relaxed environment, to projects like Photoshop tutorials, Ad Club provides students a way to gain experience while preparing for post-graduation careers.

### KSDB

KSDB, The Wildcat 91.9 FM student radio station for Kansas State, continues to provide high-quality rock and urban music to the airwaves in Manhattan.

The radio station has also picked up its efforts on its website. More news and blog posts have been published this semester than in past years, which are helping the radio station advance through the world of convergence.

### TakeFlight

TakeFlight is the student run public relations and advertising agency at K-State established August 2011. The agency is made up of students who are working to provide excellent professional service and gain experience. TakeFlight is a great way for students to build their portfolios.

One of the main goals of the agency is to do some projects that will help enhance student portfolios and give students real world experience while increasing the agency's presence in the community.

### PowercatPR

PowercatPR had a very busy fall semester. The group brought in various professional speakers from

companies such as Midwest Dairy Farmers and The American Red Cross.

“In October, five members were able to go to the PRSSA national conference in San Francisco where we heard the co-founder of Twitter and the founder of Pandora speak,” said PowercatPR President, Lauren Swirbul.

### K-StateHD TV

K-StateHD.TV, the revolutionary digital network started by the Kansas State athletic department in Fall 2011, is in its second year of operations, and had great success during its first year.

The online video network streams live Kansas State sporting events and press conferences, as well as other on-campus events. One of the biggest things that K-StateHD.TV provides to the university is an opportunity for students to be a part of the initiative and get on-the-job training.

“It is a very unique opportunity that you can't find at other universities,” said Cameron Banning, a junior in mass communications. “Being able to edit videos, host shows, do voiceovers, I am able to get a leg up on a lot of people who are interested in my field.”

### PRSSA

The current PRSSA officer team headed by President Lauren Swirbul and Vice President Julia Wallis came up with a semester series of professionals from Kansas City, who spoke to the chapter at their semimonthly meetings. In addition, nine PRSSA members conducted original research for the JMC School's Outreach and Recruitment Committee.

The research objective was to find out how students became majors in the JMC different sequences: advertising, PR, digital media and print. Lastly, five of their members attended the PRSSA International

Conference in San Francisco on Oct. 12.

### Wildcat Watch

Wildcat Watch is close to 50 students strong.

“Having this many students is a great problem to have, but has pushed some changes in the structure of the group,” member Aaron Engelman said.

Supervision and administration of Wildcat Watch is in the process of being transferred from the Division of Communications and Marketing to the Journalism and Mass Communications School.

### Kansas State Collegian

The student newspaper, behind Editor-in-Chief Andy Rao, continues to be the school's number one source of news on campus. The seventh-largest circulating paper in the state of Kansas, not only does it grab the attention of students, but the community as a whole who understand the importance of the student population to the city.

The *Collegian* has had individuals win numerous awards such as the Hearst Award and Region 7 Mark of Excellence in Journalism awards. As a student newspaper, they strive to continue to improve on their daily newspaper.

### Royal Purple

The school yearbook, has been giving K-State students memories of their college lives since 1909. The Editor-in-Chief, Erin Poppe, strives to continue to make the Royal Purple even better.

“I understand how important the yearbook is to so many students,” said Poppe. “It gives students the opportunities to cherish those memories that you only get while in your time at Kansas State. It is my job to make those memories as good as I can, and I strive to make that happen.”



## Benjamin focuses on upcoming process

# School Re-Accreditation Prep Underway

By MARK KERN

With Angela Powers stepping down as the Director of Kansas State University A.Q. Miller School of Journalism, someone needed to step in and fill the void. Louise Benjamin decided she was just the person to do it.

### Stepping Up

"I saw that someone needed to step up to the plate," said Benjamin. "We have a very important accreditation visit coming up in the near future, and the faculty needed somebody to lead that. I felt with my past experiences, I could be a very valuable piece to that mission."

Benjamin received her Ph.D. in Mass Communications from the University of Iowa in 1985, and then had teaching stints at both Indiana University, as well as the University of Georgia. In 2000 and 2001, Benjamin filled in as the interim director of the Peabody Awards at Georgia. She also worked as a television direc-

tor/producer at a news station in Des Moines, Iowa. With this experience and background, Benjamin said she understands the importance of making sure that the school is re-accredited.

"There are only two accredited schools of journalism in Kansas, us and KU," said Benjamin. "We have such a great journalism program here, that we must make sure that we take all the necessary steps to make sure we get the job done."

Benjamin said she is surprised with the amount of work her new job as the interim director requires.

### Loves Teaching

"I really love teaching, but I just do not really have the time," said Benjamin. "I am still teaching the graduate course in Communication Theory, but to teach any other classes would be unfair to my students."

Benjamin said her main job is

to make sure that the school gets accredited. In the fall of 2013, she said there would be a group of people who come in to decide on the effectiveness of the program.

"The accrediting team will go through a process to make sure that we are doing everything to help out students learn everything they need to be successful," said Benjamin. "The team will visit our classes to look at everything from how the teachers are teaching, to how attentive and interested the students are in the class. After covering everything from curriculum to facilities and meeting with the dean, provost and president, the team issues a report that will determine whether or not we are re-accredited."

K-State has a very good history when it comes to being re-accredited. Only during the 1980s was the school not accredited, and Benjamin said the reasons were quite simple.

"There was a major lack of facilities," said Benjamin. She added that alumni and faculty worked to upgrade the facilities so the school was re-accredited several years later.

### Right People

With all of this work for Benjamin, she understands she will be very busy. However, she said she is confident she has the right people around her, including Powers, to help make sure the program gets re-accredited.

"Angela left a lot of her own material for me to use," said Benjamin. "She understands the amount of work it takes, as well as the pressure there is, and she has been very supportive to me. Re-accreditation is a very big challenge, but it is something that I am definitely looking forward to doing and making sure we continue to grow as a journalism program."

## Think Tank provides creative environment

By DEME KOPULOS

Kedzie Hall has been the home of K-State journalism for decades. The engineers and leadership studies students may have coffee houses in their buildings, but Kedzie's new renovation is way more addictive than a caffeine fix. Thanks to several leaders in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism -- Andy Nelson, Angela Powers and Lou Benjamin -- our home away from home is getting a well-deserved renovation, the Think Tank.

"The idea is to provide a space in which students can be creative together, can be innovative and can feel like they can do good work in the place where they take classes," said Nelson. The space in Kedzie 215 has been

transforming piece by piece into the Think Tank for over a year.

"Summer of 2011, I contacted a couple of people in the interior design department, and said I have this idea I'd like to try and figure out ways in which we could



Photo by Ashley-Ann Cavazos

**Journalism students enjoy the atmosphere of the Think Tank.**

find some low cost enhancements to Kedzie Hall and the place where we call home. Michael Dudek, associate professor for the department of apparel textiles and interior design, came over, and they looked around and had a class design some stuff," said Nelson.

Construction began Summer of 2011. Nelson along with Curtis Matthews and Shelia Walker cleaned and added new paint to the area.

Lucy Reilly Fitch, a K-State alumna who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Mass Communications, was a major donor for the renovation.

The space will include desktop Mac computers, fully loaded with everything from Final Cut Pro to Photoshop, a large television

hanging on the wall students can connect their computers to and plenty of space to lounge. Additional improvements to the Think Tank will be funded by the Academic Excellence Program.

"Andy Nelson put together the proposal and explanation that convinced President Kirk Schulz and Provost April Mason to fund our request," said Lou Benjamin, interim director of the Miller School.

"I was a student at K-State many years ago and Kedzie Hall has not changed significantly in 25 years. I just feel like whatever we can do to provide students with a more modern and inspiring facility in which to work is going to be a good thing," said Nelson.

# Dary Highlights Changing Media World

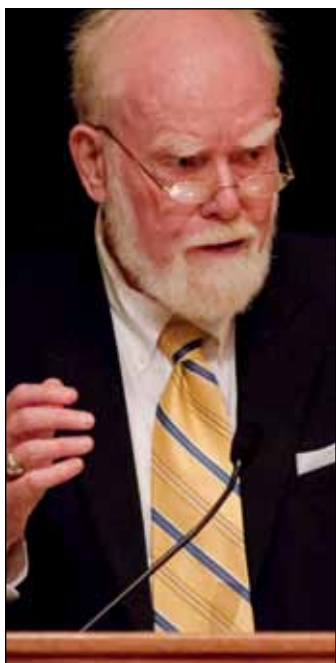


Photo by Tommy Theis

David Dary

By **DEME KOPULOS**

It had to be from the 1970s. The reporter's hat was tilted to the front. He wore a skinny black tie, pinstripe suit and crisp white dress shirt. He wore a glimpse of a smile that stretched to the corner of his mouth, and he held a microphone just close enough to President Truman to catch every word. He was part of the parade consuming the sidewalk.

At Hale Library on K-State campus this black and white photograph that lay encased in glass is no different than gazing at David Dary in person. He is the living-breathing portrait of an American journalist.

## Question

"One must learn to question what he hears or reads or what he is told. One must question what their teachers say and what they hear in lectures like this. They must seek facts, not just assumptions or opinions. Critical thinkers learn quantitative skills. They are curious about the world around them, and they learn to write well," said Dary.

Dary stood behind the podium in Forum Hall, in a classic black suit tailored to perfection, and he had the words to match. His lecture was titled, "Community Journalism and Other Stuff in a Changing World," which served as the Huck Boyd lecture on Sept. 19.

Dary gave the audience key elements of being an objective journalist in a time of sensational news that's given a catalyst of social media. Dary told his audience he not only has a strong concern for where news and reporting are headed, but also for students themselves.

"I sense that the goals of many young people are more blurred and fuzzy today than when I was in school, perhaps because the future seems so uncertain," said Dary.

## Be a Thinker

"If you're going to succeed you're going to have to be a thinker. You know what that means. You're going to have to work," said Dary.

An element that makes or breaks a writer according to Dary is instinct.

"You have to trust your own judgment when writing. If there's something that says to you this is not good, something's wrong. You better go back and look because your subconscious is telling you go back, and you can find some correction," said Dary.

Another piece of advice Dary gave students earlier in the week when he guest lectured in numerous classes was, "The Almighty gave you two ears and one mouth intending that you listen twice as much as you talk. You can say the same thing for your eyes," said Dary.

Dary has concerns about social media because of what he witnessed television become when he was working for CBS.

"Working in television was not enjoyable. It was, as the late CBS commentator Eric Sevaried said, like being pecked to death by ducks. Too many cooks spoil broth, too many consulting physicians kill patients and too many earnest helping hands writing ear-

nest office memos can, and often do, kill the quality of television news," said Dary.

Dary compared the mentalities of social media and television.

"Watching people use Twitter, and Facebook and other similar platforms remind me of the early days of television when everyone felt obligated to watch TV because everyone else was watching," he said.

## Herd Mentality

He said there was a herd mentality.

"I think *NBC*, *CBS* and *ABC* news, unfortunately are shadows of what they once were," he said. "I think television has failed as an affective form of news.

"One of the difficulties is that known journalists, who are called producers, and production people have taken over so much of television, you're getting into where it's entertainment and not news. Why do you call a show, a show? Comprehensive news costs money, opinion is very cheap," said Dary.

During his time in his hometown of Manhattan, Dary visited numerous classes every day he was on campus.

## Lifetime Work Donated to Library

By **Deme Kopulos**

The Huck Boyd lecture was just the start of things David Dary had to share with Kansas State University. Dary also donated papers, photos, more than 4,000 volumes related to Kansas, ranching, journalism and the history of the West.

Some of the items found in the Dary collection date back to the 18th century. The collection of memoirs takes the audience through Dary's life and some of the most exciting times in his career as a television broadcaster.

"This curiosity (of mine) also resulted in building my own research library of rare and scarce works on Kansas and the West. I am pleased that my library of 4,000 volumes has now been acquired by K-State and is being processed by

Watching Dary lecture, you could tell he was no stranger to addressing and commanding a classroom as Dary worked at the University of Kansas and the University of Oklahoma.

He took time to reflect on his hometown of Manhattan and how having Midwestern values shaped his morals as a journalist and professional. "Moral values were stronger and the lifestyle was honest and friendly, and common sense seemed to prevail," said Dary who graduated K-State with a bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism and Speech Communications.

## Coming Home

Dary came back to his alma mater not only to share his observations through his career as a journalist, but to leave a part of it and himself with K-State forever.

"I am pleased that my library of 4,000 volumes has now been acquired by K-State and is being processed by Hale Library," Dary said.

The Dary Collection can be found in Hale library on the fifth floor.

Hale Library," said Dary.

"I hope it will help contribute to a better understanding and appreciation of Kansas history, that of the American West and give us more pride about our past," said Dary.



Photo courtesy of David Dary papers, Morse Department of Special Collections, Hale Library

**President Harry Truman is interviewed by David Dary.**

# Symposium Provides Broadcast Outlook

By **MARK KERN**

The Great Plains Radio History Symposium took place for the sixth time on Oct. 14 at the Holiday Inn. Many media outlets and journalism professionals took part in the event.

John McGuire, associate professor and graduate coordinator at Oklahoma State University, said he was honored to be asked to participate in the event.

"When Steve (Smethers) asked me to come and give a presentation, without a thought, I said yes," said McGuire. "Steve and I had worked together at Oklahoma

State, and I always had considered him to be a very good friend. So there really was never any question on whether or not that I would do it."

McGuire discussed the history of Kansas City sports broadcasters, including some of the greatest from the local area. These broadcasters included Kevin Harlan, Len Dawson and the current Kansas City Chiefs radio broadcaster, Mitch Holthus. Even though Holthus was unable to attend, he said he understands what a significant event this is, and how lucky the K-State students are to have an event like that near campus.

"At K-State, the number one thing I was

able to get was opportunities," said Holthus. "It does not matter what your last name is, if you put out the work, you will get any opportunity you could ever want. With an event like this, you get to go see some of the very best in our business, and the knowledge and experience you can gain is incredible. I hope that all students went or at least get in contact with all these great people."

Smethers, associate director for undergraduate studies, said the event is only getting more and more popular, and he loves the direction it is going.

"The event has been great so far, and this year's is even better," he said. Smethers added all of the people who have taken time out of their schedule to come, gave presentations that were very educational.

"This is such a great opportunity for our students to come out and learn so much more than just the book information," he said.

Corbin McGuire, a junior in mass communications, went for the first time and said he was definitely glad he did.

"I had no idea that there would be so many people with so much knowledge in what they do," said McGuire. "I thought I knew a lot, but to hear all these people with so much knowledge and history on journalism, it opened up my eyes so much. I will definitely go back next year."

"We are trying each and every year to get more people to attend, and I think we are on the right track," Smethers said.



Tom Hedrick speaks at this year's broadcast symposium.

Photo by Andy Nelson

## Interns Connect with Kansas City T-Bones

By **SEAN FRYE**

While most summer interns are forced to work behind a desk in an office, Ashley Dunkak and Chris Sourk spent the summer of 2012 enjoying baseball at Community America Ballpark in Kansas City, Kan.

The two were media relations interns for the Kansas City T-Bones, an independent professional baseball team that was founded in 2003. Their responsibilities during the summer included putting together press materials for the writers and broadcasters who covered the T-Bones.

"A big part of our job was game notes," Dunkak said. "We put together what the recent trends of the team had been, a few storylines here and there, updated all the stats and week schedule."

Other responsibilities included producing content for the team's official website.

"We did feature stories and game recaps for the website," Dunkak said. "A couple times we did press releases of new players or player releases."

Both Dunkak and Sourk said they applied online for the internship by sending in their resumes. Another reason they applied is that they have family who live in the Kansas City area; Dunkak is from Olathe, Kan., while Sourk has a sister who lives in Kansas City, Kan.

"I was looking around for a summer internship, and I was familiar with the T-Bones," Sourk said. "It was a fun environment, and I thought it would be a cool place to work."

The two spent nearly every day from mid-May through early August together and worked long hours covering the team. Most days, the two showed up around noon to work, and would not head home until 10 p.m.

"We mostly just saw each other all day long, because we were in the press box," Dunkak said.

Once during some downtime, the two played a game of "H-O-R-S-E." Sourk, who lettered in basketball in high school, said he thought he had an easy win playing Dunkak.

"I won, but it was a lot closer than it should have been," Sourk said. "She gave me a good run."

The game took an hour, and it was outside in the dead heat of a Kansas summer.

"It was 107 degrees on the day we picked to do this contest, so the other intern was not very happy with us," Dunkak added. "But we played two out of three. He won the first one, I won the second one, and then he won the third one."

Overall, while the team struggled toward the end of the season to put up wins, both Dunkak and Sourk said they had nothing but positive feelings about their internship.

"It was a lot of fun," Sourk said. "The people who work there really appreciated the help that we gave them."



# Kedziepalooza Ignites Enthusiasm

## New Year, New Traditions for School

By **RACHEL FLATTERY**

The A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications kicked off the new school year with the first ever Kedziepalooza on Aug. 28 in the commons area between Kedzie and Fairchild Halls from 5 – 6 p.m. Along with free pizza, music and raffles, the first 200 students also received a free Kedziepalooza water bottle.

Tom Roesler, academic advisor for JMC, coordinated Kedziepalooza with the help of 21 JMC ambassadors. He said it was a way to get students involved and for them to look forward to the new semester.

“We started [Kedziepalooza] because we wanted to have an event to fill a void and start the semester right,” said Roesler. “We’re using this event as a test to see if in the future we might continue doing such events.”

Student sponsored groups such as The Collegian newspaper, *Royal Purple* yearbook, KSDBFM radio, K-StateHD.TV, Wildcat Watch, PRSSA and Advertising Club were among the groups stationed throughout the commons area. There, students were able to sign up for group meetings, get information about an organization and meet some of its members.

Lyndi Stucky has been involved in Kedziepalooza from the beginning. She is a junior in advertising and digital media and a current student ambassador for the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

“Through Kedziepalooza, I want to help people understand mass communications and get people to like this major,” said Stucky. “The outcome was great. I’ve gotten to meet people and hope this becomes progressively larger over the years. Tom worked really hard to make this happen.”

Information about Kedziepalooza was posted throughout Kedzie Hall and through the uses of Twitter and Facebook.

“It’s fun to hear from alumni, asking why they didn’t have [Kedziepalooza] when they were in school,” said Roesler. “We hope this becomes a tradition and happens every year.”



Photo by Hannah Hunsinger

**Willie Wildcat hangs out with journalism students at Kedziepalooza.**

## New Faculty Welcomed



**Debra Skidmore**

By **MADISON MOYD**

“I believe it is very important to bring actual life experiences into the classroom, so your students can relate to lessons better,” Debra Skidmore said. “It brings a connection.”

Skidmore rejoined the journalism staff spring 2012 semester.

Prior to her return, she had retired in May 2010 from working 30 years at Fort Riley as a public relations specialist and running the Media Relations’ Office there. In addition, for seven of those years she also taught evening classes as an adjunct professor at K-State.

“I had a very successful career in PR working for the U.S. Army,” Skidmore said. Skidmore is alumni to K-State as well as the JMC School. She is currently teaching Magazine and Feature Writing, Public Relations Campaigns and Public Relations Writing.



**Barbara DeSanto**

“It’s very wonderful to return to a land grant university. I’m a Big 12 person and Kansas State is very similar to Oklahoma State. I like that a lot,” Assistant Professor Barbara DeSanto said.

DeSanto is one of the newest additions to the Journalism and Mass Communications Public Relations staff, currently teaching Public Relations Techniques this semester.

“I chose to switch from administration to the classroom, because my passion for teaching never left. I really wanted to get back into the classroom, so this position was exactly what I was looking for,” DeSanto said. “I also wanted to begin researching and writing again.”

“Another thing I’m really enjoying is being the Kansas State Public Relations Student Society of America Faculty Advisor,” DeSanto said. “I like the chance to work with students and help them explore the professional field while building their career.”

# WE ARE K-STATE

By SEAN FRYE

Twenty-six years ago, both student and professional photographers toured the K-State campus for a week, capturing photos of everyday life around K-State. They produced *A Week at Kansas State: Photographs of College Life*.

During the first week of October, nearly 20 photographers who are K-State alumni, returned to campus to produce a second version of the book. It will be known as *We Are K-State*. The book, which is set to release in 2013 and will be timed with the K-State sesquicentennial celebration, will also have an accompanying website and mobile application.

"We have exceptional photojournalists who came from K-State, and we have exceptional people who are K-Staters to document the K-State community," said Maggie Spano, one of the co-editors of this year's publication and a 1992 graduate of

K-State. "We wanted to do it in a way that as many people as possible could see the images."

*The Collegian Media Group*, formerly known as Student Publications, sponsored this year's project. Steve Wolgast, the director of *Collegian Media Group*, also appointed Christopher Assaf as one of the co-editors of *We Are K-State*. Spano is currently the Senior Director of Operations at Universal Uclick in Kansas City, Mo. Assaf, a 1992 graduate of K-State, is currently the multimedia editor at *The Baltimore Sun* in Baltimore, Md.

Together, Assaf and Spano gathered K-State alumni, all of whom worked with *Collegian Media Group* during their time as a student at K-State, to put together the project. According to Spano, one of the goals of the project is to be able to exhibit the talent of K-State alumni.

"We wanted to celebrate the work photojournalists have done from K-State," Spano said. "We want to recruit new students. We want to show off the community. We want to show how photojournalism is changing."



Eryka Stabel, left, and Spencer Rotolo-Utz, rehearse a

The original publication debuted five years prior to Assaf and Spano's graduation from K-State. For them, along with the other members working on *We Are K-State*, they said it is a unique honor to be part of a new chronicle of the local community.



Photo by Jeff Tuttle

Top: Students battle for a frisbee during an intramural ultimate game. Intramurals have long been a part of the K-State experience.

Right: A K-State student bundles up against the fall chill while waiting for the kickoff of the KSU vs. KU football game.



Photo by Karen Mikols Bonar



# TATE ALUMNI PHOTOGRAPHERS SPEND WEEK HIGHLIGHTING LIFE ON CAMPUS



Photo by Andy Nelson

**routine in Nichols Hall for "The Music Man."**

"Chris and I were in high school when the first book came out," Spano said. "It's very special to be here helping with this project and working with the alumni who we saw. It's very unique to be here helping out the university."

Plenty has changed around Manhattan and K-State since the alumni graduated. Renovations to Hale Library, the stadiums and many other buildings on campus have given the photographers plenty of new angles to shoot.

"Physically, K-State has changed," Assaf said. "There are new buildings, Hale Library is beautiful. Just the little touches. The campus was always beautiful, but they have really molded an amazing space here."

Another thing that has changed since 1986 has also been technology, according to Assaf.

"Technology, it goes without saying," Assaf said. "Even the five years before I graduated when the book came out, there were changes happening. That is totally the situation now with the *Collegian* and the *Royal Purple*."

One of the most important skills a journalist can have, according to Assaf, is to be able to adapt to changing times. One of the ways the alumni will be working on this project, that was different from 1986, is that much of the work will be done remotely.

"It's all about adaptability," Assaf said.

"It's all digital now, and we'll be doing a lot of work when we're done here from our homes teleconferencing and telecommuting to bring this to final fruition."

For Spano, the one thing that has not changed about K-State though is the warm atmosphere that students and faculty bring to the community.

"The wonderful people, the wonderful atmosphere, everybody is warm and welcoming," Spano said. "When we came back, we came home. K-State is still that family we had 20 years ago. That's what I love about K-State."

In addition to producing a quality production, the alumni also spent much of their week on campus interacting with current student workers within *Collegian Media Group*.

"The photographers have taken time to meet with students," Spano said. "To look at portfolios, to go out on assignments and show them tricks of the trade."

Tommy Theis, a senior at K-State and

**"We wanted to celebrate the work photojournalists have done from K-State."**

**-Maggie Spano**

the photo editor for the *Collegian* this past fall, spent much of his time during that week with the professional photographers trying to learn how to improve his photos.

"Tommy and some other students have been coming up and hanging around," Spano said. "And it's great to be able to mentor and show the kids some things."

According to Theis, the time he spent with all the professional photographers on campus during the week helped him hone in the journalistic aspect of being a photojournalist.

"I think the most important thing that I did bring back from it is how they do their job," Theis said. "They showed the power of journalism behind photojournalism. They really showed me how to be more of a journalist."



Photo by Jeff Tuttle

**Ally Lamunyon, right, and Tanner Sleed work to halter break a foal.**

This also said one thing the alumni tried to instill during their week was a greater sense of solidarity among the photographers. This said this is lost with advances in technology and the ability for photographers to work out of their home.

"I think they're trying to get more of camaraderie going which is harder today with all the digital photos," Theis said. "They wanted it to be more of a team effort."

Overall, the feeling among the alumni who worked on the project was a sense of anticipation and excitement.

"The emotion in the images, the color, the vibrancy, it's going to be really exciting for people to see this production," Spano said.



Photo by Allen Eyestone

**Chinese students begin to set up for a festival in the K-State Union Courtyard.**

# Student Wins National Fishing Tournament



Photo by Hannah Hunsinger

Ryan Patterson fishing at Tuttle Creek Lake.

By **KELLY MCHUGH**

Ryan Patterson sank into his chair making it look small with his almost 6-foot figure. The senior in advertising flashed a contagious smile and began to talk about his favorite thing – fishing.

With his laid-back personality and casual attire, it isn't difficult to picture Patterson hanging out on a boat all day listening to country music.

However, Patterson fishes competitively and has a lot going for him this year. "I think

people think of it different than it is," Patterson said. "Competitive fishing, as much as I would like to sit in a lawn chair and drink beer, takes a lot of work."

Patterson is the only collegiate fisherman to ever win the Forrest L. Wood College Fishing National Championship single handedly.

Typically, in college bass fishing tournaments, teams of two from colleges around the nation cast their rods, and the team that catches the most weight of fish after a few days on the lake wins.

"I think about it this way," Patterson said. "If you're playing blackjack, and you have two people playing, they're going to make more money because their probability is higher than you playing by yourself. I mean you're at a serious disadvantage."

## Disadvantage

That disadvantage didn't stop Patterson from catching 14 fish, which weighed in at a total of 46 pounds and 15 ounces, during the three days at Lake Murray in Columbia, S.C.

"Let's say you're making 500 casts in one day," Patterson explained. "A team is making 1,000 [casts], so you have to make your 500 count."

But Patterson has not always fished by himself. He started competing on the K-State fishing team with his brother, Brandon.

The brothers set off on the road to the FLW College Fishing National Championship in March of 2011. In order to make it to the lakes of South Carolina for the championship, they had to do well in two qualifiers. The first qualifier was the Central Regional Qualifier at the Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. The brothers placed fifth, which secured them a spot in the Midwest Regional Qualifier in Carbondale, Ill.

Before the regional qualifier, however, Brandon changed majors and transferred to

Highland Community College.

The transfer made him ineligible to compete with Ryan for the Midwest Qualifier. The rules of the competition did not allow someone to sub, so Ryan took on the qualifier alone.

He placed fourth overall in the Midwest qualifier, securing a spot in the National Championship from April 13-15, 2012. The rest is fishing history.

"I'm the only guy who's ever won it by myself. There's a lot of guys who are just as good as I am who were there, but I was just lucky enough to get the right bites to win," Patterson said with a modest smile.

Doug Smith, the K-State fishing team head coach who has 25 years of competitive fishing experience under his belt, said this year, he sees Patterson taking competition even more seriously.

When not on the lake competing or practicing, Patterson spends a lot of time in Kedzie Hall working toward his degree in advertising.

## Advertising Career

Smith said the career path Patterson is pursuing works well for a guy in competitive fishing.

"I think it will help him," Smith said about Patterson's major. "He has an understanding of advertising which is what sponsors will expect, and that will really help."

Patterson said he uses the things he learns in the classroom almost every day.

"Right now, there's probably 200 guys in the country who fish professionally," Patterson said as he adjusted his worn baseball cap. "A lot of them own their own businesses. They're still professional fishermen, but they have something to fall back on."

"What I'd like to do is work for a company, but have the opportunity to fish professionally as well," he said.

# K-State Super Fan Wears Pride Proudly to Every Game

By **MADISON MOYD**

Most people remember their collegiate years -- socializing, sporting events and their education. For one enthusiastic junior, his years at Kansas State University are not yet over, and he has plans to solidify his name before he exits the university.

Evan Yule, journalism major in Advertising, is a common face on campus for *The Collegian*, *Kstatesports.com*, *ESPN* and YouTube. He is the chest-painted fan who is always cheering on the front row of every football, volleyball, men's and women's basketball game since August 2010.

He broke barriers by entering a video of himself doing his "Shimmy Dance" in a teeny

K-State themed speedo to the Tosh College Campus Invasion Contest, which was aired on national television.

Daniel Tosh, a comedian on Comedy Central, asked collegiate students to advise him why he should tape one of his weekly shows on their campus. Yule responded with his shimmy.

From that moment, Yule found himself in a whirlwind of opportunities.

"G Thomas Jewelers, in Manhattan, found out who I was and paid me to make a Facebook video for them advertising a Facebook Picture Campaign they were running," Yule said with his quirky smile.

"Then 502 Media Group, a local marketing agency, found out about my campaign

and offered me an internship. I interned for them the spring semester of 2012," he said.

"Evan brings a lot to our team at 502 Media. He is quick to learn and jumps right in on projects," 502 Media Group Owner Blade Mages said.

Today, Yule is the emcee for the Sonic Wildcat Trivia Question at volleyball games, a spot earned by a K-State super fan.

"Though I love being painted, nowadays for football and men's basketball events, my game day attire is my new K-State sweater vest. It's pretty sweet," Yule said peering to the sky with his ambitious brown eyes.

He said he can't wait to see what his final year at K-State will bring for him.



# Unique Talent

Kansas State instructor finds joy in unlikely hobby, entertaining audiences

By KELLY MCHUGH

Vern Wirka, K-State journalism and mass communications instructor, said it isn't uncommon for the unruly but loveable Dewey Weston to steal the show. As a matter of fact, when the two perform together, it's Dewey whom the crowd always remembers.

"I have numerous instances where I would go back to a school, maybe two years later, and those students coming back to the assembly program don't remember my name," Wirka said. "But they'll remember a puppet's name."

Wirka is a ventriloquist, and Dewey Weston is one of his main characters. Though Wirka has not performed any shows since relocating to Manhattan in 2011, he began studying ventriloquism during his childhood days as a Cub Scout and has since traveled with his crew of puppets from New York City all the way to Honolulu, Hawaii, providing entertainment to people of all ages.

While still in elementary school, Wirka read an ad in *Boys Life Magazine* for the Maher School of Ventriloquism, a correspondence course. Wirka graduated from the school and began performing. As an entertainer, Wirka started doing shows wherever he was invited to be on stage. Wirka took time to hone his ventriloquism skills while pursuing a career in broadcasting and eventually academia. He did numerous events from corporate events to school assembly programs and assisted living facilities.

"It's been something that's come and gone depending on whatever else I'm doing," Wirka said. "I consider it a vocation. During some times when the broadcast business wasn't there for me, the ventriloquist business was."



Photo by Tommy Theis

Vern Wirka poses with his favorite puppets in his Manhattan home. From left to right are Riley the Golden Retriever, the loveable Dewey Weston and Monk Eeh the Chimpanzee.

Wirka said ventriloquism is a unique art. The ventriloquist has to know how to react for two characters at once, himself and his puppet, while also controlling the intricate movement of the puppet making it come to life. From the movement of the eyes, mouth and eyebrows, to candidly speaking the puppet's witty jokes, Wirka is able to control it all to grasp the attention of his audience.

"In ventriloquism you do everything," Wirka said quietly from his usual booming broadcast voice. "Consider the puppet the instrument. You're playing the instrument, while at the same time you're doing your own character, you're doing the character for the puppet, and you are acting and reacting virtually at the same time."

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**"I** consider it a vocation. During some times when the broadcast business wasn't there for me, the ventriloquist business was."  
-Vern Wirka

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In 2000 and 2001, Wirka spent a lot of time on the road entertaining. His wife, Karen Wirka, said that, while it started with him traveling only every other weekend, in early 2001 he hit the road to do a series of shows and spent almost every night in a new hotel.

"He left in January, and they said, 'Oh he'll be back, we're just going to do the Midwest,'" Karen explained as she looked across their office at her husband, who was wearing his purple and gold ventriloquism vest and pulling his puppets out of a large case. "But he

ended up going to New York, [New] Jersey, Virginia, so I didn't even see him until after Easter. Some days he would do three or four shows a day."

With the days of traveling and entertaining behind him, Wirka said the days he spent working as a ventriloquist have helped him better his cognitive skills and performance in the classroom.

This semester Wirka is instructing the Audio Techniques class and Law of Mass Communications class. He also oversees the radio practicum students as he is the chief operator of KSDB 91.9, K-State's radio station. After spending over 25 years in the broadcast business and 15 years working at Dana College, a small liberal arts college, Wirka said everything fell into place perfectly with his job at K-State.

"I felt I was preparing for my whole life for this," Wirka smiled and straightened his glasses. "They were asking and looking for somebody who had the academic credentials to teach, the experience in the classroom, experience on the professional side of the broadcasting business, and they wanted somebody with some technical ability to be able to handle the chief operator duties of KSDB."

And he had everything they were looking for.

"I think he's bringing a lot of different skills, and knowledge and background to the school with his ability to work both in radio and also in the law classes," Louise Benjamin, interim director of the A. Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications, said. "I think we've really got a very good person in that position."



# Bolerjack Hopes Path Leads to Success



Photo by Brian Broeckelman

**DJ Bolerjack looks over the script for Channel 8 News where he helps produce the students' news.**

**By MARK KERN**

"25, 20, 15, 10, 5 TOUCHDOWN! Collin Klein puts the Wildcats up 48-42."

Most K-Staters probably remember the four-overtime thrilling 53-50 victory over Texas A&M last season.

Standing in the booth at Bill Snyder Family Stadium on a windy night, DJ Bolerjack was there in his black suit, full of emotion and enthusiasm.

If the last name sounds familiar to sports fans, it is because he is the son of Fox Sports broadcaster and former K-State linebacker Craig Bolerjack.

"My dad immediately out of college became a sports broadcaster," said Bolerjack on how his dad influenced him.

Bolerjack said his dad always encouraged him to do what he wanted, which happens to be something he is good at.

"I have always been able to talk to people and that is why I became involved with journalism,"

Bolerjack said. "Something about news fascinates me. It is the unpredictability of never knowing what is going on. In news, one day it might be slow, and then the next day you are driving three hours to cover a story no one saw coming. It is something I absolutely love."

Eli Anderson, who works at 1350KMAN, had the opportunity to work with Bolerjack.

"DJ has a personality about him that made him easy to work with," said Anderson. "He is very passionate in what he does and always made the job enjoyable."

Bolerjack was also elected to be an ambassador for the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism.

Jessica Bigger, a former advisor at K-State, said it was an easy choice. She said Bolerjack is the perfect example of how K-State wants the journalism school to be represented.

As Bolerjack continues to move forward in his career, he said he wants to make his dad proud and prove himself in the journalism world.

## Myers Finds Dream Internship in Las Vegas

**By DEME KOPULOS**

"The fast paced environment really appealed to me, and I immediately felt like Las Vegas would be a great area for me to pursue my career," said Kaitlin Myers, a senior PR major.

Myers decided to take both of her passions, public relations and Las Vegas, and turn them into a reality her junior year at K-State.

"I emailed Preferred PR's development coordinator my cover letter and resume. I heard back from her the next day, and she wanted to set up a phone interview. I spoke with her on the phone the next week, and the day after our interview, she offered me the intern position," said Myers.

### Clipping Media

Myers spent most her internship clipping media, close to 200 articles a day, for various

clients, as well as learning the art of a PR pitch.

"When I started studying PR, professors always pointed out that the evaluation process was the most neglected piece of a public relation plan. So, I was pleased when I discovered Preferred PR's dedication to evaluation of its work with clients," said Myers.

It wasn't all behind the scenes work. Myers said her favorite part of her internship was helping with special events production for the grand opening of Grimaldi's, a national coal brick oven pizza chain.

"The night of the event, I served as a directional by directing media and VIP attendees to the event. It was rewarding to see the special event come together from start to finish," said Myers.

Myers felt very prepared for her experience with Preferred PR.

"My coursework at Kansas State set me miles ahead of the other interns."

### Moving Forward

As for returning to the bright lights of Vegas, Myers is keeping her options open when it comes to job opportunities this coming summer.

"I have completed my Las Vegas dream, and I am actively searching for a new dream, and I am trying to keep an open mind and take a job that I am passionate about," said Myers.

As for advice for her fellow Wildcats, Myers said, "Dream big! Find something you are passionate about, and do not give up until you achieve it. Take advantage of this opportunity to do what you want and go where you want, because opportunities like this do not come along very often."



**Kaitlin Myers**

# New Research Lab Part of 2025 Plan

By SEAN FRYE

Down in a small basement room of Kedzie Hall, two professors are assembling a research lab. Although the space may be small, the two plan for the results of that research to be big.

Drs. Curtis Matthews and Wes Wise, both assistant professors in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism, aim to better understand the impact of advertising and other messages on consumers of media.

"What we basically have is a media lab," Wise said. "It allows us to conduct research on a variety of media-oriented projects."

Matthews and Wise will begin conducting research in the new lab in the spring. Right now, the pair are tweaking research designs and pretesting stimulus materials to ensure that their studies run smoothly.

"Between the two of us, we would like to have about three or four projects completed by May," Matthews said.

Most of the research conducted in this lab will relate to how people process media-driven information, and the effect of that information on people's attitudes, emotions and memories.

"When people experience media, such as ads, articles or songs, we can gauge their responses," Wise said. "We can see how product placements in TV programs affect memory or how particular songs may alter one's mood."

The researchers will also be able to track people's response times to stimuli presented in the lab, as the time it takes a person to respond to an event may provide insight about certain

thought processes.

"How long does anybody stand in front of the peanut butter aisle and think about it?" Mathews asked. "The speed of a response is sometimes more indicative of your true feelings than the response itself"

Matthews and Wise's primary reason for creating the lab is to share their research findings with the broader academic world. They both said that increasing the journalism school's visibility in research circles would help the university achieve its overarching goal of becoming a top-50 public research university.

"Our objective is to contribute to K-State's vision of increasing research exposure as a part of the 2025 plan," Matthews said.

Journalism student John Zetmeir said that having a quality research lab is very beneficial for the school.

"I think this shows that the A. Q. Miller School is really progressing toward the K-State 2025 plan," Zetmeir said. "It's nice to know that as a student, that the JMC School is taking a leading role in President Schulz's plan."

Although the lab will be equipped to conduct a variety of research projects for many differing interests, the true aim in creating it lies in furthering our understanding of the impact of both the media and their messages.

"Some of our findings may be viable for real-world applications or pertinent to the classes we teach," Matthews said, "but in general, our research is designed to expand the overall body of knowledge."

## Alumni Briefs

### Tom Bell

Tom Bell, 1978 graduate of the School of Journalism, began his career as a photojournalist, but went on to work as a reporter, was the general manager of *The Olathe Daily* and was editor and publisher of several Kansas publications including the *Chanute Tribune*, the *Garden City Telegram* and the *Salina Journal*.

After 14 years with the *Salina Journal*, in April 2012 Bell took over as the Executive Director of Governmental and Public Relations at the Salina Regional Health Center.

### Stephanie Carr

Stephanie Carr, a spring 2011 graduate of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, is currently an associate producer at *KRJH-TV* in Tulsa, Okla. She has worked there since July 2011. Carr also visits the K-State campus when she gets the opportunity.

### John Chelsnik

John Chelsnik graduated from Kansas State in 1989, and began his career as a broadcaster.

He decided to help others who dreamed of being in sports broadcasting, and in 2006 he founded Sportscasters Talent Agency of America (where he is also the CEO), an agency that helps promote their clients' work in hopes of getting them that job that they want.

He lives in San Francisco.

### Morgan Chilson

Morgan Chilson graduated from the School of Journalism in 1986. She worked as a newspaper reporter, eventually moving to the business news desk and working as business editor at the *Topeka Capital-Journal*. In 1999 she launched a freelance writing and editing business, Exactly Write.

Today, she writes for numerous magazines and newspapers, edits and ghostwrites books and creates marketing copy for businesses. Chilson also teaches business writing classes for companies like Westar and Security Benefit.

### Larry Grauerholz

Larry Grauerholz, who worked for the *Collegian* as an editor in 1938 and was the sports editor for the *Royal Purple* in 1939, currently lives in Wichita Falls, Texas. After his graduation from Kansas State, he served in World War II for 4 1/2 years in England. He met his wife of 68 years while he was in the service.

When he returned to the United States, he worked for a daily newspaper for 21 years.

### Mitch Holthus

Mitch Holthus has been calling Kansas City Chiefs football games since 1994. He has expanded his roles calling basketball games for *ESPNU*, as well as regional Big 12 broadcasts.

Holthus has been named Kansas Sportscaster of the Year eight times and in 2007 was awarded the "John Sanders Spirit of the Valley" by the Missouri Valley Conference.

### Sara Manco

Residing in Washington D.C., Sara Manco works as a photographer's assistant and a contract researcher. She graduated from the School of Journalism in 2010, and received her MA in Photographic Preservation and Collections Management from Ryerson University.

### Tim Schrag

Graduating in May 2012, Tim Schrag currently works for the *Hutchinson News* as a copy editor and page designer. He also writes a column every Sunday. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Digital Media.

### Emily Wilson

Emily Wilson, a 2008 graduate from Kansas State, is now the Communications Coordinator for the Kansas Association of Justice in Topeka.

Wilson was previously an admissions counselor at Washburn University.

Her responsibility as the Communications Coordinator is connecting a company or business to the media.



# Yearbook Editor Learns Mom Knows Best

By **MARK KERN**

The *Royal Purple* has been making memories for over 100 years. As Erin Poppe sits at her desk, she realizes listening to her mom was one of the best decisions she ever made. Her mom's advice has helped Poppe create many of her own memories.

Playing with her brown hair, Editor-in-Chief of the *Royal Purple*, Poppe was looking at last year's edition to figure out what she needs to do in order to make this year's copy even better.

"I was in yearbook in high school, as well as the photo editor for two years, but I actually wanted to open up my own photography studio. I applied as a Business Administration major," Poppe said while snuggled up in a K-State snuggie at her desk.

"When I came from Washington for out-of-state day, my mom said she had a surprise for me," Poppe said.

Poppe said her mother brought her to Kedzie Hall, told her to look around and suggested she might want to consider a minor in journalism.

"I fell in love instantly and changed my major," she said.

Andy Rao, the editor-in-chief of the

*Collegian*, said he understands the time and pressure that Poppe is dealing with. He said he is confident she is perfect for the job.

"On top of being a talented writer and reporter, Erin's leadership style allows her to motivate others to work toward a common goal. She handles adversity with grace, and she takes the utmost pride in her work," he said.

Darrington Clark, the managing editor of the *Collegian*, said Poppe's passion for her school makes her great at what she does.

"She really has a strong dedication to the yearbook and the quality of stories that go into it. I am in the cadence acappella and Erin self-proclaimed herself as our promotion person," Clark said. "She showed me she really believes in getting our school as much attention as we can, and we would not have sold as many tickets without her help."

Poppe said she tells people interested in working on the *Royal Purple* that journalism takes all walks of life to understand it, and the staff needs as many different perspectives as possible.

"You are surrounded by people such as students and faculty who are there to help you. They will bend over backward to make sure you succeed and get where you want to

go," Poppe said.

Poppe said her lesson learned though is to listen to your mother.



Photo by Ashley Mayo

**Erin Poppe**

## Costa Rica Trip

# Bridges Built Between Media, Students



Photo by Carolina Carazo

**Gloria Freeland poses in the classroom with an Introduction to Journalism class at the University of Costa Rica's School of Mass Communication Sciences. She discussed "Community Media in the United States" with the students.**

By **DEME KOPULOS**

Gloria Freeland, assistant professor in K-State's A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications, recently met with faculty members and students in the School of Mass Communication Sciences at the University of Costa Rica in San Jose.

Freeland traveled to Costa Rica Oct. 26-

Nov. 4, but it wasn't her first time there. She worked on a newspaper in San Jose from 1978-1980 and visited the city again in February 2000 when she was part of a K-State-University of Kansas delegation.

Freeland shared her knowledge of communications with students, and gave two class presentations, "Community Media in the United States" and "The Importance of Diversity in News Stories and Advertising and

Public Relations Campaigns."

During her time in Costa Rica, Freeland also met with staff from the Technological Institute of Costa Rica in Cartago.

"People in Costa Rica are very interested in collaborating in several areas -- faculty and student exchanges, research projects and workshops and conferences related to journalism and mass communications," Freeland said.

She met with UCR media outlets, as well as various magazines, and El Financiero from La Nacion group, and Porter Novelli, Comunicacion Corporativa, Garnier BBDO and La Tres strategic communications and advertising agencies to discuss student internship possibilities.

"Going back to Costa Rica was a lot of fun for me, and it was productive as well. I'm excited about the possibilities we explored for teaching, research and outreach," Freeland said.

The trip was made possible by an international incentive grant from K-State's Office of International Programs.



# Basketball Player Bouncing Back from Injury

By **KELLY MCHUGH**

**K**atya Leick, Kansas State University senior in journalism and mass communications, was just finishing up with basketball practice. Her hair was pulled back into a ponytail, but a few bouncing curls had escaped during her workout on the court of Bramlage Coliseum.

She couldn't stop smiling. She couldn't wait for the upcoming basketball season.

Leick transferred to K-State to play basketball with the Wildcats after spending two seasons at Nebraska. According to NCAA rules, however, the transfer forced her to redshirt the 2011-12 season with K-State.

"I am ecstatic for this season," she said on Sept. 18, her perfect white teeth showing through her ever-growing smile. "When you're healthy, you just want to get in there and play."

Her excitement of getting on the court for the 2012-13 season all came to a halt on Sept. 20, as now Leick is faced with sitting on the sidelines for yet another season. This time, however, her redshirt came in a completely different manner.

While playing one-on-one during a practice on the court in Bramlage Coliseum, Leick was driving the ball toward the basket. She went up for a layup and came down on her left knee on the hardwood court. The fall tore her ACL, an injury that will cost her four to six months of sitting on the bench.

"It's really hard, but I have such a great team and a great coaching staff," Leick said

almost a month later at K-State basketball's media day on Oct. 15 in Bramlage Coliseum. "I feel like it's something that is in God's hands, and he's got a plan for me. I may not understand it, but it's coming."

At the end of October, Leick had surgery for the injury and is working through a four- to six-month rehabilitation. She said she has no doubt she will be back on track.

"It's just such a crushing blow for her to have to go through the realization of the injury and another year out," K-State women's basketball Head Coach Deb Patterson said. "But she's a very tough-minded young person. She's very positive."

When not working with her team, Leick spends a lot of time focusing on her major, as she has high hopes to become a professional journalist after graduating from K-State.

"I think she's found a great career match," Patterson said. "She is outgoing, she has a great smile, she loves engaging people, and she has a charisma that I think is wonderful for communications."

Ultimately, Leick said she would love to work for *ESPN*, broadcasting sporting events and interacting with athletes since she can relate to what they go through day in and day out. While sports is what she loves, Leick said her time as a journalism major at K-State has offered her the opportunity to expand her knowledge of being a journalist outside the world of sports.

"I think it means that I'm doing something that's difficult," Leick said about being a student athlete and studying in a time-consuming major. "It is something that not

everybody wants to do or is able to do."

While her injury is keeping her out another season, Leick said she's ready to make the most of the situation, supporting her teammates and working hard to get back to 100 percent. Then, next year, after two seasons of working and waiting, she'll be more than ready to debut a purple and white jersey and step onto the court of Bramlage Coliseum, representing the K-State Wildcats for the first time.



Photo by Brian Broeckelman

**Katya Leick**

# Internship Waves Student Home to Paradise



Photo courtesy Hawaii Pacific Entertainment

**Pictured in the front row second from right, Caroline Davis poses with some of her colleagues at Hawaii Pacific Entertainment.**

By **MADISON MOYD**

"Maybe I'll retire in Hawaii, but until then, I'd rather not live there," Caroline Davis, senior Public Relations major said.

Davis spent her summer in a destination many of us would call paradise, but she just calls it home.

"PR majors need an internship to graduate, and I usually go home every summer," Davis said. "My mom is a well-known business woman where I'm from, so I asked her to see if she could connect with any potential PR businesses."

She said her paid internship with Hawaii Pacific Entertainment was busy, to say the least. Davis assisted with

multiple projects including creating calendar events, researching for Mixed Martial Arts Expos and setting up stages for concerts during 4th of July events.

"I also created contact and budget lists for Goodwill fashion shows, much like an event coordinator," Davis said.

"My favorite task overall during my internship was the social media aspect. For the two months I was there, I was the voice of social media for many companies represented by Hawaii Pacific Entertainment," Davis said. "I updated their pages, and even came up with my own ideas which were actually put to real world use."

A. Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications

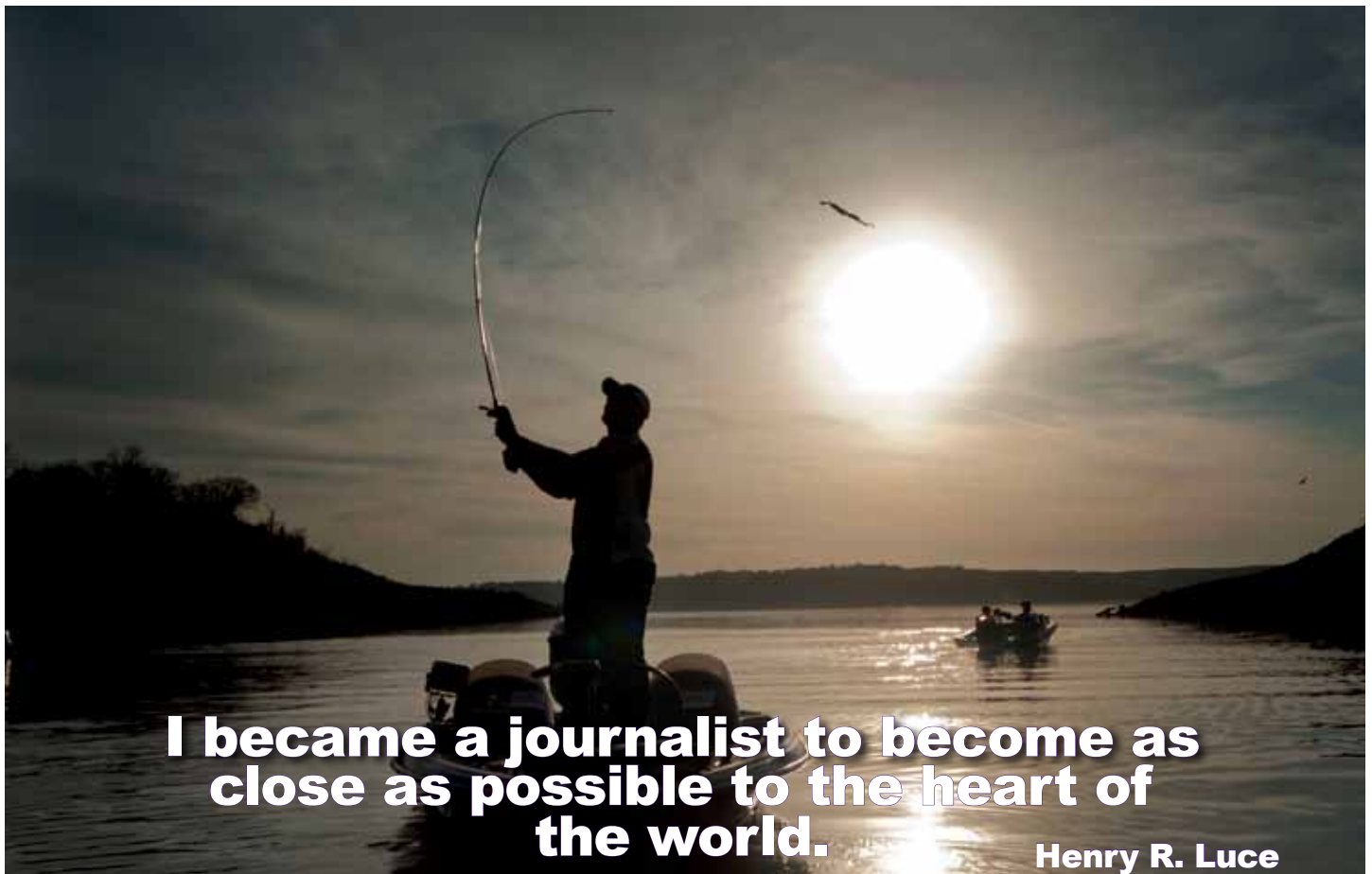
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**I became a journalist to become as close as possible to the heart of the world.**

**Henry R. Luce**

Photo by Hannah Hunsinger

**Ryan Patterson, senior in journalism and mass communications with a focus in advertising, casts his rod at Manhattan's Tuttle Creek Lake. Patterson recently won the 2012 FLW College Fishing National Championship.**