Beginning this fall, the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications is publishing the *Journal of Media Law & Ethics* (ISSN 1940-9389), one of the leading peer-reviewed journals in the field. **Dr. Nikhil Moro**, associate professor and former school director, is its editor, and Dr. Ian Punnett, professor of practice, is a member of its editorial board.

*JMLE* is an online, peer-reviewed journal exploring current legal and ethical issues facing the media, including defamation, privacy, copyright, censorship, licensing, reporters’ privilege, news accuracy, bias, and media literacy. After its launch in 2009 as a journal of Marquette Books, *JMLE* was published by the University of Baltimore School of Law beginning spring 2012 under the continuing editorship of its founding editor, Dr. Eric B. Easton, emeritus professor of law, who now joins its editorial board.

Dr. Moro has suggested multiple ways that the school’s graduate students might contribute to the journal, which include submitting manuscripts, collaborating with him to edit submissions, and coordinating the review process. The acceptance rate of the journal is approximately one out of three submissions, and Dr. Moro invites students and faculty members of JMC to help him in publishing *JMLE*.

“This is a prestigious journal supported by a terrific editorial board that represents gravitas, visibility, and vibrancy. It can raise the national profile of our school, strengthen the academic culture, and enable new opportunities for faculty and students,” said Dr. Moro, explaining that hosting the journal would help JMC fulfill an academic duty of disseminating knowledge to the larger world and the public, particularly to fellow scholars who are interested in the laws and ethics related to journalism, advertising, and public relations.

Published quarterly or occasionally, *JMLE* seeks theoretical and analytical manuscripts that advance the understanding of media law and ethics in society. Submissions may have a legal, historical, or social-science orientation, but must focus on media law or ethics. All theoretical perspectives are welcome. All manuscripts undergo blind peer review. Access to *JMLE* is available to the public at no charge.

More information about the journal and the submission guidelines can be found at: [https://jmc.k-state.edu/academics/graduate/medialaw.html](https://jmc.k-state.edu/academics/graduate/medialaw.html).
As A.Q. Miller School’s professor of practice/chief operator of KSDB-FM, Dr. Ian Punnett oversees one of K-State’s oldest assets while still maintaining a strong presence on several media platforms.

For more than 40 years, Dr. Punnett has been performing in various forms of commercial media. Since 1999, Dr. Punnett has contributed to many nationally syndicated radio shows that air on more than 600 stations in North America and the English-speaking markets. Under his leadership, the “Wildcat Girls” broadcast TV/digital campaign for Wildcat 91.9 was the winner of the Award of Excellence, Promo/PSA BEA; Best PSA, Station Promotion; and third Place on National Telly Awards this year. Apart from that, Dr. Punnett has written, edited, coedited, or contributed to a significant number of journals and books. For example, he contributed to the latest edition of the classic textbook News Now: Visual Storytelling in the Digital Age (2021). He also contributed to The Future of Journalism 2040 (expected to be published this year).

Regarding his research interest, which he considers “cool” and of which he is very proud, Dr. Punnett broke ground in the true crime space with his Ph.D dissertation from Arizona State University that resulted in the influential book Toward a Theory of True Crime Narratives. After identifying the line between the concept and practices of crime journalists and true crime creators, Dr. Punnett has been invited to speak at two conferences in Europe: one virtual this year, another in summer 2022 in the United Kingdom. Just this week, Dr. Punnett was asked to review Towards a Theory of Whodunits: Murder Rewritten from Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

As a graduate faculty member, Dr. Punnett is working with three master’s students, one on radio technology during the Vietnam War, one about messaging amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and one in the process of narrowing a thesis topic. Dr. Punnett recommends that his advisees feel free to follow his example of pursuing all of their interests: “Write and research on whatever topics you want to right now because you may not have that time in the future.”
Piper Brandt
Second-year master’s student from Madison, KS.

Why did you choose K-State and JMC?
I chose K-State mostly because of a personal connection – many members of my family have attended. I remember visiting campus many times throughout my childhood and always loved the limestone buildings and how green it was. I originally started as a microbiology major, but realized I enjoyed writing more than anything, so I decided to combine my interests and pursue science communication. JMC offered the closest fit to that, and I decided to stick around to get my master’s degree.

What are your research interests?
I am generally interested in scientific communication, but most of my research efforts have focused on health communication so far, in particular the public perception of vaccines. I plan to base my thesis on this topic. I was very excited to present my paper, “COVID-19 vaccine perceptions and communication: A health belief model analysis,” at AEJMC Midwinter Conference this year. I have plans to help present a project I worked on with fellow graduate students Sakshi Bhati and Barikisu Issaka, “Assessing Mental Health Awareness and Help-Seeking Behaviors of International College Students,” at the National Communication Association Convention in Seattle this fall.

What are your long-term plans?
After I graduate, I hope I will be accepted into the Peace Corps as a health volunteer. I have my eyes set on Moldova in Eastern Europe, but I will be thrilled to go anywhere I am needed.

Any hobbies, interests, or fun facts about yourself that you’d like to share?
I love hiking and camping and have a passion for preserving public land! I once lived in a tent for three months while doing trail work in rural Colorado. I also worked for the Forest Service in the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho for a season, where I was flown out to live in a remote cabin with propane appliances and lights.
JMC WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS TO ITS ONLINE AND ON-CAMPUS MASTER’S PROGRAMS THIS FALL

**LAMYA ABDULLAH ACHELHA**

Originally from Cairo, Egypt, Lamya earned her Bachelor’s degree from “l’Institut Superieur de l’information et de la communication ISIC” in Morocco. All her studies were in French. She worked as a journalist and a communication specialist for a few years before moving to Egypt where she worked in the call center industry. She moved to the States in 2018 and chose K-State because it has a diverse atmosphere, where students come from different cultural backgrounds. Her research interests include political conflicts and their impact on women’s life specially in the Middle East area, crisis management, and social media’s impact on political choices. She loves reading and when she feels down, she watches Harry Potter movies.

**MICHAEL ASHFORD**

Michael Ashford previously graduated from the A.Q. Miller School in 2006 with a B.S. in Journalism and Mass Communications (print journalism). He now lives in the Denver, Colo., area with his wife and two children. He is currently the Director of Marketing at a Denver-based software company, and he has spent the last decade building and leading marketing teams in the software space.

**JOYCE GLASSCOCK**

Joyce most recently was employed as Lead Government Relations Director with Boys & Girls Clubs of America where she served 9 years, following service as CEO for the Boys & Girls Club of Manhattan. Joyce’s experience spans work in government and politics, including as Chief of Staff to former Kansas Governor Bill Graves, and in D.C. as press secretary to a Member of Congress, legislative correspondent for a U.S. Senator, and communications at the U.S. Department of Commerce. Joyce’s political campaign experience includes leading a gubernatorial race, staffing a presidential campaign, and serving as press secretary for a U.S. Senate race. Joyce earned a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Missouri School of Journalism. She is a graduate of Leadership Kansas and participant of the Global Institute for Leadership Development.

**JAZSMIN HALLIBURTON**

Jazsmin is from Justin, TX. She graduated from K-State with a Kinesiology degree and a minor in Journalism and Mass Communications last spring. This past summer she worked at KSDB Wildcat 91.9 radio station co-hosting a sports show called “Down to the Wire.” She has elevated from a mere co-host to the new Sports Director of the station and hosting her own sports show. Sports has been a passion of Jazsmin’s since she was child, and she sees herself one day working for ESPN or Fox Sports as a commentator or analyst in any sport.

**RYAN HAYTER**

Ryan is a 1991 JMC graduate who returned to K-State to pursue a master’s degree and explore his lifelong interest in teaching after spending the last 30 years developing communications programs for dozens of global companies. Ryan owned and operated Hayter Communications for 20 years, an adventure lifestyle public relations and marketing agency out of Seattle that represented several of the world’s top ski, snowboard, surf, yoga and athletic brands, prior to selling the company in 2019. He looks forward to working with students to not only develop the fundamental skills necessary to land a communications job after graduation but, more so, to inspire and give them the tools to pursue their dream careers.
Adam Meyer is in his sixth year at Kansas State University, after earning his bachelor’s in Journalism earlier this year. Adam has a big passion for sports communications. He is the part-time sports writer for the Manhattan Mercury, where he helps with covering K-State and high school sports. Adam’s hope is to one day be a sports writer covering college sports for a paper at least the size of the Kansas City Star. Adam has enjoyed his time in the JMC school as an undergraduate student, and he imagines he will enjoy grad school as well.

Yen-My Nguyen
My is from Vietnam. She has been a multimedia reporter for 5 years at Thanh Nien Newspaper based in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), where she dedicates herself to covering international affairs and the Covid-19 pandemic in her home country. She is interested in studying news production on different platforms, especially social media sites. Also, she wants to know more about how to advance the roles of women and foreign correspondents in practicing journalism in Vietnam. She spends her free time reading detective novels on her Kindle. My is also a big fan of Japanese culture and currently is trying to learn Japanese.

Vi Tran
With a Journalism and Communication BA from Vietnam, Vi has 4 years of experience in Communication, including the Employer Branding Department at the top technology corporation in Vietnam, and the PR Representative team for Google Vietnam. Her expertise includes ICT Communication, PR and CSR for international firms in local markets, crisis management, strategic communication planning, and social campaigns management. She has a particular interest in the emerging, innovative technology industry, believing that it is not only about the products, but also about changing people’s ways of living.

We also welcome students Elizabeth Boyd, Whitney Jefferson, and Emily Herrman to the online master’s program.

Dr. Raluca Cozma to Co-Edit UNESCO Pedagogy Handbook
As she is wrapping up her term as chair of the AEJMC Teaching Committee, Dr. Raluca Cozma is working with the incoming president of the association, Dr. Susan Keith of Rutgers University, on an edited volume titled Teaching Journalism Online to be published in early 2022.

The volume brings together 20 instructors from 14 universities in 10 countries in 7 regions of the world. The COVID-19 pandemic forced many institutions of higher learning to move their classes online. For some faculty who had already taught courses remotely, the adjustment was minimal. For those who were teaching online for the first time, in an uncertain situation and in a discipline that emphasizes experiential learning, the transition was extremely stressful. "We hope that this volume provides useful tips and insights both for veteran online instructors and for educators who need to navigate the challenges of online delivery for the first time," Dr. Cozma said.

The open-access handbook will be published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) through the organizing efforts of the World Journalism Education Council (WJEC).
JMC PRESENTS RESEARCH AND WINS TOP PAPER AWARDS AT PROMINENT CONFERENCES

JMC faculty members and graduate students have presented at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) conference this summer, and several are scheduled to present at the 2021 Southwest Symposium (SWECJMC) in October.

AEJMC VIRTUAL CONFERENCE - AUGUST 4-7

- Alec Tefertiller (Baylor), Jacob Groshek & Raluca Cozma - "Speak Up or Quiet Down? The Spiral of Silence, Opinion Leadership, Social Capital, and Presidential Candidate Support on Social Media." *Top paper award

- Nancy Muturi, Raluca Cozma, Alec Tefertiller (Baylor), & Jacob Groshek - "A Vaccine for Social Media? Factors Moderating the Negative Impact of Social Media Use on COVID-19 Protective Behaviors."

- Katie Olsen & Danielle LaGree - "Mentorship as a Tool to Close the Leadership Gender Gap: Understanding How Professional Relationships Impact Women During Their First Five Years in the Strategic Communications Industry."

- Dat Tran & Uyen Diep - "Timely, Accurately, Avoid Unnecessary Panic: How Vietnamese Newspapers Framed the COVID-19 Pandemic during the Initial Stage."

- Anan Wan - "Competing in Shopping Games: Modelling Gamification Effects of Social Livestreaming Shopping and Chinese Undergraduates’ Impulsive Buying" (with Yulou Jiang, Wanci Li, Jing Lu & Yicheng Zhu, Beijing Normal University).

SOUTHWEST SYMPOSIUM - OCTOBER 15-16

- Uyen Diep - "Vietnam Twiplomacy: Target Audiences and Public Diplomacy - Behind the Tweets."

- Huyen Nguyen - "Parsing Data Journalism: A Content Analysis of Data-driven Stories Collected From Major Publications in The United States" (with Hoa Nguyen, University of Maryland).

- Ryan Urban - "Universities and Tweeting: A Content Analysis of Collegiate Tweets" *Top Graduate Student Paper

- Dat Tran - "Make A-meme-rica Great Again!: Studying the Memers Among Trump Supporters in the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election on Twitter via #maga and #trump2020." *Top Extended Abstract

RESEARCH BY DR. NANCY MUTURI EXAMINES HOW HIGH-RISK ORGANIZATIONS CAN INCREASE COMMUNITY TRUST AND SUPPORT

In a study co-authored with Dr. Angela Zhang from University of Oklahoma, Dr. Nancy Muturi surveyed Manhattan, KS, residents living nearby the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) to examine how high-risk biological research facilities can communicate organizational legitimacy, and how legitimacy perceptions may affect public trust and risk perceptions.

The study, published this summer in Public Relations Review, illustrated the importance of transparent and consistent communication in organizational legitimacy-building, as well as the role of legitimacy in garnering public trust, easing public uncertainty, and increasing public preparedness. Findings provide insights for risk management for high-risk organizations. As legitimacy perceptions increase trust, benefit and preparedness perceptions and decrease risk perceptions, legitimacy-building communication should be incorporated into high-risk organizations’ risk communication efforts.

JMC RESEARCH EXPLORES THE ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE PANDEMIC

In a study published in the latest issue of Computers in Human Behavior, Dr. Raluca Cozma (with Dr. Angela Zhang, University of Oklahoma) conducted a national survey in February 2020 to examine factors affecting information sharing behaviors and social amplification or attenuation of risk on Twitter during the early stage of the COVID-19 outbreak.

"What we found problematic during that initial period was the respondents’ low level of knowledge about the risk posed by the virus," Dr. Cozma said. "In light of those findings, the study participants’ reluctance to share information about the pandemic on Twitter was actually a silver lining." Titled "Risk sharing on Twitter: Social amplification and attenuation of risk in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic," the study suggests the importance of factors such as trust and misinformation concerns when it comes to dissemination of risk information on Twitter.