JMC FACULTY MEMBERS TAKE BEA BY STORM

Upcoming events

May 17
Graduate School Commencement
1 p.m. @ Bramlage Coliseum

June 1
SWECJMC Symposium paper submission deadline
11:59 p.m. @ http://swecjmc.wp.txstate.edu/symposium/

The 2019 Broadcast Education Association (BEA) convention hosted in Las Vegas in early April showcased a vast variety of A.Q. Miller School’s talent. Dr. Louise Benjamin was named the 2019 BEA Distinguished Education Service Award winner. In leadership, Dr. Tom Hallaq served as the News Division’s Festival Vice Chair. Supreme Court Justice and new KSU professor Dan Biles presented in the panel discussion “Gaming Tech in News Coverage: Legal and Policy Issues.” This panel offered a legal critique of the quickly increasing use of gaming tech in news coverage and was moderated by Dr. Nikhil Moro, the Director of the A.Q. Miller School.

Professor Andrew Smith sat as a panelist for the “Sports Broadcasting Program Showcase.” Dr. Angela Zhang moderated “Rebuilding Trust in an Era of Mass Skepticism,” a panel featuring JMC professors Jonathan Borden, Nancy Muturi, Sam Mwangi, and Raluca Cozma, discussing the current state of distrust in journalism around the world. In addition, May 2019 graduating master’s student Jana Thomas presented a poster on “Adolescent Social Media Citizenship.” “It was a great experience to be able to talk with other graduate students and media researchers about my work and get valuable and timely feedback,” Thomas said.

In the Interactive Media & Emerging Technologies Division’s research competition, Drs. Tom Hallaq and Raluca Cozma won first place for their paper, “College TV News Websites: Accessibility, Captions and Mobile Readiness.”
DR. SAM MWANGI’S NEW BOOK OFFERS WISDOM BUILT ON INTERNATIONAL ROOTS

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Sam Mwangi wishes to bridge the knowledge gap between his African roots and American home in his new book, “Life is God’s Best Gift: Wisdom from the Ancestors on Finding Peace and Joy in Today’s World.” Manhattan reminds Dr. Mwangi of his rural Kenyan hometown. However, Manhattan, like most of the country, lacks access to many international perspectives. “Ancient African knowledge is contained in proverbs and short stories with profound insight applicable to humanity everywhere, but that ancient knowledge is not well known outside of Africa,” Mwangi said. “I want to make it available globally.”

Dr. Mwangi has taught at K-State for 12 years and has treasured working at a university that values research, teaching, and an international orientation. Although his general research interest lies in media and civic engagement, exploring ways in which society could use communication to empower citizens, Dr. Mwangi is also interested in media technology. One of Dr. Mwangi’s fondest teaching memories involves using media technology with a team of five graduate and undergraduate students. The group came up with a digital tool that could be embedded in news stories to make it possible for citizens to contact elected representatives regarding issues raised in the articles. The innovation has been successfully tested within the Manhattan Mercury’s news stories and presented in conferences in New York and Canada.

“As someone who comes from a developing country, I am interested in development communication or ways we could use communication to change societies,” Dr. Mwangi said. He channels these research interests within his favorite graduate-level classes, International Communications and Media and Community Engagement. Similarly, his new book acts a form of international communication that can instill change in Western society, breaking down cultural barriers through a carefully curated global wisdom.

“Life is God’s Best Gift: Wisdom from the Ancestors on Finding Peace and Joy in Today’s World” will be published and available in June.

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Holly Speck, first-year master’s student. From Bradley Beach, NJ. Undergraduate: Journalism at University of Richmond, VA.

What are your professional and research interests?

“Before coming to K-State I worked as an editor of an interior design publication in New York City and worked freelance for a New York Times reporter, Ian Urbina. My undergraduate program was mostly focused on experiential learning and ‘reporting’ – so the world of academia, journals, and conferences was originally a very foreign language to me. I have loved the perspective working with K-State’s diverse faculty has given me for a later professional context. I recently completed and presented research concerning the semantic phrasing of anonymous sources in journalism, and I am currently working on a project looking at the visual and verbal framing of gender in U.S. Army commercials. I am also very interested in war coverage and hope to work on a project studying war correspondents’ social media use. My hope is to accomplish publication in an academic journal and to continue studying in a Ph.D. program. Eventually, I’d like to be a journalism professor.”

What are your long-term plans?

“I hope to continue studying in a Ph.D. program, but first I want to return to the newsroom for a few years, using my Master’s knowledge. The goal would be to rise up the ranks to an editor position. Then I’d like to return to academia and teach journalism, with all of my newsroom stories to share!”
A.Q. MILLER SCHOOL JOINS K-STATE INTERDISCIPLINARY PH.D. PROGRAM

The A.Q. Miller School is the latest partner to join the interdisciplinary doctoral program in Leadership Communication, which brings together faculty from the Staley School of Leadership Studies, the Department of Communication Studies, the Department of Communications and Agricultural Education, and the Institute for Civic Discourse. This April, a favorable Graduate School vote to grant doctoral certification to seven JMC faculty members officially wrapped up the process through which the A.Q. Miller School worked with program director Dr. Tim Steffensmeier to join the doctorate degree.

Drs. Raluca Cozma, Nikhil Moro, Nancy Muturi, Sam Mwangi, Steve Smathers, Alec Tefertiller, and Angela Zhang will be teaching, mentoring, and leading dissertations in the interdisciplinary program, which uses community-engaged scholarship rooted in leadership practices and communication theories to address critical societal issues and contribute to the public good. The Leadership Communication doctoral program was approved by the Kansas Board of Regents and launched in the fall of 2018. For information on the program, visit https://www.k-state.edu/lead-comm/.

STUDENTS IN HEALTH COMMUNICATION COURSE COLLABORATE WITH COMMUNITIES IN HEALTH CAMPAIGNS

On April 23, graduate students in Dr. Nancy Muturi’s MC 750 – Strategic Health Communication course met with representatives from the Riley County Health Department, Lafene Health Center and other stakeholders to discuss a collaborative project on opioid use reduction in Manhattan and the Riley County. This collaboration is in response to a prescription opioid survey that graduate students Marie Armstrong, Heather Poole, and Patricia McKenna conducted as part of Dr. Muturi’s course.

The Riley Country Health Department has a grant that is designated to assess and address the opioid abuse in the county and is collaborating with K-State through the Lafene Health Center to provide direct and indirect care services for students impacted by opioids.

The survey results from the graduate students’ project will be used to design a prevention campaign to increase knowledge and promote self-efficacy for refusal of prescription opioids. “We are hoping to implement their health campaign this year in Manhattan community collaboratively with the Riley Country Health Department,” Dr. Muturi said about the students’ research. “We did the same last year with one project that addressed physical activity among older black women, which was implemented in Topeka.”

Chris Omni, who designed “Black Butterflyz” health campaign as part of this course, received the Kansas Health Foundation impact grant to implement it, and it has become a comprehensive intervention that boldly addresses the health and well-being of black women in the capital of Kansas. By participating in this course, Chris also decided to pursue a career in health communication. “My career-defining moment was when our Strategic Health Communication project shifted to a focus on barriers impacting physical activity engagement among black women. Divine Design!” Chris said. Other recent collaborative projects include mental health, immunization, and obesity.

Fall 2019
Graduate Course Options

On campus:
MC 740 | Colloquium in Social Media
Data Visualization
Dr. Jacob Groshek

MC 765 | Communication Theory
Dr. Nancy Muturi

MC 780 | Research Methods in Mass Communications
Dr. Raluca Cozma

Online:
MC 683 ZA | Reputation Management
Dr. Barb DeSanto

MC 740 ZA | Colloquium in Strategic PR Management
Dr. Barb DeSanto

MC 820 ZA | Digital Media Audiences and Analytics
Dr. Alec Tefertiller
Clients and agencies need to work more closely together. That's what we want to prioritize.

The Southwest Education Council for Journalism and Mass Communications (SWECJMC) invites member institutions, colleagues, and graduate students to join the regional group in New Orleans for the 2019 symposium. This year’s symposium will take place Oct. 4-5 at Xavier University of Louisiana.

SWECJMC invites submissions for a paper in research, project, or theoretical/conceptual format to be considered for presentation. The Council is also accepting pedagogy posters. Authors whose papers and projects are accepted will be invited to present at the conference.

Papers should be 1,000 to 5,000 words and must be received by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on Saturday, June 1. Peer reviews will be completed by Monday, July 15. As further incentive, this year the Council will award the top graduate student paper.

The top six papers selected for presentation are eligible for publication in the *Southwestern Mass Communication Journal* without additional review. Submissions are restricted to faculty members and graduate students of academic institutions in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Wyoming.

This year, SWECJMC has two KSU connections: Dr. Raluca Cozma currently serves as the SWECJMC vice president, running this year’s research competition, and will serve as president next year, meaning the symposium will be hosted in Manhattan in 2020. Additionally, graduate student Holly Speck serves as the SWECJMC Graduate Student Representative Board Member. Both are available for questions regarding the SWECJMC submission process.

**SWECJMC webpage:** [http://swecjmc.wp.txstate.edu/](http://swecjmc.wp.txstate.edu/).

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPRING AND SUMMER GRADUATES**

- **Myranda Bower** | Major professor: Dr. Raluca Cozma
- **LeAndre Carthen** | Major professor: Dr. Raluca Cozma
- **Molly Hadfield** | Major professor: Dr. Steve Smathers
- **Candy Johansen** | Major professor: Dr. Dani LaGree
- **Ting Li** | Major professor: Dr. Nancy Muturi
- **Quan Long** | Major professor: Dr. Alec Tefertiller
- **Avery Osen** | Major professors: Drs. Barb DeSanto & Raluca Cozma
- **Reghan Tank** | Major professors: Drs. Barb DeSanto & Raluca Cozma
- **Jana Thomas** | Major professor: Dr. Angela Zhang

Also, congratulations to Jana Thomas for winning the 2019 Graduate Student Council Leadership Award!

We would also like to express our appreciation to **Dr. Angela Zhang** for her exemplary work with graduate students in the past four years. Assistant professor Angela Zhang is finishing her last semester at the Miller School and is relocating to the University of Oklahoma this summer. We congratulate her and wish her and her husband, Jon Borden, every success as they embark on this new adventure.