Faculty and Master's Students Compete in Graduate Student Council Trivia Night

Two JMC teams shared an evening of fun and knowledge of random facts at the Trivia Night hosted by the Graduate Student Council on September 17. JMC master's student Holly Speck coordinated and emceed the fundraising event, whose theme this semester was Wildcat Wednesday.

JMC graduate students Barikisu Issaka, Nick McNamara, Ryan Urban, Dat Tran, Turki Alturki, and Sara Savatovic (pictured above with Willie the Wildcat) represented the JMC master’s program with their team titled #FakeNews. Professors Louise Benjamin, Raluca Cozma, Nancy Muturi, Alec Tefertiller, and Jana Thomas represented JMC faculty under the name Mass-terful Comm.

After six rounds of heated competition, the two teams were tied in fourth place (out of 15 teams from across campus), each of them scoring only one point less than the third-placed team. #FakeNews won the award for best school spirit, and several faculty members won door prizes sponsored by local businesses. The event took place at JP’s in the K-State Student Union. Organizers are planning another trivia night for spring, so keep an eye out for requests for volunteers.

Upcoming events

October 11
Communication Research Colloquium
@2:30 p.m. in Nichols 126
Presenter: Dr. Jacob Groshek
"Data Networks and Analysis for Community Engaged Scholarship"

October 22
Graduate-student enrollment for Spring 2020 begins
JMC WELCOMES EIGHT NEW STUDENTS TO ITS ON-CAMPUS MASTER'S PROGRAM IN MASS COMMUNICATIONS THIS FALL

DAT TRAN
Before arriving at K-State from Vietnam, Dat Tran worked as a journalist, editor, and content specialist for over half a decade. He reported on social issues, politics, and international relations, and he also has experience working in multimedia journalism, executing promotional campaigns, and advising PR departments. Dat’s research examines ways to maintain the transparency and fairness of the press. He has a particular interest in promoting Vietnam’s culture, tourism, and language. He is an art and music enthusiast.

NICK McNAMARA
A native of Los Angeles County, Nick graduated from Long Beach State University where he majored in journalism and minored in Native American studies. He moved to Manhattan in 2017 to work as a city government reporter and broadcaster for News Radio KMAN and won a 1st place Kansas Assoc. of Broadcasters Award in spot news in 2019. He worked as interim and assistant news director for nearly a year before stepping down into a part-time role to attend K-State. His research focuses on community and citizen journalism and civic engagement.

BARIKISU ISSAKA
Barikisu has a degree in Information Science and Psychology from the University of Ghana. She loves volunteering and has volunteered with the Zurak Cancer Foundation and also as a teacher in schools for less privileged children. Barikisu interned at a journalism school and worked as a research assistant for a radio station in Ghana. She has managed social media pages for businesses and NGOs, including her own business page. Her research interests include social media, gender and the media, community development and health.

SARA SAVATOVIC
A Serbian native, Sara joined the K-State family in 2013 as part of its Track and Field team, graduating with a B.A. in JMC in 2017. She returned to K-State to expand her knowledge in strategic communications. Sara is interested in researching the sports and beauty industries, as well as social media and body image. She is a Serbian National Record holder in a hammer throw and was a five-time Big 12 Champion while competing for K-State. She has visited more than 20 countries and is fluent in Serbian, English, and Spanish.

RYAN URBAN
Ryan graduated from Pittsburg State University with a BS in Communication and an emphasis in advertising in May 2018. Originally from Louisburg, KS, Ryan likes to run 5Ks and has worked as a stagehand, having the opportunity to work with Taylor Swift, Ed Sheeran, Billy Joel and Elton John among others. Ryan is the graduate-student liaison and is pursuing a research agenda in advertising and social media after previously doing undergrad research on a topic near and dear to his heart: “Linking Pokémon to Positivity.”

TURKI ALTURKI
Turki comes from Saudi Arabia and graduated from K-State’s A.Q. Miller School with an emphasis in public relations in 2019. Turki’s research interests include crisis management, strategic communication, and messaging. He has completed an internship in public relations and marketing for Najm, an agency in his home country, an experience that is helping him in his capacity as teaching assistant. He is excited to work for more clients around the world, which he thinks communications and technology have turned into a small village.

SHAWN O’BRATE
Shawn is from Garden City and Overland Park, KS. He is passionate about sports journalism. He is somewhat of a world traveler and has always been interested in how the news is shaped overseas. Ever since he was a kid, Shawn has always wanted to write for a national publication and is looking forward to reaching that goal through the JMC master’s program. His academic interests include sports journalism/reporting, news reporting, international communications, and worldwide reporting styles.

CODY FRIESEN
Cody is from Olathe, KS, and graduated in August 2019 with a degree in Human Development and Family Science and a minor in JMC. Cody is a huge sports fan and started working in sports journalism his junior year, writing short Major League Baseball opinion pieces for the K-State Collegian. He continues to cover the K-State football season for The Collegian. Last year, Cody co-hosted a sports talk show on the student-run Wildcat 91.9. In his spare time, he often attends sports games or is working on the sidelines for ESPN.

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NEWLY LAUNCHED ONLINE MASTER’S PROGRAM ATTRACTS COHORT OF PROFESSIONALS WITH DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS AND INTERESTS

ALISA DEEDS
Alisa graduated in 1991 from K-State with a bachelor’s degree in JMC. In the summer of 1991, she completed an internship for 20th Century Fox, KTTV in Los Angeles, California. After graduation, she moved to California where she worked as a Senior Recruiter for the Fortune 100 accounting firm Arthur Andersen. Alisa was featured in SHAPE Magazine in 1993 for an article she wrote on health and fitness. She returned to Kansas in 2002 and worked for Kansas Farm Bureau for 10 years. She is a graduate of the KARL program, Class X. Alisa lives in Bird City where her husband farms. They have a 14-year-old son and two adorable fur babies. She loves to travel, watch Wildcat football and the Denver Broncos.

CAROLINE GARCIA
Caroline is a Dallas, TX, native currently living in Austin. Caroline completed her undergraduate degree in Communication at Texas A&M University in 2017. One year ago, she started working for Abbott Laboratories, the maker of Pedialyte and pacemakers where she coordinates the legal and logistics, mainly for its electrophysiology division. Research is a passion of hers and she would like to better understand the impacts of motivational communication and dysfunctional communication. In her free time, she is very active in the Texas heat, currently training for the Chicago and Austin marathons.

DAVID WARAKSA
After working 22 years as an award-winning Creative Director in the advertising industry, David is now in his 2nd year as a Professor at New York City College of Technology, where he hopes to inspire, challenge and share all that he’s learned with the next generation of Makers, Doers and Thinkers. He currently lives in Brooklyn where he can often be found cheering loudly for VCU Basketball with his French bulldog, Ruthie Bader Ginsberg.

EMILY WILSON
Emily lives in Topeka but is originally from Lenexa. Emily graduated from K-State in 2008 and started her career in higher education admissions. After that, she became manager of communications for a nonprofit professional association, which included writing web content, planning events and serving as managing editor of a bimonthly scholarly journal. Wilson later took on role of marketing coordinator for a small business. As a communications specialist for a state agency, she now develops and distributes member communications through various channels. By completing this master’s program, she hopes to gain advanced skills in research methods, audience analysis, strategic and internal communications, digital media, and retirement readiness and financial literacy.
Dr. Jacob Groshek joins A.Q. Miller as its new Ross Beach Chair

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Jacob Groshek is the newest faculty member in the A.Q. Miller School and its new Ross Beach in Journalism and Mass Communications. Dr. Groshek is teaching a graduate class, MC 740—Social Media Data Analysis and Visualization, this semester and will be teaching MC 802—Advanced Research Methods in the upcoming spring semester. Dr. Groshek hails from Boston University and is excited to be here.

His prolific research agenda in international, political, and emerging media took shape over the years, Dr. Groshek shared. “When I was an undergrad, I studied technology education, worked for the student newspaper, and got a minor in English literature. Those experiences helped me decide to pursue a graduate degree at Marquette University. I mostly looked at coverage of the Iraq War, which was just starting in 2002-2003. I analyzed influential newspapers like the New York Times to help identify the big actors. I worked for a year in Denver, CO, doing a lot of graphic design and database sort of work.”

During that time, Groshek decided he would pursue a Ph.D. “In 2004 I started a doctorate program at Indiana University in Bloomington and studied diffusion of online technologies, finishing in 2008,” he said. “I tried to study how these technologies affected the rise and falls in democratic societies in various nations. I looked at several stats and models to determine the rise and fall of democracy around the world. Our view of democracy has changed a lot in the past few years, from one that was utopian to a version mired with fake news and polarization. I still study a lot of new topics, including emerging media. These research pursuits have evolved over time to examine political climates and now health." For instance, Dr. Groshek has conducted research on antibiotics and public health campaigns around disorders like IBS. "Internet and mobile technologies are still at the core of what I look at,” he said.

Dr. Groshek also expressed excitement about joining K-State. “This is a great opportunity and at a great time in the history of this school.” He is looking forward to contributing to the research mission of the A.Q. Miller School. He also stays active in athletic events, including basketball, having been his high school team’s co-MVP, as well as coaching in the community and volunteering around town. In his free time at home, he likes to bike with his family and grill out. Dr. Groshek has lived and taught across the globe in the US, Europe, and Australia.

JMC FACULTY ATTEND AEJMC

Several faculty members represented the A.Q. Miller School at the annual convention of the discipline’s flagship association, AEJMC (Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication). The conference took place in Toronto, Canada, August 6-10, and featured both research and service from K-State.

Dr. Raluca Cozma served as the vice-chair of the AEJMC Standing Committee on Teaching and participated in several teaching panels. She was a discussant for the Graduate Student Interest Group, and Dr. Alec Tefertiller served as discussant for the Mass Communication & Society Division. Dr. Katie Olsen was recognized as a Kopenhaver Center fellow of the Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication. Dr. Alec Tefertiller’s research on audience perceptions of digital streaming services won the top-paper award from the Media Management, Economics, and Entrepreneurship Division.

Below are the research papers that JMC faculty presented at AEJMC:

Raluca Cozma and Angela Zhang. Combatting science myths: The effects of fact-checking and platform congruency on hostile media bias and news credibility perceptions.

Katie Olsen. Where’s the Beef? How One Woman Rocketed to Leadership in Advertising’s Creative World.

