Our Flint Hills

National Geographic Photographer Jim Richardson shares spectacular views of Kansas landscapes
Trying times!

Welcome to the Fall edition of Update magazine! We apologize for the late launch of this issue, as instructor Sara Quinn describes below.

It has been a devastating spring for the A.Q. Miller School family as we mourn the loss of two professors who were at the prime of their lives at the time of their passing: Dr. Tom Gould (Advertising) and Dr. Joye Gordon (Public Relations). As full professors, both were on the top of their academic careers (see pages 30 and 31).

In March, Marlene Franke retired after 30 years of service to Kansas State University (see story on page 4). Her contributions to the A.Q. Miller School were immeasurable as she fulfilled three roles: Office manager, Accountant, and Human Resources liaison.

At the time of her departure, the College of Arts & Sciences introduced the concept of “Shared Services” which meant that several departments would collaborate and share one accountant and one Human Resources person.

In theory, this would result in more efficiency and expedite the processing of payments and reimbursements and the onboarding of new hires. Gladly, we agreed to partner with the departments of Communication Studies, History, Political Science, and Geology. So far, the promised benefits of this Shared Services model have not completely been realized.

Two years in a row now, our national search for a Ross Beach Chair in Journalism and Mass Communications did not result in a successful hire. In both cases, the dean’s office was unsuccessful in negotiating a deal with the search committee’s candidate of choice. Apparently, in both cases “the money wasn’t right.”

Speaking of money: So far, the A.Q. Miller School lost more than $100,000 due to budget cuts this year. And, at the time of writing these comments, we have not yet received permission from the Provost to start national searches to fill the above-mentioned three vacant, tenure-track faculty positions.

To make programmatic advances, the School needs funding for 1) an endowed professorship in Public Relations; 2) funding to hire a Diversity faculty member; 3) funds to invite industry leaders to be guest speakers; 4) scholarships for graduate students; 5) scholarships to cover unpaid internships; and 6) underwriters for each issue of Update magazine. Please watch for more information from the development officer assigned to the A.Q. Miller School.

With purple pride,

wassmuth@k-state.edu

From the Director

A SINCERE APOLOGY

As instructor of the class that produces the A.Q. Miller School Update magazine in the 2016 spring semester, I would like to apologize for the delay in publishing this most recent issue. The delay is entirely my fault. You will see some lovely work created by the MC426 students in this issue. Rest assured, the next class is already hard at work under the tutelage of Linda Puntney to publish another issue before the end of this year. — SARA QUINN
Great things are happening at the A.Q. Miller School!

September 6, 5-6 p.m.  
**Kedziepalooza**  
A fall kickoff for the A.Q. Miller School. Students learn about JMC student organizations and enjoy free food, music and prizes given away by JMC ambassadors.

September 26,  
Craig Bolerjack, 1981 alumnus, will speak to students about his current role as the Voice of the Utah Jazz.

October 6, 5:30 p.m.,  
Marlin Fitzwater, 1965 alumnus, will share personal reflections on his decade in the White House at the official opening of “Marlin Fitzwater: From Wheatfields to White House.” Free w/RSPV to Darchelle Martin at 785-532-7442.

In Memory: Faculty Mentors, Colleagues 30-31

**Cover Photo**  
by Jim Richardson

The Kansas Flint Hills are “as green as Ireland,” according to National Geographic photographer and Lindsborg resident Jim Richardson. This photograph, taken over the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve north of Strong City, shows Richardson’s love for the agriculture he has documented around the world.

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Want to learn more about the JMC Ambassadors?  
Who they are, what are they studying, what they do for the A.Q. Miller School.  
See page 11

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KEDZIE’S ‘JAMES BOND’ ROOM

It’s no secret: The A.Q. Miller School has regained a beautiful teaching space within Kedzie that has been home to John We faucil Debate Center in recent years. The debaters have moved to Nichols Hall. The folks around JMC affectionately refer to Room 007 as the James Bond Room. We can’t help but be excited about our new space.
Franke helped many to navigate ins and outs of JMC

After more than 30 years of service to Kansas State University, Marlene Franke made the decision to retire, but will always keep her experience and people in her heart.

Franke joined K-State in the chemistry department in 1985 and started at Kedzie in 1992. She witnessed countless changes, many around Kedzie, worked under several department heads and won the university’s Classified Employee of the Year award.

She enjoys the environment at K-State. “Not many can say that they enjoy going to work every day. I’ve been lucky,” she said.

Away from K-State, she enjoys the thrill of a good deal. “I am a garage sale fanatic. I like going to garage sales and flea markets. I like the repurposing aspect.”

Her plans include traveling, hitting the greens and volunteering at church and within the community.

“I think it’s time to take some time for myself. I want to spend time doing things I enjoy, or have not really had time to do,” she said.

She’d like to thank all who have had a part in her work experience at K-State. “I’ll miss the people the most,” she said. —Sara Soph

Marlene Franke’s retirement led to a distribution of her duties. Tasks are now shared between senior administrative assistants Aribel Leon-Lynn and Susan Matzke in the JMC office; and Lisa Percival (accounting) and Annette Dowell (human resources).

Current Faculty Timeline AT THE A.Q. MILLER SCHOOL

“The biggest change has been technology. When I started at K-State in 1983, we still had labs with typewriters in them. But even with the change in technology, what has remained the same is the School’s commitment to turning out journalists who can do research, write and tell stories in interesting ways.”

1983: GLORIA FREELAND

1984: BILL ADAMS

1997: BONNIE BREDDERS

1999: KIM HALTRIP

2002: STEVE SMITHERS

2004: ANGELA POWERS

2005: KIM HALTRIP

2006: SAM MAWANGI

2009: STEVE WOLGAST

2010: KATIE OLSEN

2011: CURTIS MATTHEWS

2012: ANDREW SMITH

2013: BARR D’SANTO

2014: DEB SKIDMORE

2015: TOM HALLAQ

2016: BIRGIT WASSMUTH

2017: SARA QUINN

2018: ANGELA ZHANG

2019: BILL ADAMS

2020: NANCY MATURI

2021: CURTIS MATTHEWS

2022: VERN WIRKA

2023: WES WISE

2024: ANDREW SMITH
Kimetris Baltrip received the 2016 Robert Knight Multicultural Recruitment Award from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications. The award recognizes outstanding efforts to attract high school minority students to journalism and mass communications.

During her tenure as adviser, The Collegian gained its first Asian-American and African-American editors-in-chief, who were both women, and the culture of acceptance she helped to create later led to the newspaper hiring its first Indian male and African-American male top editors.

Her award specifically recognizes service beyond the university to reach middle and high school students. Earlier this year, she attended a college preparation initiative for urban students in Kansas City. There, she introduced ninth-graders to career paths in journalism and mass communications.

Baltrip has been at K-State for 11 years, coming to K-State from the New York Times.

— by Louise Benjamin

News
FROM AROUND JMC

Andrew Smith joins JMC as multimedia news director

C

oming to the A.Q. Miller School from Green Bay, Wisconsin, Emmy Award-winning journalist Drew Smith joined the faculty as Multimedia News Director.

Smith’s work on the nightly sportscasts of WLUK-TV as Executive Sports Producer, Sports Director and Sports Anchor gives him fresh industry insight.

He will work to develop a cross platform news desk staffed by students.

Smith says he hopes “to create an environment where budding journalists can find their voice.”

His wife, Jennifer and two girls, Abby (12) and Aubri (9) love their new neighborhood, Smith said. “We are all about community,” he said. “We’ve found many like-minded people in the area and are excited to start our new life as part of a place that is inclusive and kind.”

Gloria Freeland received the 2015 Gaston Outstanding Mentor Award at the annual Kansas Press Association Convention.

The award pays tribute to those who give reporters and editors “the extra push they needed to become outstanding writers, editors, publishers and journalism educators,” said Doug Anstaett, executive director of the KPA.

Freeland has advised more than 1,000 students in her role as internship coordinator for the School. She organizes annual internship fairs so students can network with prospective employers. She has also been director of the Huck Boyd National Center for Community Media at K-State since 1997.
Eight public relations students from the A.Q. Miller School conducted research in Great Britain over spring break with professor Barb DeSanto. Their task: Understand the perception of tourism and safety in traveling to the U.S. As part of an exchange program with the University of Chester, the group toured to the cities of Chester, Liverpool and Manchester to conduct “mall-intercept” surveys and collect data.

“The students did an amazing job. In just four days, they were adapting to the culture and were approaching people for the survey,” said DeSanto.

“The preliminary results from the 302 surveys seem to indicate that Brits weren’t too worried in March about U.S. violence,” said DeSanto.

“However, this summer a number of European countries, including the UK, have issued travel advisories about the violence in the U.S. I hope to be able to take another group of students in spring 2017 to conduct a second survey to see how the travel climate has changed,” she said.

Prior to the seminar, DeSanto hosted Dr. Tom Williams of the University of Chester here at K-State in February. It was the first trip to the U.S. for Williams, an educator and researcher working with DeSanto. His students will travel to K-State this fall to experience travel and tourism in Kansas.

“The experience was very fast-paced and very professional,” said Emily Eilert, junior in public relations minoring in leadership studies with a nonprofit focus. “(It) mirrored what I would expect from a similar situation in a real life public relations career.”

Eilert says the experience has already paid off for her in a very practical way.

“This class definitely helped me achieve an internship for the summer,” said Eilert, who received an offer from a nonprofit organization offering emergency, temporary shelter for children. “I offered up my surveying experience as a way to evaluate the many programs that the Wichita Children’s Home offers to its primary audience, and the company saw that as a useful asset!”

Seminar member Bailie Bridges had a similar experience as she interviewed for a new job. The main topic of her two-hour interview with Dallas-based Brinker International Restaurants was her participation as part of the March research team.

“I had my first day at Brinker today, and they couldn’t stop asking me about my spring research project abroad,” Bridges said. “I just wanted to thank you again for allowing me to travel to the UK with you twice, they are memories I will carry with me forever.”

— by Emily Porter
A new course, Drones in the Media, was added to allow K-State students to get hands-on exposure with one of the newest and most controversial technologies in journalism. The course was taught by a team of JMC faculty members.

“That was really the only way we could make it happen,” Kelly Furnas, professor of journalism and digital media, said. “Nobody had the time in their schedule to take it on by themselves, so we divided up the responsibilities and took sections based on areas of expertise.”

Those sections included law and ethics of drones, piloting (taught by Furnas), drones in the media (taught by Nick Homburg, graduate student), drones in advertising (taught by Birgit Wassmuth, director of the school) and the practical applications (taught by Tom Hallaq, professor of journalism and digital media).

The Federal Aviation Administration has laws in place that restrict drone flight for professional use and academic purposes by individuals without a pilot license.

The FAA was considering loosening the laws, but for the time being, the laws restrict a student’s ability to fly drones outside. The law does not apply indoors, so the students have been able to fly in Weber Arena and a local public school gymnasium. They learned to fly around obstacles through a computer simulator.

“The drone class gives the student a first hand look at an industry still in its infancy, one that as of now has no boundaries and is chocked full of possibilities.”

— NICK HOMBURG

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“The most rewarding experience for the students, in my opinion,” said Homberg, “is their sense of discovery.”

Students need “an appreciation for the versatility of drones,” said Homberg, “and to have an understanding of the legal, ethical and operational aspects of using a drone in journalism.”

If the laws are not lifted for future courses, Furnas said they will try to coordinate with the pilots at K-State Polytechnic in Salina to allow students to fly the drones outdoors.

“Once the FAA loosens those guidelines, pretty much every news-gathering organization on the planet is going to be looking for someone who can fly a drone,” Furnas said. “If we position our students to be at the top of that list when people are hiring, that just makes our program that much better.”

Even after the guidelines are changed, Furnas said the amount of projects students can do will be limited by the 15-20 minute battery life of the one drone that JMC owns. Because of this, future classes will complete projects in groups rather than individually.

The course is scheduled again for Spring 2018, and it may become a regular class with its own course number.

“The drone class gives the student a first hand look at an industry still in its infancy, one that as of now has no boundaries and is chocked full of possibilities,” said Homburg.

— By Kaitie Marolf
The Collegian will see some changes in the fall of 2016. Jon Parton, senior in political science, completed his last semester as editor-in-chief in spring 2016 after serving as chief for three semesters.

“In the time I’ve been here, we’ve increased recruiting, cut spending, received national attention, implemented time saving measures, increased online readership, improved our online content and presence and won 27 state, regional and national awards,” Parton said. “Time to drop the mic and move on. The other reason (this is my last semester) is that managing a newsroom doesn’t leave much time to actually write stories. I’d like to increase and update my portfolio before I graduate.”

Over the summer, Co-Photo Editor and Collegian Media Group’s IT Support Manager George Walker, junior in computer science, served as editor-in-chief.

“I have worked closely with previous editor-in-chiefs,” Walker said. “I think seeing how they were able to handle the website and take it to the next level was helpful.”

Originally, Guiden was on the track for Broadcast Journalism because she always felt like she belonged in front of the camera. However, after one semester she decided to switch to PR because she felt it is such a broad degree that she can be versatile and do anything with it in case she decide against a particular career.

Guiden has not yet decided if she wants to move back to Kansas City after graduation or move away. But, her dream job is to become an actress. Ever since she was a child, Guiden wanted to be in front of the camera. This also plays a big role in where to move after graduation.

Her favorite part of being a K-State student is the pride everyone has for the school and the friendliness of the people who work and attend school here.

“I can always find someone welcoming and friendly to chit chat with before class or in the elevators and even though some might believe it is a minor event in our busy lives, it is so much more than that,” Guiden said. “The friendliness and attitudes of the people make up the atmosphere here at K-State.”

— Simphony Guiden, junior in public relations

“Although I may appear to be a cold-hearted person, I’m really much more than that,” Guiden said. “I am a warm and caring person who loves to help others.”

“I’ve had to work very hard to get to where I am today,” Guiden said. “I’ve had to put in a lot of work and stay focused.”

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— Simphony Guiden, junior in public relations
to get a bunch of students collaborating to create our publication was one thing that encouraged me to want to continue the tradition.”

This fall, the Collegian will begin using a tabloid format for the first time outside of the summer, and Sports Editor Tim Everson, junior in English, will be editor-in-chief for the fall semester.

“I'm just excited to be an even a bigger part of the Collegian's long and proud tradition,” Everson said.

“Being the voice of the student body at K-State is an opportunity that I take very seriously. It's a privilege to be in my position.”

The Royal Purple will also see major changes in the 2016-17 school year. The yearbook will have two editor-in-chiefs, making the staff dynamic different. The EICs, Andrew Nevins, sophomore in marketing, and Katie Marolf, junior in mass communications, plan to increase student and event coverage, include more graphic elements, improve marketing tactics and improve their social media presence, Marolf said.

“Each of us have our strong suits, and we plan to oversee those areas and let the other tackle theirs,” Nevins said. “We also want to continue to modernize the Royal Purple.”

In the past, the yearbook staff created the PurplePedia phonebook, but this summer, this publication changed to a magazine titled Manhappenin', which will be a guide to Manhattan, K-State and campus life for new students and their parents, Marolf said.

“The biggest thing is that we are updating the way content is presented and the array of materials covered, but we are maintaining the integrity of the publication,” Marolf said. “The goal of every yearbook, regardless of the level of education it covers, is to preserve the experience of a certain period of time at an academic institution. If in 50 years, someone opens their Royal Purple and is reminded of something or it helps to act as a historical record for students in the future, we have done our job. That's what makes it worth it.”

— by Morgan Bell
The Interview: Time to look (and be) sharp

Students dressed in nice clothes anxiously shuffle from table to table, handing out freshly printed resumes to potential employers. Some students have come to find a job or internship, while others just want advice on working in a journalism related field.

JMC senior Anna Shippy said Professionals Day is best used for networking with people who are experienced in journalism fields.

“I think Professionals Day is a good chance to meet people and get advice on how they got to where they are,” she said. “I’m really here to just talk to people.”

Shippy said this year’s event is not her first. She first attended two years ago and believes Professionals Day offers a wide selection of both jobs and internships across all aspects of journalism.

“There’s a pretty big selection here. It looks like there’s really something for everyone,” she said.

Dallas Coronado, a senior in journalism and mass communications, said he attended the event to get advice on how to stand out from the crowd of would-be employees. Coronado said he often struggles with ways to exhibit his work and hopes that employers are able to tell him what they look for in a good job application.

“It’s hard to seem different from everyone else out there,” he said. “I want to show people that I’m good at what I do, but it’s hard for people to see that if they don’t see it in the first place.”

Coronado said he didn’t intend on applying for a job or scheduling an interview at Professionals Day, but wouldn’t be opposed to a position if an offer came up.

“I’m really open to anything right now, but not really looking for anything. We’ll see what happens,” he said.

Corey Reeves, general manager of Manhattan Broadcasting and exhibitor, said Professionals Day offers a unique opportunity for employers to sit down face-to-face with potential employees.

“We get to see who we might be hiring in person,” he said. “It creates a more personal interview and employment process.”

Reeves said he believes events like Professionals Day are becoming increasingly important as media convergence continues to grow.

“Companies are going to look for people who can do everything,” he said. “So if you have chance to talk to a lot of people in one place, you’ll be able to find those people and they’ll be able to find you.”

— by Landon Ochsner
The composition of JMC Ambassadors

For over 20 years, the A.Q. Miller School has employed some of their best and brightest students as program ambassadors. The ambassador program began in 1993 with five individuals who received a stipend for their work. During the first several years after the ambassador program began, small groups of four to six students pioneered the way for future ambassadors.

By 2005, the ambassador program transformed from a small project into the group that today’s students are more familiar with. The ambassador program is an elite group of 20 plus students who give campus tours, host recruiting events, assist guest speakers and work to keep all JMC students involved in the program.

— by Courtney Burke

JMC AMBASSADORS BY GENDER, CLASS AND SEQUENCE

Students
YOU SHOULD MEET

Abigail Hammack
Senior, PR

Abigail Hammack, senior in public relations, quietly sips on her double dirty skinny chai at Radina’s Coffeehouse as she thinks about her study abroad trip to Italy.

“Studying abroad develops you as a person,” Hammack said. “It gave me a more global perspective.”

She pushes up her tortoise shell glasses and keeps going. “It gave me a better perspective on life, academics and what I want to do when I graduate,” Hammack said.

“I couldn’t have gotten those in Manhattan.”

Hammack said she decided to study abroad during the second semester of her junior year. When she came back, she decided she wanted to promote studying abroad to her fellow students while using her public relations skills.

“At the Study Abroad Office, I am the social media director,” Hammack said. “I am in charge of crafting the voice of our social media.”

She has worked to boost the outreach of the SAO, especially their Twitter handle.

“I try to use things that are culturally relevant,” Hammack said. “I use Twitter analytics and different websites like that to understand the profiles of our viewers … FYI, Twitter analytics is a great tool.”

Hammack said she hopes to find a job in event planning after graduation.

— by Catie Madderom
THE FACES OF CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

Storytelling through a lens

Mickey Losinski, makes breakfast as his five children play with their dog in the kitchen during the commotion of a typical school day. Although Mickey was diagnosed with cancer, his family’s life didn’t stop. He and his wife, Lisa, work hard to keep their daily lives going strong.

The legacy of visual storytelling at K-State rallies on. Kelly Glasscock, class of 2004, taught his first section of Advanced Photojournalism last semester. He also advises the Royal Purple yearbook, serves as IT support director and directs a summer high school journalism workshop. (Busy guy.) Here are a few frames from student’s photo stories. See more at kstatephotography.com

Caleb Deines, sophomore in Psychology, has been performing in drag as Trixie Tops for just over a year. He debuted at Skivvies in Topeka in 2015.

PHOTO BY GEORGE WALKER, senior

PHOTO BY EMILY LENK, sophomore
(Above), Channell Carroll, senior in social sciences, plays with her 19-month-old son, Bryson, at Manhattan City Park.

(Left), Horse trainer, Ashley Martins, gets acquainted with her subject while working on her family farm in Meriden, Kansas. When Martins starts working with horses, she wants to allow them to feel a sense of safety as she eases them in to more rigorous training patterns.
What started as a simple class lighting project, led to senior Evert Nelson’s determination to make the photo assignment more meaningful.

He was inspired by the vibrant colors often associated with the traditional dress of certain cultures represented on campus.

Nelson reached out to the university’s International Center looking to meet people from a variety of cultures. Sending “a huge e-mail to the whole listserv,” he ultimately connected with subjects from Thailand, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Brazil and other parts of the world.

“I was pretty impressed by the response that I got,” he said of his e-mail blast.

Nelson wanted to give his subjects the opportunity to portray themselves and their individual culture in whatever way they wanted.

By cultural contrast, people in the midwest United States dress rather plainly, said Nelson.

From one, small assignment, the project grew in a big way to include 12 subjects and a portfolio of 20 photographs.

This is the first major portrait project that Nelson has done.

“I’d say it helped me improve as a photographer because it put me out of my comfort zone,” wrote Nelson, adding that, without the project he might not have taken the step to introduce himself to the broad circle of people.

“I think that when students have the opportunity to take (a) little project that could be done simply, but then expand it and turn it into something that they are going to be proud of … it’s beneficial. It’s great to take it way beyond a teacher’s expectations.”

Nelson is currently working with K-State’s office of Diversity on an exhibit at the Student Union called the Canvas of Diversity.

— by the Update staff
Green prairie grasses flourish after dramatic spring controlled burns. Few people have seen Kansas quite like this until Jim Richardson's photographs were featured in National Geographic.

Flint Hills spring burn near Bazaar, Kansas
Thoughts of K-State student media, exploring the world and stories with lasting value: Jim Richardson sits down for a Q&A with senior Miranda Snyder.
Q: How did your career start out?

A: As you know, I went to K-State. Basically, I got to be a senior majoring in psychology and decided I didn’t want to be a psychologist on a daily basis and so I got a job with The Collegian. That got me into photography. I got out of school and got an internship with the Topeka Capital Journal. That was most of my on-the-job training.

Then I started freelancing and doing things for news magazines like Time, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated. I never thought I wanted to work for National Geographic, that wasn’t the goal.

After (a job at) the Denver Post, I picked up a couple of stories for National Geographic. The third one kind of struck gold, which was a story on the Colorado River and that set the mold.

I started out doing picture stories and then decided I wanted to do longer term stories that had most impact or lasting value. I started doing documentary photography in little towns in Kansas, which had no news value but had enduring life values.

Why do you consider yourself a photographer and not a photojournalist?

What I mean is that photojournalism has become specifically news photography in the sense of cataclysm. I’m much more interested in stories that have bigger import even if they don’t have as much daily news impact.

What is the favorite story you have covered?

Probably Cuba, Kansas, because I’ve been taking pictures there for 40 years. Cuba has been the most gratifying. They named me honored citizen. (Cuba, a small town of 156 people, was the focus of one of his earliest photo essays, “High School USA.”)

Do you have advice for aspiring photographers?

If you want to be a better photographer, stand in front of more interesting stuff.

— Miranda Snyder
“Photography was largely a vehicle for exploring all the things I was interested in. I can, for instance, do a story on light pollution and go out and hangout with astronomers … I can do a story on the King James Bible and visit Westminster Abbey. It’s a great vehicle for both understanding things and exploring them visually.”

— JIM RICHARDSON

The lush green of the Flint Hills that we see from above on the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, is just the tip of the ecosystem. Richardson has examined the deep root structures of wheatgrass (above), Prairie Cordgrass (right) and many other grasses.
Path to JMC

How do students find their way to a degree from the A.Q. Miller School? It’s fascinating, really. Here’s a sampling of the changing pathways taken by current JMC students, mapped out for you by Catie Madderson, senior.

Max Troester
Junior, Advertising
Graphic Design
Art Education

Shawn O’Brady
Senior, Journalism

“I’ve been in college since January 2011. I switched to Journalism because I’m happier writing about sports … rather than sitting in a suit in some job I might grow to hate.”

Jenny Cooper
Class of 2015, Advertising

Cooper changed to JMC because she was looking for a “relationship-based” career in which she could help people.

“She’s always loved the idea of working for a place like St. Jude or the Make A Wish Foundation,” she said. “To come up with creative ways to get people to donate or start campaigns to contribute to research, I always wanted my career to help change lives.”

Clara Weers has had a big year.
In addition to winning a Kansas Association of Broadcasters award for Complete Live Newscast for her work at KSDB 91.1, she also won a Bronze Telly award for best videography/cinematography for an episode of Wildcat Weekly she did with fellow K-Staters Tana Akers and Meagan Miller.

“It is a huge honor that will impact my career,” Weers said. “When I found out I won, I literally jumped for joy and couldn’t breathe all at the same time.”

Though succeeding in the field of broadcasting, Weers is not just chasing titles. In fact, the station submitted her work, but Weers did not know until after the deadline had passed.

“I’ve always just believed to just try your best and not aim for a fancy plaque, but the recognition is very nice and motivates me to do more next year,” said Weers.

Weers has been involved in activities with the journalism school, including KSDB, Wildcat Watch, JMC Ambassadors and Channel 8 News. She also has worked with KStateHDTV and Dole Hall marketing and communications.

Weers is also in Sigma Kappa and has participated in Cat Crew. She participated in the K-State 48 Hour Film Festival this past spring, something she considers one of her favorite memories.

“It was so challenging to put together a short film in such a crunch time,” Weers said. “The laughs and sweet film we ended up with will be something I’ll always remember when I look back at my college career.”

She said she would like to work for a show like “The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon” but, “as long as I am creating visual stories while collaborating with a team, I’ll be happy.”

—Emily Porter

AWARD WINNERS AT K-STATE’S 48 HOUR FILM FESTIVAL

Max Troester
Junior, Advertising

Shawn O’Brady
Senior, Journalism

Clara Weers
Junior, Journalism and Digital Media

Jenny Cooper
Class of 2015, Advertising

Clara Weers, junior in digital media, and Jay Wooster, senior in political science, hold their first place trophies for the K-State 48 Hour Film Festival on April 9, 2016.
McKenzie Benoit
Senior, Public Relations

McKenzie Benoit, senior in public relations, can be seen with her face plastered on the JMC Ambassador poster in Kedzie. She's been a member of Ambassadors, and also worked for the Athletic Communications office.

“When I first came to K-State I wanted to become an ESPN field reporter — the next Erin Andrews or Samantha Ponder,” she said. “My lifelong dream has always been to have sports as a part of my career somehow. Involvement in the A.Q. Miller School has only enhanced my opportunity to fulfill my dreams.” She had a year-long internship with the Kansas City Chiefs communications team this summer. She said she wants to thank all who have helped her reach this accomplishment and that she wants to bleed purple for the rest of her life.

— By Sara Soph

Kenia Mills
Senior, Journalism and Digital Media

Kenia Mills, senior in digital media took a nontraditional route to K-State from her hometown of Miami, Florida:

What has been the impact of the Army in your life?

I joined the Army at the height of the Iraq war, a year after the Jessica Lynch rescue and Abu Ghraib torture and abuse scandal. I joined out of curiosity. I wanted to find out for myself what we were doing out there. I guess you can say it was my first journalistic assignment. I came away from that experience with a fond appreciation for the U.S. military and all of the hard work and sacrifice our men and women have made for the missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. I learned a lot about selfless service, dedication, and teamwork. I will forever live out of that lesson. It's definitely affected my leadership style in a positive way.

What drives you? - For college? Life in general?

Honestly, my faith. I would not be here if it wasn't for my faith in God through Jesus Christ. I would probably be dead. I had a lot of issues with drugs, self-harm and depression when I was younger, and it took a complete surrender to God to change all of that. I have a wonderful husband, a beautiful child and purpose in my life. God definitely put me on a solid rock like he promises.

What is Manhattan to you?

I love K-State. Midwestern college students are very polite and hardworking. I am so impressed with the students who attend K-State, and it is truly like a family. You don't get that wholesome vibe from big cities like Miami. Manhattan is a gem.

— Morgan Bell
**Semi-Finalist**
Promotional Video / Music Video,
*Tri Delta Loves St. Jude*, Katie Johnston

**Semi-Finalist**
Video Documentary,
*Trafficked in the Sex Industry*, Meagan Miller, Daniela Leon and Lindsay Rhoades

**Semi-Finalist**
Video News Program,
*Channel 8 News* April 19, 2016, Katie Johnston and Channel 8 News Crew

**Semi-Finalist**
Video Informational or Entertainment Shorts,
*Maize Mosaic Virus*, Anthony Williams

**Semi-Finalist**
Promotional Video / Music Video,
*Tri Delta Loves St. Jude*, Katie Johnston

**Semi-Finalist**
Video Documentary,
*Trafficked in the Sex Industry*, Meagan Miller, Daniela Leon and Lindsay Rhoades

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Video News Program,
*Channel 8 News* April 19, 2016, Katie Johnston and Channel 8 News Crew

**Semi-Finalist**
Video Informational or Entertainment Shorts,
*Maize Mosaic Virus*, Anthony Williams

— TONY WILLIAMS

Check out Williams’ work, including his video “Maize Mosaic Virus” that was awarded Best of Festival in the Broadcast Education Association competition:

www.writesciup.com
National attention has found its way to Tony Williams, senior in journalism and physics, for his work in digital journalism where he uses his skills to communicate science to the masses.

The National Science Foundation included one of Williams’ videos featuring research by K-State chemical engineering department head Jim Edgar on its online video stream in January.

His dream job is to take the place of Ira Flatow on NPR’s “Science Friday” radio show.

“The show inspired me as a kid, and it also fascinated me,” Williams said. “I mean, that’s what I want to do, inspire and fascinate. If I can pull that off, then all this hard work has paid off.”

Williams has done work for the Collegian, KSDB 91.9, Channel 8, Wildcat Watch, and multiple classes while at K-State. He also interned for KAKE TV and the Wichita Eagle, works part-time for Bench Fly and has his own blog.

“Something that’s been my philosophy for a long time here at K-State has been, ‘If I’m willing to do it for free, then it’s worth doing’ … (the pay) was a bonus,” said Williams.

A summer internship put Williams on a research ship in the Atlantic producing livestream video to NYT Facebook Live, museums and to the general public. The project he covered involved Alvin, a famous deep-sea research vessel which took the first people to view the wreck of the Titanic at a depth of about 12,500 feet.

— by Jason Tidd
Sara Savatovic
Senior, Public Relations

Sara Savatovic, senior in journalism and mass communications, is an international student from Crvenka, Serbia who wants to pursue a career in athletics as well as public relations. Savatovic has been in the United States since January 2013 where she enrolled at K-State and was recruited to the track and field team. For the outdoor competitions, she competes in the hammer throw and for the indoor, the weight throw.

Since Savatovic started competing in events she has broken several school records. Savatovic hopes to continue her athletic career for as long as she can.

With her education in public relations, Savatovic hopes to better herself professionally and be in charge of her own public relations as well as learn how to market and brand herself in her athletic career.

— by Miranda Snyder

Emily Starkey
Sophomore, Pre-Journalism and Mass Communications

Emily Starkey, sophomore in pre-journalism and mass communications, who works as co-photo editor of the Collegian, never thought she would find herself in this position so early.

Starkey went to high school in Wamego, Kansas, not far from where she currently attends school at K-State. She said when she first came here, her goal was to photograph football games. She got the chance to complete that goal when she was able to go to multiple K-State football games during her first semester at school and while on the newspaper photo staff.

Toward the end of her first semester at college, Starkey was approached by her current photo editors and asked if she would want to take on the job so that one of them could step down. She was shocked at first but gladly accepted the position. This is Starkey’s first semester as co-photo editor.

— by Miranda Snyder
Joey Wenberg, 2015 graduate in public relations, says the Miller School’s programs and faculty helped to make him a prime candidate for jobs and internships. The Wichita native now resides in Austin, Texas, where he works for TrendKite, a public relations monitoring and analytics firm. He attributes his success in large part to Wes Wise, assistant professor of advertising, who Wenberg said spurred his interest in statistics and their use in public relations applications.

“I had always been interested in stats and how they relate to public perception, but Wes' class helped me dive deep into what I really wanted to do,” Wenberg said. “I wanted to do something in the realm of public relations, but be somewhere different than your typical public relations firm.”

Wenberg also said much of his success comes from the solid foundation of journalism skills he learned while at the Miller School and through his involvement with different organizations at the university.

“I really couldn’t thank the JMC program more,” he said.

— by Landon Ochsner

Mattie Sharp, 2015 graduate in public relations and criminology with a minor in leadership studies, has a passion for the music industry. This passion fueled her to pursue an internship at Intrust Bank Arena her senior year. She helped design social media graphics and brainstormed contest ideas for promotion of concerts and events during her almost two-month-long internship.

“When I switched to PR, I knew I wanted to do something music industry related, so I thought applying for that internship would give me a starting perspective to see what aspects I’d like to continue pursuing,” said Sharp.

Sharp said because of circumstances and her reputation of being a hard worker, she is now back at Intrust Bank Arena working as a temporary sales assistant while the former assistant is deployed to Saudi Arabia. Sharp said the job should wrap up around October 2016 when the sales assistant returns home from Saudi Arabia; that is when Sharp will set out to follow her dreams all the way to Nashville.

“I know I want to work in the music industry, but I’m definitely not limiting myself from any opportunities that arise,” Sharp said.

— by Erin Hildreth
Sara Severance Weinert
Class of 1975

Weinert worked for The Collegian during her time at K-State.

“I remember the first time I used a computer, which was on the Collegian editing desk,” Weinert said. “It seemed like magic to be able to correct something without using editing symbols.”

After graduating, she held positions at the Washington County News, Wichita State University and worked for the Peace Corps in Costa Rica for three and a half years before becoming the vice president for communications at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas.

Jeff Cott
Class of 1978

Now owner, publisher and editor of the Derby Weekly Informer, Jeff Cott graduated with an emphasis in Radio and TV.

He believes his experience at K-State granted him many opportunities after graduation.

“The hands-on experiences in student publications and student radio station, KSDB, contributed to being able to have a quicker transition and start in the real world,” Cott said.

Cott utilized his experiences at K-State while working at the local newspaper.

“Community newspapers are alive and well, no matter what you hear or think,” Cott said. “What we do is vital to the connection of a community, and no other entity can do it like your local paper or community web site. In many instances, we are the glue that can hold things together in broken times, and the positive voice of success in the good times.”

He continues to uphold the K-State family atmosphere. Since graduating, Cott said he is proud to call himself a K-State alumnus.

“I guess that being a K-State grad is special, and probably in ways that only K-Staters can understand,” Cott said. “The opportunities we have after graduation have a direct impact on the industry because of the engaging way the department works with students.”

— Sara Soph

Suze Parker
Class of 1981

Passionate about public relations, Suze Parker, 1981 graduate in journalism and mass communications and 1983 graduate in counseling and personnel services, talked with Update about her K-State pride.

“K-State is in and through our family,” Parker said. “My parents met there, and even when it was less common for women to go to college, my grandmother graduated from there in 1922.”

Upon her graduation, Parker said she felt confident in her preparation for the professional world.

“I really think I would put my K-State degree up against anybody’s journalism degree,” Parker said. “I came out with such great knowledge of the foundation that was required to do my job. This centered on good writing skills.”

Parker said a journalist’s job is to express a message that leaves readers with greater understanding and gets rid of confusion.

“It’s important to not just write well but communicate well,” Parker said.

In college, Parker’s dream was to work at a daily paper. She didn’t originally think of starting her own business, but she recently celebrated 10 years of running Parker Communications Group, which allowed her to lead in a position that aligned with her passions and strengths.

— Sara Soph

Check out Weinert’s blog at emptynestfeathers.blogspot.com
“K-State prepared me in so many different ways for life. I made friendships that endure to this day, and appreciate so much the constant support of my mentors, especially Richard Baker.” — BILL ROY

**Bill Roy** Class of 1985

**Sequence:** Radio and TV

**Update:** After KSU, I worked in radio in Garden City and Kansas City. In 1988, my wife, Gretchen, and I moved to Wichita. I worked at KFDI radio, then the Wichita Eagle, KWCH, G2 Interactive and, in 2002, I started work at the Wichita Business Journal. I have been editor since 2003.

**Additional info:** My daughter Shea is a student at KSU and is even a broadcaster on KSDB like I was.

Wichita Business Journal Editor Bill Roy at the podium during a 2014 event honoring “40 Under 40” with Tammy Taylor-Lindholm and RaeAnn Wirths.

**Alumni Map**

There are more than 6,000 JMC alumni. Here’s a look at some of the most far flung.

**Germany**

- DÜSSELDORF
  - Brandi Schuster
- FRANKFURT AM MAIN
  - Ulrike Dauer
- KRONBERG IM TAUNUS
  - Konrad Zechlin

**France**

- NOGENT SUR MARNE
  - Brad Stucky
- ´S-GRAVENHAGE
  - Kevin Cook

**Netherlands**

**Russia**

**China**

- NYON
  - Kevin Cook
- China
  - Liang Li
- Kuwait
  - Safat Alazemi

**Graphic by Laura Parker**
Alumni

UPDATES

Cameron Banning
Class of 2014

“I think the internships they required us to do was huge,” Banning said about his time at K-State. “They prepared me for the professional world. The writing heavy (courses) ended up paying off because it is so crucial to be prepared.”

He is now in Austin, Texas, working for Indeed. “The culture is incredible,” Banning said. “It doesn’t feel like a job because I’m passionate about the product; I’m helping people find jobs. They are very focused on gay pride and have shirts called ‘Indeed Pride.’ It makes it feel really comfortable.”

Banning said he loves working at Indeed and has finally found something that he’s passionate about. He also likes visiting K-State. “Every time I go back to K-State I try to visit the professors,” Banning said. “I know they like catching up with students. The PR family was really tight-knit.”

— Catie Madderom

Dale Goter
Class of 1972

Update: Owner of Gotervision LLC, semi retired from media/government relations. Now under contract with Kansas Global Trade Services as Senior Marketing Consultant. Living in Wichita.

How did K-State shape your career/life? KSU provided me the journalistic training that created my life’s opportunities.

Favorite K-State memory? Writing commentary for the Collegian.

Heather Hollingsworth
Class of 1997

Sequence: Double major in print journalism and secondary education.

Update: I am a reporter for The Associated Press and live in Mission, Kansas.

How did K-State shape your career/life? The double major helped me get my first journalism job and gave me a great group of friends.

Terin Daily Walters
Class of 2005

Sequence: Public Relations

Update: I live in Manhattan and work as the Director of Development Programs and Travel for the K-State Alumni Association.

How did K-State shape your career/life? Little did I know as a student just how much K-State would impact my future. I never imagined working for my alma mater! Now I get to help alumni stay connected to their university every day. Through the Traveling Wildcats, our alumni educational travel program, I have met alumni from different generations. It is fun to hear stories of their time at K-State and to see the passion they have for their school.

PHOTO BY LORI LINENBERGER

PHOTO BY JKND

PHOTO BY JACOB NEAL
Police guard the front door of Excel Industries, where a gunman killed three people and injured many more in Hesston, Kansas, in February, 2016.

Joe Swain didn’t “feel right” while he was at work on Feb. 25 at Excel Industries in Hesston, Kansas. As the Internal Logistics Second Shift Operational Excellence Lead, his job didn’t prepare him for what happened that day.

The first shot rang out at 5:02 p.m. An employee had gone home, grabbed a gun and fired bullets at Excel Industries employees.

By 5:03 p.m., Swain was on the phone with the police reporting the active shooter. Moments later, he hurried around the site to ensure employees were safe.

“Everything that could be done for first aid was done,” Swain said. “So I had to move on and basically find a spokesperson for the company.”

Swain knew how to handle the crisis because of a Public Relations Campaigns class with Deb Skidmore, where Swain learned to develop a crisis plan. His next step was to worry about the media, which arrived at 5:10 p.m.

He knew he needed to corral the reporters and photographers across the street so they didn’t have open access to the crime scene. Swain also suggested that the president of the company to work on a statement to release in the meantime.

“There’s no amount of training and no amount of schooling that you can go through that can prepare you for this,” Swain said.

“You’re going to forget 95 percent of that stuff, but if you just remember, ‘I’ve got to be the rational one,’ you’re going to accomplish a lot more by taking that mindset.”

Though Swain’s major responsibilities didn’t utilize his public relations degree from K-State, he recognized the importance of a crisis management plan and offered to make it for Excel Industries in December before the shooting.

“Ninety-eight percent of the companies in the United States don’t have some sort of crisis plan,” Swain said.

Following the shooting, Swain led the development of the company’s crisis plan in mid-March.

“I have basically created a job for me not meaning to create one, and I’m extremely proud of the fact that I graduated from K-State and learned all the things I did here,” Swain said.

— Laura Parker

2014 JMC ALUMNUS JOE SWAIN GRATEFUL FOR CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND EXERCISES

Putting media skills to work in a crisis

Swain spoke to several JMC classes about the way he was able to use crisis planning skills from Deb Skidmore’s Public Relations Campaigns class.

PHOTO BY KAITLYN MAROLF
NOTE: The A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications lost two dear colleagues and mentors in the Spring of 2016. Many of you knew them. Here are a few thoughts on their passing, gathered by senior Eric Scheidt:

Tom Gould

“H e made you think differently, feel important, encouraged, always supported whenever it’s needed. He would praise people openly. He was that kind of person. He’ll be missed by so many people. It was very sad that he left so soon.

“He served a lot of students and he didn’t even wait for them to come to his office. He’d go where they were. He was not afraid to fight for other people, for himself or for others. I think that’s very rare for someone, to go beyond what is expected, ... and he would go all the way to the President.”

NANCY MATURI
Professor, Public Relations Sequence

“I’ll always remember Tom’s empathy for students. He genuinely appreciated students who were trying hard to achieve great things, but he cared equally for students who were struggling with money, grades and real life situations. He wanted our students to be able to realize their potential, and he was willing to push them toward their goals.”

STEVE SMITHERS
Associate Director for Undergraduate Studies

“I’ll miss him. Things are not as interesting as they were when he was here because he was radical and not afraid to try new things...He wanted to give our students real experience. We will miss his ideas [and] his courage because he was not afraid to try new things.”

SAMUEL MWANGI
Associate Professor, Journalism and Digital Media Sequence

“H e was a real, great person. A very supportive person. He was very classy and gracious, very gracious, in his behavior. He was someone who you could absolutely talk to and someone who would actually listen very well. I think he was a great supporter of faculty and students.”

ANGELA POWERS
Journalism and Digital Media Sequence
“Joye had a big heart and never showed any sign of weakness. She was strong, dedicated, passionate, persistent, intelligent and creative. I love you Joye Gordon. I will forever miss and remember you.”

BRIANA HAWKINS
Junior in Public Relations

“J oyedid a lot of things for a lot of people. A lot of things we’ll probably never know, but there are things that I learned that she did that I had no idea [until now]. I don’t know if I can encompass her legacy in words … she did so much for so many people.”

MASON SWENSON
Sophomore in Public Relations

“S he had a zest for living that was quite enormous. She was absolutely fearless. She never did anything halfway. For those of us who don’t live life like that, that example of somebody who can take what she was doing and be totally absorbed in it and let it totally absorb her was a blessing. She changed our lives, she improved our lives. She taught us that we can take risks.”

BONNIE BRESSERS
Associate Professor, Journalism and Digital Media Sequence

“She was honest, she was open, and so you always knew where you stood with her.

“Joye very much cared about her students. She was always there for them to answer questions, direct them, guide them and kick them in the pants when they needed it. She wasn’t afraid to do that and I think that’s the mark of an honest and authentic person.”

BARBARA DESANTO
Associate Professor, Public Relations Sequence
Associate Director of Graduate Studies

Joye Gordon

“She was larger than life. She was an amazing person that way. If she was in a room, it was hard to miss Joye.”


“J oyeground was really big. She was an amazing person that way. If she was in a room, it was hard to miss Joye.”
Update

STAFF

This talented class created this publication for you:
(from top left):  
Landon Ochsner, senior;  
Courtney Burke, senior;  
Morgan Bell, senior;  
Eric Scheidt, senior.

(center row):  Kaitie Marolf, senior;  
Catie Madderom, senior;  
Erin Hildreth, junior;  
Sara Soph, senior;  
Jason Tidd, senior;

(front row):  Shea Del Sarto, senior;  
Brittini Grubaugh, senior;  
Emily Porter, senior;  
Laura Parker, senior;  
Miranda Snyder, senior