Spring 2017 Update

Vern Wirka
Bringing Radio Back
Fired Up
A Bare Mistake
FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are excited to announce JMC will implement a new curriculum in Fall, 2018. Dynamic new faculty and a new director of the Journalism Education Association, the national high school journalism organization headquartered at the A.Q. Miller School, will help put the curriculum in place.

This new curriculum is designed to educate students to write, edit, design and produce across all media platforms, including video, audio, print, and social media. Advertising, public relations and journalism students will learn to employ 21st century tools of the profession. To accelerate students’ progress through the University, we are introducing a three-hour Writing Academy course they can take during the summer prior to enrolling for the fall. This course is a refresher for grammar elements, will teach AP style and introduce students to the differences between scripts for television and radio and stories for print and online.

Advertising and public relations will be merged into a single sequence titled Strategic Communication. Students will choose an introductory and writing course in advertising or public relations. After completing the introductory courses, students will work together in strategy and research courses and then specialize in one of several areas. To cap their experience, students will work together in a capstone course.

Journalism students will participate in a course introducing them to the various media platforms and will write and produce content for student media, including the Collegian, KSDB-FM and Channel 8. They have options to specialize in photography, production, reporting and broadcasting. They also will work together in a capstone class to produce cross-platform content.

This curriculum will ensure our students can compete with those from any university in landing their first jobs and in moving up in their chosen professions.

As you reflect on your own time here, think about the excitement you experienced working on the Collegian or the Royal Purple, selling advertising or working for the radio station. Encourage high school students you know to come to K-State. Tell them they can get professional experience as first-year students. They can grow into amazing professionals. And while you are encouraging them, and remembering your own experience, think about giving back. The School needs and values your help.

Several advertising students attended the KC Spark Day event in November, in which top ad agencies hosted students from the region to network and discuss trends and best practices in the industry. This spring, another group of students from Ad Club (JMC’s AAF affiliate chapter) went to Kansas City on an agency crawl where they toured VML, Trozzolo Communications Group and Greyhealth Group to get a better understanding of the advertising industry. Lastly, our department has grown with the addition of Alec Tefertiller, a doctoral candidate at the University of Oregon. Alec is looking to complete his degree later this year and will start at the A.Q. Miller School this fall.

— Wesley Wise

NEWS FROM THE SEQUENCES

Journalism & Digital Media

 Journalism students took home several top awards at the Kansas Association of Broadcasters and at the Broadcast Education Association. The student chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) hosted a hands-on coding workshop for journalists with the International Society for News Design and the SPJ conference for Region 7, which includes professional journalists from Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri. We also added an honors section to the practicum requirement where students choose a beat to cover for the Collegian. Tom Hallaq premiered his documentary, “Slow and Low, the Story of the Kansas Ag. Pilots,” that has aired on several public television stations.

— Sam Mwangi

Advertising

 Several advertising students attended the KC Spark Day event in November, in which top ad agencies hosted students from the region to network and discuss trends and best practices in the industry. This spring, another group of students from Ad Club (JMC’s AAF affiliate chapter) went to Kansas City on an agency crawl where they toured VML, Trozzolo Communications Group and Greyhealth Group to get a better understanding of the advertising industry. Lastly, our department has grown with the addition of Alec Tefertiller, a doctoral candidate at the University of Oregon. Alec is looking to complete his degree later this year and will start at the A.Q. Miller School this fall.

— Wesley Wise

Public Relations

 Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) chapter members attended the “Find Your Passion Sooner” regional conference in Norman, Oklahoma, and have been holding fundraisers to support students’ travel and bring in guest speakers. Students in the public relations sequence have also continued to be competitive and excel locally and nationally. Taylor Oldham’s strategy “Get the Double, Get the Gainz” received first place in the Ketchum Mindfire competition and was adopted by Wendy’s, the Ketchum’s client. Public relations faculty members have also continued to collaborate with local agencies by incorporating clients in various courses to give students real-life experiences.

— Nancy Muturi
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td><strong>New Hires</strong></td>
<td>Meet the new faces of the A.Q. Miller School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td><strong>Choosing Family</strong></td>
<td>Say hello to the new academic adviser; Kylie Kinley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td><strong>Gateway to JMC</strong></td>
<td>An A.Q. Miller School curriculum update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td><strong>Reporting Vietnam</strong></td>
<td>Interim director reflects on her time reporting the Vietnam War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>International Research</strong></td>
<td>A.Q. Miller School professors are reaching far beyond Manhattan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>Honors and Awards Banquet</strong></td>
<td>A personal look at the night of celebration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><strong>Forward Leading</strong></td>
<td>Graduate student introduces former President Barack Obama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Alumni Updates</strong></td>
<td>Read where alumni are and what they are doing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td><strong>Vern Wirka</strong></td>
<td>Radio expert tells his story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td><strong>The Classroom Series</strong></td>
<td>KSDB-FM students turn Studio-E into a live show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td><strong>Bringing Radio Back</strong></td>
<td>Students bring drama back to radio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td><strong>Fired Up</strong></td>
<td>Students cover The Dusty Bookshelf fire in Aggieville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td><strong>Making His Voice Heard</strong></td>
<td>Greg Sharpe covered the Wildcats and the Cornhuskers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td><strong>Professional Pitch</strong></td>
<td>Students and employers network to find new opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td><strong>Blogger Bonus</strong></td>
<td>How one alumna found a business through blogging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td><strong>A Bare Mistake</strong></td>
<td>Alumni reminence about a story that is all-revealing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td><strong>California Dreaming</strong></td>
<td>Student receives internship with ESPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td><strong>JMC Athletes</strong></td>
<td>Get to know the students who juggle classes and sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td><strong>Alumni Updates</strong></td>
<td>Read where alumni are and what they are doing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td><strong>Meet the Staff</strong></td>
<td>Eight students produce UPDATE magazine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Hires

Meet the fresh faces of the A.Q. Miller School faculty.

Stories by: Pierce Bennett and Ethan Chapman

One Ph.D. student who currently resides at the University of Missouri will have those new hire feelings this summer. However, she won’t be having them as a Tiger. She will be a Wildcat.

Danielle Myers, a new hire in the public relations sequence, will join the faculty in August. Myers comes to Kansas State with academic and professional experience. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Central Missouri before starting her professional life.

Throughout her career, Meyers has worked for a multitude of institutions under a number of platforms, all while teaching as an adjunct instructor at UCM.

She has returned to academia and will receive a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri in May.

Meyer’s experience proved to be just what the department was looking for, according to Professor Nancy Muturi, head of public relations sequence and chair of the search committee.

“The job description fit Danielle very well,” Muturi said. “In addition to her professional experience, she is very well-rounded in what she can teach.”

Meyers said she is excited to be part of the K-State family and to teach something that has always been her passion.

“When I was 12 years old I wrote a speech in 4-H on ‘if barns could talk,’” Meyers said. “I have always enjoyed public speaking and writing. PR is the intersection of strategy and creativity, and that’s what I love about it.”

Kelly Glasscock, associate director of the Collegian Media Group, has recently been named head of the Journalism Education Association. Glasscock will take the reins from fellow Kansas State professor, Linda Puntney on August 1.

Headquartered in Manhattan since 1988, JEA has been a part of Glasscock’s life for a long time.

“I was exposed to JEA as a student, and also as a high school journalism teacher,” Glasscock said. “The proximity and familiarity of the organization helped me know what I was getting into.”

According to Glasscock, JEA focuses on supporting high school journalism teachers by providing curriculum, First Amendment education material, certification and recognition.

Additionally, Glasscock has personal goals for the organization.

“I want to see JEA reach beyond journalism classrooms,” Glasscock said. “I want to extend media literacy across classrooms, especially in today’s world where deciphering between factual stories and opinions can be difficult.”

Glasscock will leave his current position at the Collegian Media Group as associate director. His new duties will be divided 80 percent as executive director of JEA and 20 percent to teach within the A.Q. Miller School.

“I am thrilled to do this, and I think my eagerness and excitement will be a motivator for me to do my best,” Glasscock said.
You usually don’t remember your 10th grade history teacher because of the content of the class, you remember him for his great attitude, personable interactions and the excitement he brought to shape you as a person. Enthusiastic teachers are the teachers who will have the most impact on your life. This is what students can expect from Alec Tefertiller, the newest addition to the advertising faculty.

After receiving a bachelor’s of fine arts in motion picture and television and recording arts from Florida State University’s film school, he spent time studying at the University of Houston, where he earned a master’s degree in mass communications and media studies. More recently, he attended the University of Oregon to pursue a doctorate degree in philosophy media studies and worked as a graduate teaching fellow. Along with all of these academic accomplishments, Tefertiller has extensive experience in video production, web design, branding, social media, marketing and research.

What brings him to Kansas State? Two words: the people. “I’ve gotten to spend a good amount of time with Dr. DeSanto and Dr. Smethers, and they both are fantastic,” Tefertiller said. “Of course there’s Dr. Baltrip, Professor Olsen, Dr. Zhang, Dr. Hallaq... the list goes on.”

Recently welcomed into the JMC family, Tefertiller said he is excited for what the faculty can achieve as a team. “We are truly blessed to have such a stellar staff,” Tefertiller said, “and it is obvious to professionals outside the program.”

Tefertiller said he joined the School because he had heard good things about the community, both professionally and personally. “I have a friend who is a K-State alumus and when I told him I was on my way to K-State, he posted a picture to my Facebook of the block of wood the football team brings to their games that says, ‘Family,’” Tefertiller said. “I think that’s what I am most excited about: joining the K-State family.”

Next fall, the A.Q. Miller School faculty will welcome Raluca Cozma to Kansas State. Cozma has been a professor at Iowa State University since the fall of 2009.

Originally from Romania, Cozma received a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Bucharest, Romania, and then came to the United States and Louisiana State University to pursue a master’s degree in journalism. It was there she said she found a love for research.

“When I first came to LSU, I intended to get my master’s degree and go back to Romania to work as a reporter,” Cozma said. “However, I caught the bug for research.”

Cozma said she is excited to come to K-State for the opportunities it offers and looks forward to familiarizing herself with students and the student media.

“When I first came to Iowa State, I decided to work with some of the local news stations in Iowa to get a feel for my students and the media in that area,” Cozma said. “I hope maybe I can do the same in Kansas.”

Cozma said she is attracted to the multicultural emphasis of the A.Q. Miller School, as well as the scenery of the Flint Hills. “The scenery reminds me of where I grew up in Romania,” Cozma said. “The rolling hills of the landscape remind me of time spent at my grandparent’s vineyard.”

Starting with the Spring 2018 semester, Cozma will become the associate director for graduate studies when Barbara DeSanto retires.

According to Jean Folkerts, interim director of the A. Q. Miller School, Cozma has a remarkable research and teaching record. “She has taught courses in political communication, social media and public affairs, media writing and broadcast newswriting and production,” Folkerts said. “Her research focuses on international communication.”
New academic adviser, Kiley Kinley, is all about family. She knows leaving family behind is never easy. Working with coworkers who don’t want to help is also not easy. Luckily, she now works at Kansas State, where family is everywhere and life is easier.

“Seeing people who like their jobs, like to help students, it is really great,” Kinley said. “I really admire the way people all work together at K-State. It’s the best part about it. Everyone has been so great to me.”

Kinley was born and raised in Blue Hills, Nebraska, where at 15 she began her journalism career working as a janitor for her local newspaper, The Blue Hill Leader. Eventually, she began reporting, shooting sports events and covering rodeos.

“That was the beginning of my journalism career,” Kinley said. “I loved writing stories and telling stories.”

At the University of Nebraska she planned to major in journalism, but switched and graduated with a degree in English instead.

She pursued her master’s degree in English at Kansas State. Kinley never thought teaching was her forte, but said being a teaching assistant changed her mind. Following her graduation in May 2013, the Kansas State English department hired her as a learning assistant coordinator at K-State First, a program to help first-year students ease into college. She loved what she did, but there was something missing.

“It was fantastic,” Kinley said. “Working with first-year students is incredibly rewarding and meaningful work, and the K-State First staff are some of my favorite people in the world. I loved working for K-State First, but I wanted to move to Nebraska to be closer to my family.”

After working at K-State First for a year, she headed back to Nebraska, and served as the assistant editor of publications at the Nebraska State Historical Society. She has been working on a story about a female bootlegger in Omaha during the Prohibition that she started when she was in Nebraska.

Once the article is completed, it will be published in the Nebraska History Magazine.

“That is what I love doing within journalism,” Kinley said. “Looking for the stories people tend to overlook. Especially with historical journalism; it is like you get to rewrite history.”

Although she was close to family, loved her coworkers and the work she did for the publication, there was still something missing—students. Ultimately, this led her to leave Nebraska and return to Kansas State as an academic adviser for the A.Q. Miller School.

Her new role started in January and it’s been a new routine. She starts the morning pulling up information for the students she is scheduled to meet with. She analyzes the students’ work to see if they have struggled with any classes, looks at potential courses they need to enroll in and finds answers questions they may have when they arrive.

“With being an adviser, I feel like you are still very much a teacher because you are teaching students how to take control, not only of their class schedule, but their goals when they get out of college,” Kinley said. “Sometimes students have a 10-minute question, or an hour-long question.”

Kinley said the position does have its challenges. Students, particularly first-year students and seniors, do not ask questions simply because they are afraid of asking for help, she said. The cost of higher education concerns her along with finding ways to cope with the outrageous costs. However, the rewards outweigh the challenges, and it is here she has found both family and students.

“I remember when I was moving here, and I saw ‘K-State Family’ for the first time,” Kinley said. “K-State was our rival when I was an undergraduate so I had these prejudices, that the family slogan was just one of those PR things. But no, it is a real family.”

Kiley Kinley, Nebraska native, settles into her new office after joining the K-State Family.
After three years and thousands of man hours devoted to brainstorming, planning, discussing, revising and planning again, a new curriculum for the A.Q. Miller School is in the final stages of approval and is scheduled to debut in fall of 2018.

Steve Smethers, associate director for undergraduate studies, said the new curriculum is designed to meet the expectations of the journalism and strategic communications industries.

“The media business is dynamic,” Smethers said. “It’s always changing. Therefore, the curriculum has to be flexible enough to handle those changes as they come along.”

Handling the changes means a rethink of what and how information is being presented.

“The faculty approved a total revamping of the curriculum to represent current trends in the media,” Smethers said. “The result is an overall change in how we teach classes.”

Under the new curriculum, Smethers said, students will become involved in journalism and strategic classes as freshmen to help them determine if this career path is a good fit.

“Freshmen will take a series of classes we call the Gateway into the A.Q. Miller School,” Smethers said. “It will help them understand what a degree in journalism mass communications looks like.”

A central feature of the new curriculum is the news desk, which will be part of every reporting class and will be used by photojournalism, sports reporting, television and all electives. Freshmen, as well as upper classmen, will be part of the news desk.

“All of these classes will have some degree of interface with the news desk,” Smethers said. “Students on the news desk will help generate copy and share content that would be picked up by campus media outlets and external constituents.”

The Gateway classes include a pre-major orientation, Mass Communications in Society and the JMC Writing Academy, which will help strengthen writing skills. Writing conventions and mechanics will give students a refresher course on grammar basics, then writing styles and platforms will showcase a variety of platforms available in media. The last class, Writing Perspectives, will give students the tools needed to enter the journalism major.

Constituent departments, agricultural communications, agricultural sciences and the College of Education have agreed to the changes the A.Q. Miller School has proposed. Since they are closely linked, Smethers sees the curriculum changes to be beneficial to their programs as well.

On the marketing side of journalism, the new curriculum will do away with separate sequences of advertising and public relations. Instead, elements of both will be combined and rebranded as strategic communications.

“Our industry right now is using a little bit of advertising and PR in almost everything that’s going on,” Smethers said. “All campaigns are integrated anymore.”

If a student has only been trained in either PR or advertising, their options will be limited, Smethers said. This upgrade to the curriculum will help prepare students for their profession.

There is a common myth in the industry that all college students know how to use all forms of media, Smethers said. Because the myth is so prominent, K-State aims to train students on all forms of media to make the myth a reality and put A.Q. Miller students at the top of the industry.

The new curriculum will offer this training through the “foundational skills” class set, which is a part of the Gateway into the journalism school. Five one-credit hour classes that are five weeks long will give basic training in a specific platform. The classes offered are: Audio (MC 191), Pixel (MC 192), Video (MC 193), Social Media (MC 194), Vector (MC 195) and Web and CMS (MC 196). Students must choose at least three of the fundamental skills classes.

“It will give everybody, I think, the opportunity to get their feet wet in as many platforms as they possibly can,” Smethers said.

The new curriculum will offer new classes as well as new names to existing classes. For example, Computer-Assisted Reporting (MC 316) will be renamed Data Journalism, but Principles of Journalism (MC 160) will be a new class, and News Reporting and Writing Across Platforms (MC 200) will focus on all platforms.
Covering the Vietnam War as a student, working as a Dean at one of the most prestigious universities and setting milestones for females, all seems a little too good to be true. For Interim Director of the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Jean Folkerts, it was nothing more than a simple reality.

Her new reality is leading the A.Q. Miller School, a position she started on Jan. 1, 2017. Initially, Folkerts was retired and had no intention of taking over any big position. She maintained an office in Kedzie where she focused on conducting her own research, but once the opportunity to lead the A.Q. Miller School presented itself, Folkerts could not back down from going full circle at the university she graduated from.

“One thing that makes K-State different is there is a real sense of community here,” Folkerts said. “Students from everywhere, agricultural background, poor students, rich students, people from urban areas, people with different ethnic backgrounds, all find a home. There is a real sense of community here. The people at K-State are accepting of people from different walks of life and I find that really important and really good.”

Her journalistic career launched when she graduated from Kansas State in June of 1967 with a degree in print journalism and a concentration in English and Sociology.

During her time as an undergraduate and working as the editor of the Collegian, she and Leroy Towns, also a Collegian editor, were presented with an opportunity of a lifetime — to cover the war in Vietnam as student news correspondents through Kansas State.

“It was amazing,” Folkerts said. “It was the first time I had been outside the country except to go to Canada.”

The two mainly traveled with the Army’s 9th and 1st Divisions. Although they did not see a lot of combat, it was enough to remember for a lifetime.

“We saw a little bit of action,” said Folkerts. “We got some sniper fire one day when we were riding in a jeep. We both went on a forward air and mobile assault mission, where they dropped us into an airfield from a helicopter, but luckily we did not take any fire that time.”

The young, inexperienced students from Manhattan were treated well by reporters from larger publications, including Time and Life magazines, who would treat the two to dinner. Towns and Folkerts lived cheaply while there and did their best to stay out of the way of the soldiers.

“We tried not to be any more of a pain than we already had to be,” said Folkerts. “We did a lot of feature stories on guys from Kansas, stationed at Fort Riley. It was a great experience our senior year, made possible by K-State.”

Folkerts and Towns married in 1984, 17 years after their adventures in Vietnam. After her time in Vietnam, Folkerts earned her master’s in journalism and mass communications at Kansas State in December of 1973. She continued her education at the University of Kansas earning her master’s in philosophy, along with a Ph.D. in American Studies.

With an abundance of education and experience already under her belt, she realized the hardships she would face as her career progressed.

“The jobs never paid that well in the beginning,” Folkerts said. “When I worked initially for a newspaper they had time constraints that were difficult, especially when I was working the nightshift of the job. A lot of the positions I held I was the first women in that position.”

Her first experience breaking the sex barrier was at the University of Texas, Austin, when she and two others had the honor of serving as assistant professors within the
Department of Journalism. Breaking barriers did not stop there. In 1992, Folkerts was appointed as the editor for the Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly, the first female to hold the position.

“Well, being editor of Journalism and Mass Communications Quarterly was one of my most significant accomplishments because there had been no women editors before,” Folkerts said. “All the editors before have pretty much been quantitative orientated and my research is more qualitative.”

She took the challenge head on, eventually, accomplishing a goal she had — to partner with others and combine the two types of research. This reaffirmed her position in terms of her research and was a huge accomplishment, especially fulfilling a feat that means so much to the journalistic world.

Starting in 1990 and leading up to 2006, Folkerts worked at the George Washington University, obtaining a variety of different positions. She began as an Associate Professor of Journalism, and finished her time there as the Professor of Honors and of Media and Public Affairs.

“I had been director of the School of Media and Public Affairs and we built a new building,” Folkerts said. “I did a lot of work on that building and because of that the president had liked what I had done and he appointed me interim dean of arts and sciences. Then I was hired as the associate vice president. In that position I got to explore new academic initiatives, which was really fun.”

Folkerts moved on to work at the University of North Carolina, where she served as the Dean and Alumni Distinguished Professor for the School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

“Being the Dean of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of North Carolina, which is one of the highest ranked schools in the country, was a great achievement and what I thought was going to be my swan song. But I didn’t quite swan out.”

In January Folkerts retired, so she thought. She accepted the job at Kansas State as interim director of the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Folkerts would love to see the program move forward with an addition to Dole Hall, to provide newer, bigger and better facilities.

She believes students need to learn to work across media platforms, including television, newspaper, radio, broadcast and web. She said this applies to journalism, public relations and advertising students.

Folkerts recently won the Sidney Kobre Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism History.

She was nominated by a fellow historian, Betty Winfield, and a number of letters were compiled by former students and colleagues. Folkerts received the award in St. Petersburg at the American Journalism Historian Association Conference.

Once Folkerts gets the opportunity to finally retire, she plans on traveling and writing a book about the crossover of the Ashcan Artists of the early 20th century and reform journalists.
Tucked away in Kedzie 206, Sam Mwangi, associate professor and journalism/digital media sequence chair, daydreams about his recent return from Kenya just four months ago.

Mwangi was on sabbatical and spent time teaching and researching. At 5 p.m., when Kedzie seems practically empty, Mwangi remembers listening to the hallways in Nairobi, Kenya, bustling with noise as students arrived for evening classes.

Mwangi, assistant professor Angela Zhang and professor Nancy Muturi all share the same passion — research, which encompasses nearly 40 percent of their work.

Mwangi’s Research
Mwangi spent August 2016-January 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya, on sabbatical.

“After 10 years, you go to get inspiration,” Mwangi said. “The idea is to go out and get new experiences, so you can infuse your teaching with new ideas.”

During his time in Kenya, Mwangi served as both a researcher and professor at two different universities — Nairobi University, his alma mater, and the United States International University Africa (USIUA). At his alma mater, he worked on moving the British curriculum to an American Ph.D. curriculum, assisting the admittance of doctoral students into the program, and of course, doing research.

“When I got there nearly everyone wanted to collaborate,” Mwangi said. “So I quickly went from one project to five projects. I was constantly working. My mom complained so I had to commit and tell her I would see her every Sunday.”

One difference from Kansas State, Mwangi said, was the time classes were scheduled.

“I would be there (in my office) from morning until 5 p.m. and the hallways were empty,” Mwangi said. “By 4:30 p.m., the hallways suddenly became real noisy. Everybody’s coming from their office to class after working throughout the day.”

Mwangi said because of the students in Kenya, he felt useful.

“The students there want to learn,” Mwangi said. “Every time I left a class I was never alone to where I was going. They followed me all the way to the bus stop.”

Mwangi returned to Kedzie Hall in January to head the journalism and digital media sequence and teach global mass communications and news and feature writing to his students.

Living in a more developed country like the U.S., Mwangi said Kansas State has more possibilities for publishing, professional development, and the ability to report across multiple platforms.

“I had to contact K-State one time because we could not get access to an article there,” Mwangi said. “There’s just not as many resources.”

One time, as he prepared to teach a class of 100 graduate students in Kenya, he ran into an unexpected glitch.

“I had spent the last three hours preparing a real nice PowerPoint,” Mwangi said. “My PowerPoint is ready to go. I forget, I’m not at K-State. I take my flash drive, go to class, look around and there’s no computer and there’s nowhere I can screen my PowerPoint. So I panic and run to the director’s office.”

He said the director told him they lock the projectors in an office, because the ones they had in classrooms before were stolen. By the time they had hooked it up, he had lost 45 minutes of class time.

“It reminds you not to take things for granted,” Mwangi said. “We are ahead.”

Zhang’s Research
Angela Zhang, assistant professor, also commits 40 percent of her time to research, but with a different focus. Teaming with fellow professor Nancy Muturi, the two attend several conferences a year, such as the International Communications Association in Japan and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Crisis communication on social media is Zhang’s niche. She works on multiple projects during the semester and submits them to conferences in the summer. Each project she works on takes approximately 1-2 years to complete.

“I used to do a lot of experiments like focus groups, surveys, content analysis,” Zhang said. “Now I get to see what the public’s view of crisis is in corporate settings. My next project deals with crisis on social media and why people talk good or bad about different companies.”

In 2016, Zhang had two papers published in journals, one about contingency crisis management and the other on public relations review, along with a published book chapter. Last summer at the International Communication Association in Japan, she received a top paper award about her research on self affirmation of public’s perception of crisis.
Not only is Zhang working toward personal professional growth, but she also uses her research to talk about issues in the classroom. She teaches principles of public relations, and said they especially talk in class about management issues and how companies manage public policy.

In her public relations campaign class, Zhang requires students to conduct their own research and manage a client from the Junction City Brigade, a community baseball club.

"The students develop communication plans to reach out to target audiences, like military personnel, families and college students who go to watch baseball," Zhang said. "It makes them think about their target audience and develop a plan tailored to them."

Muturi's Research

Professor Nancy Muturi also has international research experience, specifically in the Caribbean and Africa. She worked in the Caribbean for four years at the University of the West Indies and focused on community work.

"Their (the Caribbean's) culture is very sexual," Muturi said. "Caribbean is number two in HIV/AIDS cases next to Africa. So, I worked with women's reproductive health."

Part of her ongoing research project analyzes the HIV/AIDS and alcoholism epidemics in Africa. In the U.S., her research mainly focuses on childhood obesity in ethnic communities in Ohio, Kansas and South Dakota, which is a project she has been working on for five years.

"It's not just research," Muturi said. "There's a research component and you work with the communities to do the actual work like intervention health with kids. You go to communities, elementary schools and focus on 6th-8th grade. So, we go to southwest schools in Kansas by Liberal and do that."

An important part of Muturi's career, besides the 40/40 balance of teaching and research, is 20 percent service in the community.

"That can consist of recruiting, hiring people but also doing community service," Muturi said. "I've volunteered at Flint Hills Breadbasket for the last 4-5 years to serve breakfast and dinners. I didn't realize how much poverty there is in Manhattan."

Most of Muturi's research involves doctoral students in the College of Human Ecology, medical students and JMC graduate students.

Muturi emphasizes in all of her publications and to all of her students, both graduate and undergraduate, the idea of application.

"They are learning and tomorrow are going to be the ones doing it," Muturi said. "The purpose of undergraduate classes is to learn how to communicate these issues. If you don't understand the issues, then you cannot communicate effectively."

Travel is incorporated as well, as Muturi provides graduate students with opportunities to present and implement their research across the U.S. and overseas.

"I have one student who is looking at HPV and cervical cancer in kids who are not immunized," Muturi said. "Another graduate student will be presenting research in D.C. soon."

Last year, she said she went to the UK with a student and will soon be going to India with another student.

"One time one of my students went to Africa with me and was sleeping in my mom's house," Muturi said. "If I had $1 million, I would buy a whole group a ticket, but you have to promise you'll eat everything they feed you."

Never Stop Growing

In more recent news, Muturi plans to do research this summer in Kenya, as well as in January on her sabbatical.

"My focus this summer is going to be a faith-based approach to health communication," Muturi said. "Through churches we will train the church leaders and community members to be able to educate people."

Muturi's research has caught the eye of other leaders in the A.Q. Miller School.

"Different people in the journalism department like Dr. (Steve) Smathers, have been communicating with me about looking at community media," Muturi said. "We want to educate on health literacy in mass media, so we can educate people to educate people."

TOP: Nancy Muturi talks with community coordinators during her time in Africa.
MIDDLE: Sam Mwangi stands with fellow participants at the Youth Conference where he spoke.
BOTTOM: Angela Zhang presents research titled "Understanding Publics’ Post-Crisis Social Media Engagement."
When I walked into the annual A.Q. Miller School of Journalism Honors and Awards banquet, I was unsure of what to expect. As I picked up my nametag, I was greeted with the pleasant sound of a stringed quartet, delightfully floating over the hundreds of people. This was unexpected. I walked into the banquet hall, and was directed to my table at the front of the room with a great view. After filling my plate with hors d’oeuvres I took in the scene. Professor Katie Olsen, scholarship committee chairman, was taking care of some last minute details, Interim Director Folkerts reviewed her notes, Professor Curtis Matthews made a point to talk to every single person in the room. It was a weird feeling to see your professors socializing and having a good time.

As I set up my camera and pulled out my notepad, an unfamiliar face sat down next to me. Justin Smith, the keynote speaker for the event was my tablemate. We had a short conversation and he spoke about his position as a copy writer at Barkley and how he got to where he was. I could tell he is an incredibly talented individual and I wanted to hear more about his story.

The ceremony began. After introductions by Dr. Folkerts and Alek Jirgens, the master of ceremonies, Smith gave a delightful speech, punctuated by laughter from the crowd, well timed jokes, and deep insights into the advertising industry. He comes off as someone who is confident, but not afraid to make jokes at his own expense, intelligent, but always looking for role models to learn from.

Next, the plethora of awards and scholarships were given out. More than 180 students were recognized with scholarships from 40 donors and eight award-granting group. Seeing my classmates win $183,000 in scholarships was a fantastic experience, and the list of award recipients was impressive. The evening really showed how strong the A.Q. Miller School is and how proud I am to have been a part of it.

“A feel so blessed to be back. I have incredibly fond memories of my time spent here.”

JUSTIN SMITH

Honors and Awards Banquet
A personal point-of-view of an annual celebration.

Story and photo by: Ethan Chapman

A.Q. Miller School alumnus Pete Souza will receive the Alumni Excellence award Oct. 13, 2017, when he returns to campus. Souza’s book "The Presidents Photographer" will also be released in the fall. Read about his decorated career as the official photographer for Presidents Ronald Regan and Barack Obama in next fall’s Update.

Photo used with written permission.
Zin Myint, graduate student, met former president Barack Obama on June 1, 2015. Not only that, she introduced him at a conference in Washington, D.C.

“He’s (Obama) super cool and doesn’t act like you think a president would,” Myint said. Myint was chosen to introduce Obama through a program called Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI). The program, launched in 2013, was created to strengthen leadership development and networking in Southeast Asia, Myint said.

Myint was hand-selected from the 75 YSEALI members to introduce President Obama at the discussion hosted at the White House. United Press International ran a story on the event, and Myint was featured in the story. She told a UPI reporter how much of an opportunity this was for her.

“I grew up in an education system where you were taught to do only what you were told,” Myint said.

Myint found out about the program through the U.S. Embassy in Myanmar and promptly applied. She was selected and began the five-week program in Missoula, Montana.

“YSEALI focuses on core issues identified by youth in the region: civic engagement, environment and natural resources management, and entrepreneurship and economic development,” Myint said.

The program consisted of a rigorous schedule of orientation and leadership and non-profit development workshops, a fellowship at Missoula Independent Newspaper and a professional fellow’s conference in Washington, D.C. Myint shadowed the art editor for the Missoula independent newspaper, and learned how an American newspaper is produced.

Students picked for YSEALI stayed with host families in Montana. This was Myint’s favorite part, because it was her first time in the United States and the home stay gave her good American culture.

Myint studied pharmacy in Myanmar, but that was a future she had no passion for. She worked for a pharmaceutical company in Myanmar until she found an advertisement in a newspaper for a copy editor with medical knowledge. She got the job, and was sent to the one journalism school in Myanmar. Myint knew she wanted to expand her journalism capabilities and had talked to a friend in America who heard of Kansas State’s JMC program. She applied for graduate school before applying for YSEALI. She was accepted into Kansas State, but the e-mail was lost in the cyber world as emails tend to be. Kansas State withdrew the approval after not hearing any word from Myint, but then extended a new invitation to her after finding out about the Southeast Leaders Initiative.

Fast-forward two years and Myint spends her days finishing up her graduate studies at Kansas State. She said YSEALI has opened up so many doors for her in the journalistic world.

“It has totally changed the way I see the world. It was an eye-opening experience because it was a great opportunity for me to get hands-on experience of lifestyles of American people and to promote understanding of American culture and values,” Myint said. “I have established relationships that provide the foundation for future professional collaboration.”

Myint will graduate in May and has applied for a Ph.D. program in Australia catering to exactly what she wants to do, which is to use her journalistic abilities to help Myanmar develop its newfound democracy.

“My plan is to pursue doctoral education in media and democracy discipline in South East Asia,” Myint said.

“The reason I came here is I want to work for my country,” Myint said. “It’s a developing country, and we are going through a transition to democracy. Myanmar was an authoritative country, and I really want to help. I want to study how we can enhance the role of media in democracy.”

“I don’t come from a privileged background. And yet, today I am here with you at the home of the president of the United States.”

ZIN MAR MYINT
Alumni Updates

Lindsay McNary Olsen
Norfolk, Nebraska
**Major:** Journalism and Mass Communications
**Position:** Freelance work writing television shows helping local businesses with their marketing and social media
**What’s your favorite aspect of social media?**
How the game of social media marketing is always changing.

Zaldy Doyungan
Topeka, Kansas
**Major:** Digital Journalism
**Position:** Sports reporter and Anchor for KSNT
**What have been your favorite stories to cover?**
I was able to cover the Royals when they won the World Series, Chiefs when they went to the playoffs and unfortunately the Jayhawks since they are good at basketball.

Chelsea March
Kansas City, Missouri
**Major:** Mass Communications and Broadcasting
**Position:** Public Relations Account Executive at GlynnDevins
**What advice would you give students getting ready to graduate?**
Don’t graduate and think you are stuck in a field. I was in broadcasting and loved it, but left it for another opportunity. Don’t be limited to what you learned in college.

Nabil Shaheen
Toledo, Ohio
**Major:** Journalism and Mass Communications
**Position:** Content Marketing Manager at Burkett Restaurant Equipment and Supplies
**Which JMC courses related most to the real world?**
News writing and editing. They challenged me as far as writing for space constraints and writing on different levels of pressure and deadlines.

Kelly Furnas
Elon, North Carolina
**Major:** Journalism
**Position:** Lecturer in multimedia journalism at Elon University
**What is your most unique journalistic accomplishment?**
Undoubtedly, no event showcased the power of local journalism as much as the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007.

Chelsea March
Kansas City, Missouri
**Major:** Mass Communications and Broadcasting
**Position:** Public Relations Account Executive at GlynnDevins
**What advice would you give students getting ready to graduate?**
Don’t graduate and think you are stuck in a field. I was in broadcasting and loved it, but left it for another opportunity. Don’t be limited to what you learned in college.
Monica Vega  
St. Mary’s City, Maryland  
**Major:** Public Relations  
**Position:** Digital and Media Coordinator for the athletic department at St. Mary’s College of Maryland  
**What is your favorite K-State memory?**  
Being in the old press box for the 2012 Big 12 Championship. It was the last time anyone worked in the old press box, and I got to be there for it.

Lindsay Graber Runft  
Kansas City, Missouri  
**Major:** Agricultural Communications and Animal Sciences and Industry with a minor in Leadership  
**Position:** Director of Marketing and Communications for the Livestock Marketing Association  
**What advice would you give to students?**  
Never turn down an opportunity to network and grow the base of people you know. I have been able to gain internships and jobs because of my networking.

Kelsey Peterson  
Manhattan, Kansas  
**Major:** Public Relations with a concentration in Marketing  
**Position:** Marketing and Communications Coordinator for the JMC Master’s Program  
**What is your favorite restaurant in Aggieville?**  
Wahoo! They’re doing something right, and I hope they never leave. The bacon wrapped shrimp are amazing!

Tate Steinlage  
Kansas City, Missouri  
**Major:** Journalism and Mass Communications  
**Position:** Channel Manager on Gatorade in Kansas City for VML  
**What is your favorite K-State memory?**  
I remember walking into Kedzie Hall for the first time — before I was even a full-time student — to try and write for the Collegian.

Christina Nolte  
Manhattan, Kansas  
**Major:** Journalism and Mass Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations and a Marketing concentration  
**Position:** Executive Director of Home Care and Hospice  
**What was your favorite activity while at K-State?**  
The football and basketball games, K-state athletics in general, the atmosphere was amazing.
He’s broadcast college football games. And he teaches at Kansas State University.

He can only be one person...

Vern Wirka

Wirka tells his story with a sense of calm. He speaks smoothly, and enunciates every syllable. Some have described Wirka’s radio voice as an ‘incredible, rich and deep voice.’ You can hear that voice with every word, patiently waiting for its moment, like a race horse in the gate.

His office emphasizes Wirka’s love of radio. Electronic parts are organized in racks on one side of the wall. A microphone sits on his desk, “but no worries, it is just for recording, we won’t go live anytime soon,” he jokes.

A section of his office with a back drop reflects his days as a traveling ventriloquist, for online lectures.

His appearance is one of an old-school lawyer. Hair neatly combed over, a flower-printed tie around his neck, a jacket hanging on the chair he sits in.

He leans back, comfortable in the interview, a comfort that comes from years of experience. 91.9 KSBD plays in the background, a mixture of music and campus announcements.

He takes a breath, and tells his story.

“\r\nI grew up on a farm about six miles from Fremont, Nebraska,” Wirka said. “My Dad had an interest in electronics in high school, and earned an amateur radio license. He assumed he would be drafted into WWII and decided to get his first-class radio license to become a radio engineer in the military. However, he was told to stay home and run the farm. When the chief engineer of the local radio station was drafted, my dad took the position. It is where I developed my interest.”

Wirka followed in his father’s footsteps, earning his own amateur broadcasting license and working for KHUB in Fremont, Nebraska, during high school. After high school, he received a bachelor’s in business administration from Bellevue University in Bellevue, Nebraska. His early involvement in the industry led him to work at radio stations throughout Nebraska.

He spent the most time, 15 years, at KFAB in Omaha.

Eventually, Wirka rose to assistant chief engineer at KFAB, and was given the opportunity to help produce the coverage for the University of Nebraska football games.

“In my entire life I have only been able to make it to one home game. I was always in the broadcast studio setting everything up and making it work,” he said.

After those 15 years, KFAB was bought by a corporate affiliate, and a large portion of the engineering staff was let go. This drove Wirka back to academia, receiving his master’s of communication from the University of Nebraska, and then a Juris Doctorate from the Taft Law School in Santa Ana, California.

Fast forward to 2017. Wirka uses all his industry expertise teaching and mentoring the students of A.Q. Miller School. Whether it is in the classroom for Law of Mass Communications, or by helping design the radio broadcast for KSBD, Wirka is always with students.

Students recognize his desire to help. Janet Attanasio, a senior in animal sciences and industry with a communications option, says it wasn’t just the jeopardy review game that made the Communication Law class worthwhile.

“I could see his passion for what he was teaching, and he was always engaging and willing to work with students,” she said.

“\r\nIt was also nice to see how open he was to taking our (the students) thoughts into consideration for improvement of the class.”

For Wirka, that is what working at an educational institution like Kansas State is all about.

“When I first started looking at the position and applied, it really looked like I had been on a training program for the job my entire life,” he said. “The real challenge is to create an environment that allows students to develop skills necessary for a successful career, to also provide students with a theoretical background that puts everything into perspective.”

Wirka admittedly wears a lot of hats for the journalism department, but he isn’t the only professor working with broadcasting students.

Tom Hallaq, professor in the A.Q. Miller School, has spent time with Wirka through the journalism and digital media sequence.

“Vern’s vast experience brings a lot to the university, but it is also his commitment to the students,” Hallaq said. “He wants to provide them with the best opportunities possible. He is one of the hardest working members of our faculty, he is like the energizer bunny.”

Wirka views the work as just part of the job. Along with going far beyond just teaching how to be good on the radio.

“If there is one thing I strive to instill in my students, it is honesty and integrity. It is a central part of what I teach. I spend a great deal of time to make sure both my classes and myself meet those standards.”
“I want to be able to give back to the industry that has given me so much. If the paycheck was the motivation to come to work every day, then I wouldn’t be doing this.”

VERN WIRKA
KSDB-FM students build broadcast skills and unleash their creativity with original music shows.

Story and photos by: Audrey Schmitz

Every Friday evening the classroom in McCain’s Studio E transforms into a stage boasting live performances from local bands in the Little Apple. During the week, the classroom is used for teaching media management, but for one night a week, students use the room to push the boundaries and let their imaginations run wild.

Students scurry in-and-out of the small room as they remove desks and chairs and in return fill it with band equipment from the visiting performers. Microphone chords are strung and hooked up, the guitar, drum and keyboard audios are checked, and video recorders are assembled and positioned in place. On the overhead TV screen in neon hues, “The Classroom Series” is projected.

Brilliant Bands

The Classroom Series is brought to listeners by KSDB-FM, the student-run radio station. According to Dylan Swoyer, music director and junior in civil engineering, the series offers a channel for local Manhattan bands to showcase their talents and connect with Manhattan listeners.

“It also provides an outlet for artists from Lawrence, Kansas City or Wichita to come here and dip their toe in the Manhattan music scene because obviously there aren’t a ton of willing and consistent venues,” Swoyer said. “The bands have a hard time connecting with the Manhattan listener base and all the students. This is a good way to get them here and get their names out there even if it is only for a few hours.”

The series features a wide variety of genres including stoner metal, ethereal folk, space punk, hip-hop and jazz.

“The whole point is to be eclectic and not be against any one genre. If it is local music then it is local and we are going to support it,” Swoyer said.

Swoyer finds the assortment of bands primarily through Facebook and leads of band members who previously performed in the Classroom Series. He communicates with the band managers via phone or email to book performances throughout the semester.

Going Live

The Classroom Series started in 2014 when the station manager at the time had the idea of conducting a live set in the studio. The first band to perform in the Classroom Series was a local Manhattan group that had won the Battle of the Bands contest hosted by the Kansas State Student Union Program Council.

“At the time we did just straight audio and broadcasted it live over the air,” said Nick Fief, alumnus and former KSDB-FM music director. “We didn’t have cameras for video and used this really old board from like the ’80s. In terms of quality it is just unreal how much better it is now than it was back then because when we started we were using really old mics and a really old sound board and everything was way outdated. It was rough.”

Fief said at the first performance there were only five or six students on staff — himself, the station manager, a production promotion manager and Swoyer’s older brother Jordan, the program director.

First Class Upgrade

Since then, the Classroom Series has grown and evolved. Today there are 12 students on staff.

“It is smaller than larger stations, but we can still do a lot even though there are not very many people,” Swoyer said. “We have to work harder, but we are very good at working as a team. Not to slight any past staffs, but I think this year has been really good comradery wise.”
It is evident from their lively interactions and playful atmosphere in the studio they enjoy working together and being part of the series.

“We have always been really close and it really is a tight knit group,” Fief said. “It has to be because there are so many different aspects going on at the same time. Underwriting, promotions, productions, music — everybody is in different directions, but we all come together to make one project happen.”

In order to pull off the performances each student on staff has their own set of responsibilities. Swoyer is in charge of booking, making sure the bands arrive on time and sending the live audio recording to the main studio airwaves.

“James Copeland is our audio wizard,” Swoyer said. “He is a licensed amateur radio professional and knows everything about the technology. My job during the sessions is fairly relaxed and James does most of the dirty work doing the audio.”

The Classroom Series now includes music videos and social media platforms such as Twitter, SnapChat, Instagram and Facebook Live, creating new positions for students to be involved. Therefore it is essential to have as many students present at each performance to run cameras on various devices.

“We didn’t have video at our first performances and that has come a long ways,” Fief said. “We upload our music videos to YouTube and those have gotten a lot better. Infinitely better.”

Getting involved in the series, KSDB-FM and showcasing the local music talent of Manhattan and surrounding areas through radio broadcasting has attracted all types of students.

“I’m not a journalism student and there are a lot of people on staff who aren’t as well,” Swoyer said. “We just do it because we love it, not because we look at it as a future career.”
When students got together to create old fashioned themed radio skits, like War of the Worlds, they didn’t realize how unique an experience it would end up being.

Brennan Flanagan, junior in secondary education, came up with the idea of starting these radio skits after talking with members of On The Spot Improv, an improv group at Kansas State.

“I knew that my friends really wanted a reason to write scripts and I loved the idea of expanding our radio station,” Flanagan said. “So I thought going back to the old times of radio dramas was the perfect way to mix the two.”

Flanagan, the underwriting director for 91.9 KSDB-FM, writes scripts, plans each sound effect, and even directs the radio drama skits.

“I have a team of scriptwriters that I throw a genre to and they come up with a story,” Flanagan said. “Then once I started and saw what it was going to be like, I suddenly got interested in what it was going to become.”

Brett Broadbent, sophomore in theater, said he wasn’t sure about doing radio at first when Brennan suggested the idea.

“When Brennan first talked to me about it, I wasn’t sure if I was going to stick with it,” Broadbent said. “But then I started and saw what it was going to be like, I suddenly got interested in what it was going to become.”

Carter explained the reason she gave the radio drama skits a chance.

“I’ve always written sketches, I used to in high school,” Carter said. “So I thought, why not give this a shot? It’s all about being creative and making different, weird choices. The process can be really stressful. But we’ve latched onto the idea of doing this and are sticking with it.”

The radio drama skits are two, 25-minute shows with an original script and sound effects. They incorporate live actors and sound effects they create from scratch. The skits are a time consuming process, according to Flanagan.

“I have a team of scriptwriters that I throw a genre to and they come up with a story,” Flanagan said. “The script usually goes through two edits, the first is to make sure it’s a decent story, the second is to make sure it follows FCC regulations. Then I go through and add some more sound effects if need be. We do two run throughs. The first is to make sure the sound effects work and the actors know what they are reading. The second is to...

“I think it’s about not being afraid to come up with new ideas and seeing where it takes you.”

EMMA PIROTTE

Evan Brandt belts out his opening line during the live broadcast.
make sure everything fits together. Then we do a live show.

Broadbent said since they are both live, having experience with On The Spot Improv while working on these skits is beneficial. "When we're doing the show, we really have to have a different physicality and voice so the audience can tell us apart, because we're not in costume and makeup on stage," Broadbent said. "Even though you have this script, there's always going to be something that goes wrong or something that needs to change last second. Everyone we've had work on this project has been really good about going with the flow and changing things last second."

One of the most unique parts of the skits is the authentic sound effects.

"The sound aspect of our show is really interesting because we do as many live sounds as we can," Broadbent said. "We have a table full of items like keys, stuff to brush your teeth and random things to make noises. Then we have somebody who has a computer with a list of what noises to make and when."

Carter explained there are a lot of things that go into the skits that they didn't realize at first, like the different ways they're supposed to hold themselves in front of the microphone or the numerous ways to create simple sound effects.

"My favorite part about our show is writing the scripts and hearing all of the different voices come together and all of the sound effects," Carter said. "Because in your head you hear it and you wonder if it's going to sound all right, but then it all comes together in the end."

Emma Pirotte, freshman in secondary English education, is one of the voice actors on the radio drama and said the team challenges her.

"Students should be proud of 91.9, since it's student run and showcases all the talent at K-State," Pirotte said. "I get inspired by the improv team that does this show. They are all so creative, it's astonishing. They push me to be better."

With their skits, listeners are able to listen and imagine the characters themselves.

"I love hearing the different ways people interpret characters," Broadbent said. "When I'm creating a character, I imagine them like this and picture them with these personality traits, but then seeing a character turn out differently than how I imagined is always awesome. It's so cool to see people take their own vision with it all."

Carter said she hopes they can continue making stories and improving the quality so they will grow a larger audience.

"We'd like to bring in more actors from the theater department to those voice acting jobs," Carter said. "I'd like to see us grow more and get to a spot where we could make more series shows and carry them out over multiple episodes."

Some might say radio has taken a backseat in this age of technology, but Carter believes their radio drama gives students a sense of creativity they wouldn't find anywhere else.

"Entertainment doesn't always have to be in front of you," Carter said. "There's something about sitting there and listening to it and picturing it in your head that gives you this creativity you'd miss out on if you were watching a television show."
Students cover news from all angles when The Dusty Bookshelf catches fire in Aggieville.

Firefighters work to put out the blazes at The Dusty Bookshelf. Although the fire was successfully extinguished, the building suffered an estimated $822,000 in damages. No injuries were reported, and Oliver, The Dusty Bookshelf cat, wasn’t harmed.
When the Dusty Bookshelf, an Aggieville bookstore since 1985, caught fire one early Thursday morning, A.Q. Miller students were given the opportunity to cover breaking news.

James Copeland, journalism major and program director for KSDB-FM 91.9 radio station, was one of the first on the scene.

“As soon as I heard this I jumped out of bed and ran to my front door, still in my pajamas,” Copeland said. “From my front door, I saw a plume of yellowish smoke rising from Aggieville illuminated below. I ran back inside, got dressed, grabbed my camera, hopped on my bike and headed to McCain.”

The fire started due to a floor stain that was used during the remodeling of the building and caused intense smoke damage to neighboring buildings, Varsity Donuts and Thread. Since Copeland was already prepared with his gear on him, he was able to be one of the first student reporters at the scene.

“This was the first fire I’ve ever covered,” Copeland said. “So I took some cues from the professional media around me and learned a lot.”

Copeland explained that covering situations like this is an invaluable experience college students carry with them for the rest of their lives.

“I make mistakes every single day and I learn from each one of them,” Copeland said. “College is a forgiving place to make mistakes. The real world is not as forgiving.”

Collegian news editor, Kaitlyn Alanis, was also on the scene as soon as she heard about it. After waking up from a text from a friend around 6 a.m. who told her about the fire, she contemplated getting out of bed to cover the story. Her friend told her to check the pictures out on Twitter because the photos looked pretty bad, Alanis said. As soon as she did, she realized she needed to cover what was happening.

“It was really the power of friends who informed me,” Alanis said. “And, while I was writing the story I even got a message from another friend making sure I knew in case I needed to write a story.”

After packing up gear, researching the situation, and writing a short script, Evan Penner, junior in journalism, arrived at the incident at 9:30 a.m. with Channel 8 News.

“To get real experience in an actual breaking news situation can’t have a price put on it,” Penner said. “It’s invaluable.”

As a student in journalism, Penner said it is crucial to take opportunities and make yourself available when the time comes.

“It was a great new experience for me to be part of, even if it was under unfortunate circumstances,” Penner said. “The Dusty Bookshelf was a big part of the Aggieville feel and community – the neighborhood will now be changed forever.”

Although Copeland’s day was interrupted by covering the fire and he missed a few classes, he was able to capture a jaw-dropping photos of the fire and cover the event live for KSDB-FM.

“You can teach the concepts of covering an event like this in the classroom, but until you get out and do it, it means nothing,” Copeland said.

Copeland rode his bicycle to the fire from McCain on-and-off all day to provide live updates for KSDB-FM listeners.

“Sure, I had to miss a few classes that day, but what’s better for my education and future career – covering a fire – or learning about rocks?” Copeland said.
TOP LEFT: Sharpe enjoys a laugh as he works with the broadcasting team at the University of Nebraska. BOTTOM: The crowd and the K-State stadium in ’98 when the Wildcats beat the Cornhuskers in Manhattan for the first time since ’59.
Making his VOICE heard

Greg Sharpe recalls his time as the voice of the Wildcats.

*Story by: Ethan Chapman   Courtesy photos: Greg Sharpe*

**“The ten!”**  The five! Touchdown Jeff Kelly! Kansas State leads 40 to 30! … You know it’s been said that K-State would never beat Nebraska, it was unthinkable, unimaginable… well today the color of choice is purple, as K-State has beaten Nebraska, for the first time in Manhattan, since 1959. They win it 40 to 30, and it is party time in Manhattan! – Greg Sharpe - 1998

Greg Sharpe was the voice of the Wildcats during some of the best years of K-State football, the rise in the ’90s. He was there in ’97 when the Cats won the Fiesta Bowl against Syracuse. He was there when the Cats were ranked in the Top 10 for six seasons in a row. He was there when the Cats beat our arch-rival, Nebraska in a nail-biting ending, but where is he now?

Sharpe looks back at his days at Kansas State fondly, and he said he hopes to share some of his memories with his daughter, Emily, who is currently a high school senior.

“I’m excited to walk through the campus and point to a building and tell her about the classes I had there, or maybe talk about a building I’ve never been in.”

Emily has not decided what she wants to study, but journalism is something she is interested in, largely due to her father’s involvement with the program. Sharpe started out his broadcasting career with KSDB, working mostly with women’s basketball and baseball. He and his friend, Marc Boehm, worked together to do the play by play for these games. He speaks highly of the professors he studied under, and mentioned how even today he quotes Steve Smethers when talking about the broadcasting business.

Any K-State fan worth their salt has heard the voice of Greg Sharpe when watching the “Part of this House” hype video that plays before every home game. One would think someone with so much stock in K-State history would be a larger than life character with a big personality and intimidating demeanor. Greg Sharpe is the opposite of this. Wearing an orange sweater over a white button up and sporting a friendly smile, Sharpe has a welcoming presence about him. He is the type of person who makes anyone feel comfortable, and is a spectacular role model for his three daughters.

“Nebraska beats the Wildcats by a final score of 27 to 24” – Greg Sharpe - 2014

While this quote by Sharpe might seem depressing to most Wildcat fans, you will be glad to know the Wildcats to which he is referring are not the ones of Kansas State, but of those who reside at Northwestern University. Sharpe has not covered a Kansas State Wildcats game in more than a decade. Currently, he spends his Saturdays doing the play-by-play coverage for the University of Nebraska. This might seem like a betrayal, but don’t worry, he stays true to his roots. In fact, two of the Associate Athletic Directors for Nebraska, went to school with Sharpe. At Kansas State.

Three of the most influential people in Nebraska Sports media went to school together at Kansas State University. It seems incredible that one school’s head trifecta once walked the campus of their historic rival. Now that both teams are in different conferences, the rivalry has faded, but the support of Sharpe and his compatriots is still strong.

“I can proclaim my love for K-State a little more freely now that we aren’t in the same conference. Sometimes on K-State gamedays, I will be walking down the hall and Michael will ask me if I saw the touchdown and we will talk about the game for a few minutes. It’s really cool to be able to identify with a colleague over a school we both attended.”

Sharpe grew up in Kansas City, with a mother who attended the University of Nebraska. Upon reaching his senior year of high school, he had the choice between Nebraska, the University of Kansas and Kansas State. Most of his friends had already decided to attend KU, and he had an older brother who was already in Manhattan, so he decided to stick with family and move to the Little Apple. His daughter also grew up in a house divided. Living in Lincoln and having a father involved with the Nebraska football program, she was naturally inclined to cheer for the Huskers, but when asked to choose between the two, her response echoed her father’s.

“Definitely K-State, I still root for Nebraska but I would definitely say I am a Wildcats fan,” Emily said.

“That’s allowed now that we are in different conferences,” Greg chuckled.

**COMING NEXT FALL**

2015 A.Q. Miller School graduate Willie Evans has allowed his passion for movies to guide him to writing and directing his own independent film, “A Bus Stop.” Evans gained a passion for movies throughout his youth, first through the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy and later with foreign and independent films in college.

Today, he isn’t just watching them, but making them for the big screen.

An April 22 showing of “A Bus Stop,” brought Evans back to campus. He said he hopes to show the film at film festivals across the world.

With another film in the works, and the current one still growing, Willie Evans’ story is worth waiting for.

Check it out in the fall edition of UPDATE magazine.
More than 100 students put on their best clothes, prepared their questions and braved a sea of employers at JMC Professionals Day, March 7 in Berney Family Welcome Center.

The event began with one-on-one appointments with 20 professionals who got to know students, looked over their resumes, asked questions and gave feedback.

Ashley Motley, assistant director to the liaison of the College of Arts and Sciences, said although some creative companies may not currently be hiring, if they networked with students, looked over their resumes, asked questions and gave feedback.

“Next summer when they are looking for an intern, they might pull out a junior’s resume and say, “You know I remember this conversation,” Motley said. ““This may be a good opportunity. We should reach out to this student.””

Jessie Fray, KSNT news director, attended the event in the afternoon and spoke with several students.

Agencies that attended:

BARKLEY INC.
DIVISION D
GO LOCAL INTERACTIVE
INK INC. PR
K-STATE ATHLETICS
MANHATTAN BROADCASTING COMPANY
MEERS ADVERTISING
MEREDITH CORPORATION
RADIO KANSAS
SALINA JOURNAL
VML INC.
WALZ TETRICK ADVERTISING
WIBW TELEVISION
ALPHA MEDIA
EXCEL INCORPORATED
GEARY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
GREAT PLAINS CHRISTIAN RADIO
INTOUCH SOLUTIONS
JNT COMPANY
KANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
KSNT NEWS
K-STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MANHATTAN CONVENTION & VISITORS CENTER
MANHATTAN MERCURY
NEWS-PRESS & GAZETTE CO.
ROCKING M RADIO
US ARMY GARRISON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Story by: Julia Hood

"More than 100 students put on their best clothes, prepared their questions and braved a sea of employers at JMC Professionals Day, March 7 in Berney Family Welcome Center. The event began with one-on-one appointments with 20 professionals who got to know students, looked over their resumes, asked questions and gave feedback.

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Jessie Fray, KSNT news director, attended the event in the afternoon and spoke with several students."
“I interviewed about six students,” Fray said. “We are really looking for people who can do it all.”

After an afternoon of interviews, a new crowd of students gathered in the Berney Family Welcome Center Great Room for a networking reception.

Motley said students were showing up within the first 10 minutes to talk with employers.

“At this kind of event we really want students to join the conversation around the table, even if students are already talking to that employer, versus waiting in line,” Motley said. “That way, employers don’t have to pitch their company for every student.”

Braxton Jones, senior in mass communications and minor in leadership studies, said he enjoyed the setup of the reception.

“A lot of times things like this can be intimidating, but when you see your classmates talking to these HR people, handing them business cards and resumes you’re like ‘oh I can do it,’” Jones said.

While students had expectations for the day, the professionals did, too. Linda Emig, Great Plains Christian Radio music director/operations, said she was only able to attend during the day, but had high hopes for finding internship possibilities.

“We’ve been able to meet a couple of really great kids,” Emig said. “A few may be interested in internships. This is how we got our intern last time too.”

Finding interns was important to the Manhattan Mercury, too. Megan Moser, executive editor, also attended the reception with aspirations of looking for talent.

“Our hope is to get three writing interns and a photo editor,” Moser said. “Someone here was actually our intern last year.”

Motley said just seeing the faces of the industry demystifies the process of networking with professionals.

“It helps students make connections with real people in their industry and see the faces of the industry and see that there are opportunities out there for them,” Motley said. “It also helps students practice those networking skills and talking to employers.”

Lydia Lierz, sophomore in mass communications, said she went to the event to search for an opportunity to job shadow for a class.

“I need one after spring break so I think it’s a good opportunity for me to see them and them to see me,” Lierz said. “I want to end up in Kansas City so I just want to get my name out there.”

JMC Professionals Day was for everyone — even non-journalism students — and provided preparation for students as they strive to become professionals.

“They really try to take advantage of that (connecting with big firms), but not every student wants to approach it in that way,” Motley said. “Students can approach this event in the way that fits them best and not feel as nervous about it.”
Professional blogger Kayla Sloan, 2012 graduate in Agricultural Communications, started casually blogging in December of 2013. Little did she know, four years later she would be embarking on the business of her life: a successful, professional, independent financial blog.

“I didn’t start treating it (her blog) as a business until part way through 2014,” Sloan said, “and I really started seeing it as something that could replace my full-time job.”

After graduation Sloan went back to her hometown in Colby, Kansas. She started working as a credit analyst for a farm credit-lending office in Colby. Once she realized she wasn’t feeling fulfilled in her job, she started branching out into blogging.

“I started blogging and freelance writing for other websites and news outlets as a way to fulfill my creative need,” Sloan said.

She started blogging as a hobby.

“I didn’t honestly know that blogs could be a business at the time when I started,” Sloan said. “If I am really going to give this a try, I have to make my blog more legitimate. I really wanted to connect with my audience and so I decided to take it up a notch and stopped being anonymous and decided to share my story and be more relatable to those who were reading it.”

Sloan is more than willing to share her success. She uses Instagram and Facebook to talk about her blog.

Sloan said there are several different ways to make a blog a successful, income-earning business. Some blogs earn their money through advertising directly off their blog or selling digital products.

Sloan freelances and does web consulting to help other people start their own blogs. She has had her articles syndicated to AOL, has written for entrepreneurship websites, Times magazine and the Huffington Post.

“I just reached out to Ariana Huffington herself,” Sloan said. “I sent her a cold email and said, ‘Hey, I have this amazing story and I really want to tell it on the Huffington Post, is this something you’d be interested in?’”

It’s surprising how many of these big media companies are interested in what people have to say Sloan said.

Currently, Sloan is working on a correlation between being in debt and losing weight. This year, she has started on her personal health goals and has realized the two topics have a lot in common. She is also in the process of rebranding her blog and is excited for the changes to come.

To see how she earned $9,789 online in February go to www.kaylasloan.com/raise-my-rates-online-income/.

Kayla Sloan shares how she turned her blog into a source of additional income.

Story by: Andrea Dizmang
Photo courtesy: Kayla Sloan
“When I started out, I was making $200 a month freelance writing to use as something a little extra in my budget every month. It’s been a year and a half since then and I’m making around $10,000 a month.”

KAYLA SLOAN
was the night before spring break, when all through the campus, not a student was stirring, except ... the ones who were streaking.


The K-State Collegian staff of '74 encountered a story that spring they could not pass up, and it turned out to be one they'd never forget.

A wave of streaking came over Kansas State's campus that March, as a result of what former Collegian writer Dan Biles said was a national trend.

Biles said students were already electrified because it was the Thursday night before spring break.

"Nationally, there had been this streaking craze," Biles said, alluding to the streaking incident of the 1974 Academy Awards.

"Nationally, there had been this streaking craze," Biles said, alluding to the streaking incident of the 1974 Academy Awards.

"I remember examining the photo downstairs by the darkroom, and considering the propriety of the bare bottoms and the embarassment of the girl whose head was out the Volkswagen window with the 'mooner.'"

NEIL WOERMAN

According to Biles, the Collegian staff had gotten wind about this and knew they had a dinner break, so they all walked to Aggieville to eat. That's when things got a little out of control.

"We took a break from the paper and went down to Aggieville," he said. "There's no question we drank."

The staff finished up their dinner and headed back to Kedzie Hall when they began to encounter naked people. Biles recalled former Collegian photographer Neil Woerman chasing one of the streakers they saw in Aggieville across campus in an attempt to get a photo for the paper. It turns out the young women had gone to high school with him.

When the crowd gathered in the Union parking lot that night, Biles said it was around 11 p.m. Hundreds of students filled the parking lot; some streaked, some observed.

He said the police were there too, but only to make sure everyone was being safe and responsible.

"It was just a hoot," Biles said. "It was just funny. It was a nice night too."

Students drove in circles around the parking lot, "mooning" each other out of car windows. The whole men's rugby team was heavily involved. Biles said it was something he'll never forget.

"I remember that Volkswagon, it went right around the loop with that guy's bare butt going right through there," Biles said.

The staff began to write the story. Biles, former editor Rick Dean and Woerman began taking turns writing.

"It was certainly a disjointed collaboration of us taking turns at writing," Woerman said.

In hindsight, Woerman thought the story was necessary, but blamed their inebriation on some of the mistakes they made.

"It was an event that should have been covered, and we did write it under deadline," he said, "but there can be no other excuse than alcohol for our lame plays on words."

The photo published for the story was taken by Woerman. It had a couple of nude bottoms in it – which was permissible, but on
that spring night the staff looked over a detail that would get them into some trouble.

"I swear six or seven of us stared at that photo to make sure it was ok," he said. "It was not our intention to print a fully exposed rugby player."

That's right, in the faint background of the photo, you can just barely see a young male's nether region.

"Everybody was in on the levity of it," Biles said. "We stared at it, and everybody signed off on it."

Woerman said it was those details that distracted them from looking at the photo in whole, causing them to miss the minor detail.

There were sober ones among the staff, but they missed it as well. Had anybody caught it, Woerman said, the photo would not have been published.

The next morning, Bill Brown, the media director at the time, came into the newsroom, where most of them were, livid.

"He went nuts on us," Biles said. "He had already heard from the administrators."

Biles said he was confused as to why Brown was so upset, until he brought in the photo and showed them.

"Then he put it on the bulletin board and circled Waldo," he said.

Woerman said his clearest memory from the whole situation was Brown's facial expression when he saw him that day.

"He had a wry expression and was shaking his head, as he quipped ‘You guys must have been drunk last night,'" Woerman said.

The staff didn't get into any real trouble, they got a chewing out from Brown, along with some embarrassment.

"Bill Brown served as both our punisher and protector," Biles said. "Anything headed our way he would have protected us."

Biles and Woerman keep in touch and began an email chain of former Collegian staff when reminded of the events. Biles has even kept a copy of the paper all these years.

"I felt pretty foolish," Woerman said, "but that wasn't the last time I felt foolish over something I published or said as a spokesman."

He said it was a good lesson in humility, and despite how serious Brown was, even he found it funny.

"I am just glad our errors could, even then, be looked at as comic and that we were not dealing with serious news," Woerman said.

That moment in the spring of '74 may not have been the Collegian's greatest moment of glory, but even 43 years later - it's part of its unforgettable legacy.
Spring of 2016 Cody Isern had a .007 percent chance of being selected for an ESPN summer internship.

According to John Skipper, president of ESPN, more than 13,000 people applied for all their internship positions.

"Being one of those 13,000 people just blew my mind when I did the math and saw the percentage of what it equated down to," said Isern, senior in mass communications and journalism with a focus in digital media and minor in economics. "It was in that moment I realized how lucky and fortunate I was to have had people support me throughout my life. They could have chosen anybody, but somehow they thought I would be the best fit for the position."

A great deal of Isern’s support has came from his mentors while working for K-State HD-TV.

"When I first came into K-State, I literally had one year of video production under my belt," Isern said. "It was not good. However, they were willing to take a chance on me and help me learn what I needed to know to get my foot in the door and into the industry."

Andy Liebsch, assistant director of video services for K-State Athletics, said Isern was still pretty wet behind the ears when he first started working for them his freshman year. However, Isern was always eager to learn and pushed himself to learn different video skills as has grew throughout the years.
“Cody, he’s a fun loving cat,” Liebsch chuckled. “He likes to joke around while getting his work done, but at the same time you know he really just enjoys having fun and keeping it loose. It’s clear he cares about the projects he works on, not just about getting it done. He always wants to take that extra step and put that extra effort into making a good project great.”

Noticing his work ethic, K-State HD-TV took a gamble on him and appointed him the women’s basketball videographer his sophomore year. For the past three years he has been in charge of all women’s basketball video content, promotions and commercials.

“I had all the skills and contacts necessary to try and get an internship with ESPN,” Isern said. “So, I decided to go for it.”

Despite applying with ESPN the year before and never hearing back from them, Isern was willing to give it another shot and applied again last February to four different positions in Bristol, Connecticut, and Los Angeles, California.

A month later he scored interviews for the Bristol positions, but was not selected for either. He was told he was still being considered for the Los Angeles internships. Two months passed and he received another phone interview, this time with the people at the Los Angeles studio.

After the interview, Isern was told he would hear from them by the end of the week. However, while playing the waiting game, he was offered an internship with the Junior Golf Association and needed to know sooner. Two days later, on May 6, ESPN called and offered Isern a position as the production operations intern.

“I feel like ESPN is the highest point of video production and at the time I felt like I was ready to apply.”

CODY Isern

“When I finally got a call back from Shane Norton at ESPN, the whole time I was talking to him I just kept telling him how I was at a loss for words and how excited I was,” Isern said.

Isern was one of six interns selected to be on staff this past summer at the Los Angeles Studio. While there, Isern was responsible for setting up the studios, mapping out the shots and running the camera for ESPN’s afternoon shows “SportsNation” and “NBA Countdown.” He also previewed the highlights for SportsCenter in the control room to check audio and for black frames or jumps in the video. With a list of sports plays in hand he was in charge of queuing up the clips and hitting the play button.

“Before I headed out there I had it in my head at ESPN they were going to be a little more strict and tough and were going to be older since they are the top in the industry,” Isern said. “But once I got out there I put that all aside and realized they were in the same shoes five or 10 years ago and wanted to help me as much as possible.”

The highlight of Isern’s summer internship occurred after he spent a week helping set up for the EPSYs, an event where individual and team athletic achievements and sports-related performances are recognized from the past year. Isern said walking on the red carpet, rubbing elbows with famous athletes and witnessing all the different shows going on all at once was surreal. While in California he explored the beaches, hiked to the Hollywood sign and visited the Reagan Museum.

“This internship made an impact on me and helped build my confidence,” Isern said. “It made me realize I have done enough and have enough experience for when I do graduate to make a difference in this industry somehow or some way.”
Meet the student athletes of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Student athletes in the A.Q. Miller School have learned a new sport: juggling. Training, academics, social life — to name a few things they have to manage — are tasks in themselves. While juggling is easier for some than others, the 12 student athletes in journalism and mass communications find a way to focus on school and their futures.

Krista Haddock
Krista Haddock, sophomore in digital media and political science, said the toughest part about being a student athlete is the schedule. Haddock, a forward for the Kansas State women’s soccer team, is currently in the midst of her off-season schedule until August. She lifts weights in the morning, attends class and then goes to practice in the afternoon.

“By the time you get out and have any free time it’s like six or seven at night and then you have to study,” Haddock said.

As a freshman, Haddock spent required hours in study hall every night. Now, she said her school work still consumes most of her evening free time.

“Whether you’re in study hall or not, it’s just the fact that you have to study at some point,” Haddock said.

Haddock was heavily involved in journalism and broadcast at her high school in Hemet, California. She was responsible for composing the sports highlight video packages for her school’s broadcast.

“I put together sports highlight packages and stuff,” Haddock said. “I’d film all of our school sports and then in the morning before we went to our live broadcast I’d put a package together.”

She originally wanted to go into sports broadcasting, but is now considering news, political reporting or even law school.

Haddock said the choice to double major in political science has to do with her interest in political news, as well as her uncertainty of a career in sports.

“I wasn’t sure I wanted to sit and talk about sports for my whole life,” Haddock said. “I felt like I wanted to keep that more of a hobby.”

Sara Savatovic, a decorated athlete in women’s track and field, is a senior in public relations with a minor in Spanish. She likes PR because it’s not limited to one field and allows her to work with her passions — sports, traveling, tourism and fashion.

Sara Savatovic
Savatovic is no longer competing in collegiate athletics, but in the past four years she racked up four, Big 12 titles in hammer throw and weight throw, two first-team All-American selections and a second-place finish in the NCAA Championships in her senior season. She is also the national record holder in the hammer throw and the weight throw in her home country of Serbia.

Savatovic said she loved every minute of being a student athlete.

“When you love something, nothing is hard,” Savatovic said.

Savatovic said the only problem with being a student athlete was her inability to focus 100 percent on school because she was so dedicated to track and field. Now that she isn’t competing, she can shift her focus.

“Track was my life,” Savatovic said, “but I really love my major.”

Savatovic has traveled to more than 20 countries and is fluent in three languages — Serbian, Spanish and English.

“I like exploring other cultures,” Savatovic said. “I could use that in my profession.”

Savatovic said some of her favorite classes at K-State have been Public Relations Writing with Debra Skidmore and Public Relations Design with Sara Quinn. Design was one of her favorites because it allowed her to be creative and gave her hands-on experience.
“I really like it here because you can get practical experience,” Savatovic said. “It’s not only studying from the book and doing tests.” She also likes the JMC professors and their willingness to help. “If you’re struggling with anything you can meet them, and they’re going to explain it again,” Savatovic said. “And before tests you can meet with them.”

When Savatovic first came to the U.S., she didn’t have a perception of what Kansas was like, but now — four years later — she plans on staying at Kansas State after graduating in December to attend graduate school. “I would like to stay here to gain as much knowledge as I can and to develop as a professional,” Savatovic said. “I think it’s great here.”

**Katherine Gravel-Coursel**

Katherine Gravel-Coursel, a four-year veteran on the women’s golf team, hails from Quebec, Canada.

Like her fellow JMC student athletes, she faces the challenge of a demanding schedule. During the season the team often travels. Gravel-Coursel said her professors help her catch up on the lessons she’s missed. She said being a student athlete is tough, but worth it because there are more advantages than disadvantages. “They have people preparing dinner for us every night and every morning,” Gravel-Coursel said. “It’s just like I don’t have to worry about things other students have to worry about.”

A senior in advertising, Gravel-Coursel has multiple interests outside golf and said she’d like to be able to have a career in multiple fields. “They say you have to set up and do one thing,” Gravel-Coursel said, “but I like to do a lot of things so I don’t know exactly what I want to do after college.”

Because of her fascination with flowers, Gravel-Coursel chose to minor in horticulture. “I just decided to do something that I would like to do,” Gravel-Coursel said. “So I took horticulture and it’s difficult, but I love it because it’s so weird how a little leaf can form into a big plant.”

She said her parents own a greenhouse and her grandparents owned one before that, so she’s always been around plants and flowers. If she were to pursue a career in golf it would be broadcasting golf, Gravel-Coursel said. Occasionally she practices broadcasting golf when she’s alone in her room. “Sometimes I really want to be a broadcaster for golf,” Gravel-Coursel said. “My mind goes everywhere.”

She said golf is mostly dominated by men, and it would be good to broaden the horizon and get more women involved.

Gravel-Coursel said her favorite classes have been Advertising Portfolio and Digital Photography because she enjoyed learning InDesign and Photoshop. Like Savatovic, Gravel-Coursel said she receives a great deal of support and from her professors and she wouldn’t mind staying in the U.S. after graduation. “I want to open all the doors,” Gravel-Coursel said. “Even though I’m really close to my family, it’s easy to fly home.”
Alumni Updates

Dan Biles
Olathe, Kansas
Major: Technical Journalism
Position: Intern for USA Basketball
What makes K-State so great?
The A.Q. Miller School has some tremendous individuals involved, both students and faculty, and to me, that's what makes it great in many ways.

Crystal Albers
Denton, Kansas
Major: Print Journalism and Public Relations
Position: Director of Communications for Angus Media
What's your advice for current JMC students?
Media is changing at such a rapid pace so my advice is to be very diversified in what you learn while at school.

Allison McBrien
Mission, Kansas
Major: Public Relations with a minor in Leadership Studies
Position: Administrative Coordinator for the ALS Association Mid-America Chapter in Mission, Kansas
What is your favorite memory from K-State?
My freshman year, the K-State football game against Texas. Everyone rushed the field and we were all jumping around celebrating.

Cary Conover
Andover, Kansas
Major: Journalism and Mass Communications.
Position: Journalism adviser at Andover High School
What is your favorite memory from K-State?
The darkroom, the newsroom, the RP room, the basement darkroom and those printing presses starting their rumblings late at night. All of that left such an impression on me.

Trenton Miller
Colorado Springs, Colorado
Major: Public Relations
Position: Communications Intern for USA Basketball
What makes K-State so great?
The A.Q. Miller School has some tremendous individuals involved, both students and faculty, and to me, that's what makes it great in many ways.

‘16

‘96

‘74

‘03

‘16
**Sagan Hundley**
Kansas City, Missouri  
**Major:** Mass Communications with a concentration in Public Relations  
**Position:** Marketing and Administrative Assistant at Edgar Law Firm  
**What’s your favorite memory from K-State?**  
I have very fond memories of my Military PR class with Deb Skidmore. We made two trips out to Fort Riley.

**Shannon Krueger**
Wamego, Kansas  
**Major:** Agricultural Communications and Journalism and a Masters in Mass Communications and Journalism  
**Position:** Freelance creative professional for Allegro Creative  
**What is your favorite restaurant in Manhattan?**  
My husband and I almost always go to Taco Lucha when we are in town for date night. If we go on Tuesdays I order the peanut butter steak taco.

**Leah Hill**
Colorado Springs, Colorado  
**Major:** Journalism and Mass Communications and a minor in Nonprofit Leadership  
**Position:** Marketing and Communications Specialist at Christian Camp and Conference Association  
**What is your favorite memory from K-State?**  
Studying abroad with Dr. DeSanto in Costa Rica for the travel and tourism seminar over winter break.

**Sara Edwards**
Atlanta, Georgia  
**Major:** Print Journalism concentration in Public Relations  
**Position:** Marketing Communications Manager, NIIT Technologies  
**What is the most important thing you learned while at K-State?**  
I gained strong story editing skills from my mentor at the Collegian.
MEET THE Staff

AUDREY SCHMITZ
EDITOR IN CHIEF
Hi there! My name is Audrey and I am a graduating senior pursuing dual majors in agricultural communications and journalism and animal sciences and industry with a dairy emphasis. I grew up in Axtell, Kansas, on my family’s dairy farm and after graduation this May, I will be an editor for the Progressive Dairyman magazine.

Email: audbod94@ksu.edu Website: www.audrelynn-schmitz.com

ETHAN CHAPMAN
MANAGING EDITOR
Howdy there, my name is Ethan Chapman and I am a senior studying advertising with a minor in business. After my graduation next December, I aim to work in an advertising agency doing account and project management.

Email: chapman14@ksu.edu LinkedIn: Ethan R Chapman

JULIA HOOD
COPY EDITOR
Hi there! My name is Julia and I am a senior in journalism and digital media with a public relations emphasis from Kansas City, Missouri. My dream is to live in the mountains someday while working for a non-profit organization or marketing company.

Email: juliaah7@ksu.edu Website: www.juliaann-hood.weebly.com

ANDREA DIZMANG
ALUMNI EDITOR
Hey! I’m Andrea Dizmang and I am majoring in print journalism with a minor in conflict analysis and trauma studies. When I graduate in December, I plan on creating a kick-butt blog I can run from home, although I have an ever-increasing interest in war journalism and photography so I may pursue that route as well. I also want to dabble in freelance writing and editing.

Email: dizmang@ksu.edu
EMILY LENK
PHOTO EDITOR
Hi ya’ll, my name’s Emily and I’m a junior in journalism and mass communications with a minor in business. I have way too many passions, including traveling and photography. I’m the editor of Manhappenin’ Magazine, a new lifestyle magazine at K-State, and have my own photography business, Emily Kaye Photography. I’m not sure what I want to do yet after graduation, but I’m super excited for wherever life takes me next.

Email: emilykaye@ksu.edu
Website: https://emilykayeweb.wordpress.com/

RYAN PORTER
SOCIAL MEDIA
A senior majoring in digital journalism, with a focus on print and a minor in business. I am a graduating this year, originally from Naperville, Illinois. Although my career path is currently headed in the direction of business, I intend to try and continue my journalistic endeavors for a local newspaper company, part-time.

DALLAS CORONADO
SOCIAL MEDIA
A lover of warm weather, tacos, and sports, Dallas majors in journalism and mass communications with a print emphasis. He aspires to one day work in sports journalism.

Email: dcoronado316@gmail.com
Website: dallascoronado.wordpress.com

PIERCE BENNETT
STAFF
Hello, I am a graduating senior in animal sciences and industry with a minor in mass communications. I enjoy being outdoors, showing livestock and having a good time. Upon graduation I will be moving to Kansas City to work for the Livestock Marketing Association, and will be in the Government and Industry Affairs department.