New faculty, new initiatives: Find out what’s happening at the A.Q. Miller School.

Student photojournalists strut their stuff
See some of their best moments — including images from JMC’s Hearst finalist.
**New faces, new directions for curriculum**

We started the academic year off strong with four new faculty hires in the A.Q. Miller School.

Each one brings a unique skill set to the table, which will help us move forward in our Vision 2025. These four hires replace colleagues who left Kansas State earlier this year to pursue other opportunities. We are delighted to have these professionals on board.

You can learn more about our new colleagues in this issue. **Sarah Howe**, pre-major advisor (page 5); **Dr. Angela Zhang**, assistant professor of public relations (page 6); **Dave Kendall**, instructor of broadcast communication and Interim TV news director (page 5); and **Sara Quinn**, R.M. Seaton Professional Journalism Chair (page 7).

Over the course of the fall semester, we have made significant progress on our curriculum revision. The faculty agreed to add two critical courses to our core: Writing for the Mass Media and Visual Communication. While the new basic writing course will add much needed emphasis on the importance of journalistic/PR/advertising writing, the visual literacy course will introduce incoming students to the importance of visual language in preparation for upper level skills courses in visual storytelling.

On October 6, the A.Q. Miller School participated again in the annual News Engagement Day that has now reached international status. Its purpose is to actively involve Millennials across the globe in responsible news production and critical news consumption. Once again, we modeled our news game after NPR’s “Wait, Wait, Don’t tell me” Saturday news game. This was an exciting learning experience for all who participated.

We currently have two faculty searches in progress: One is to find and hire a permanent TV news director; the other is to find and hire the next Ross Beach Chair for Mass Communications. Please help us spread the word about these two great opportunities.

With best wishes for 2016, we are looking forward to reaching new heights.

Moving forward, always in purple,

wassmuth@k-state.edu

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**NEWS FROM THE SEQUENCES**

**Journalism & Digital Media**

This has been an exciting year in the Journalism and Digital Media Sequence. The A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications is engaged in a school-wide curriculum review. Our sequence has held meetings to come up with a curriculum that reflects current industry trends. Among the changes we are likely to see: our students will be able to choose from a variety of new specializations such as business reporting, editing, media management, photojournalism, and sports reporting, to name but a few.

— Sam Mwangi

**Advertising**

The Advertising Sequence experienced noticeable growth and strength. Of the 32 graduating seniors in December, eleven were JMC majors with an advertising focus.

We received 23 applications for admission to the major with an emphasis in advertising. Each already showed significant familiarity with the advertising industry and/or our program. Each made a compelling argument for why he or she should be admitted to our program. It was a pleasure to read their well-written essays. This will be a strong cohort!

One possible curriculum change is to introduce two tracks: an account planning and a creative emphasis. Details will be worked out next semester.

— Birgit Wassmuth

**Public Relations**

We are creating options for special topics within public relations.

This spring, our Public Relations Cases course will offer different topics depending on the professor teaching the course. A two-year list is available to let students know which topics are offered in which semester.

Students will also be allowed to take the class again as an elective, with second topic of interest.

— Barb DeSanto

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Wassmuth
Great things are happening at the A.Q. Miller School this spring!

***January-May:*** Offered for the first time this spring, **Drones in the Media** will be team-taught by Kelly Furnas, Tom Hallaq, Nick Homburg and Birgit Wassmuth.

***March 21-25:*** Over spring break, Barb DeSanto’s PR students will travel to the United Kingdom to collect data for a U.S. travel safety research project.

***April 16:*** JMC Open House, with drone demonstrations and a tour of Dole Hall.

***April 22:*** Marketing and digital media executive **Alan Boyer** will be the guest speaker at the honors banquet for the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism.

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**1965 JMC ALUMNUS HONORED**

Marlin Fitzwater, one of the longest-serving presidential press secretaries in history, received an honorary doctorate in December at Bramlage Coliseum during the Graduate School commencement. Fitzwater is an alumnus of Kansas State with a degree in journalism in 1965.
JMC student Braxton Jones was selected to attend the 2015 IRTS Multicultural Career Workshop in New York City. Jones flew to New York in December to participate in the two-day workshop during which he learned about the skills and networking he needs to launch a successful career in sports broadcasting, his area of interest.

In spring and fall semesters, professors Steve Smathers, Bonnie Bressers and Sam Mwangi continued their long-term research project on community media in Kansas by making field trips to Almena and Greensburg communities to collect data.

Fresh look for Dole Hall

During the summer, Channel 8 News got a facelift that included a newly-constructed interview set, a new logo for branding and additional artwork for the studio.

Grants have provided more than $120,000 of equipment improvements for KKSU-LP TV and Studio B in Dole Hall. The studio features a Tricaster video switcher, a digital audio mixer, a fully-functioning intercom and IFB system and new camera pedestals. KKSU-LP TV will also install a digital transmitter that will increase the broadcast footprint by 10 times.

— Tom Hallaq

KSDB-FM is operating exclusively from the McCain studios while the Student Union renovation is underway. The KSDB-FM team is benefiting from new servers and software that replaced a 15 year old system. The “Classroom Series” of broadcasts featuring local and regional bands has expanded to an average of two per month. The students had an Open House in December to show off the studios.

Professor Angela Powers was the 2015 winner of the Barry Sherman Teaching Award given by the Media Management and Economics division of the AEJMC.

News
FROM AROUND JMC

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Manhattan native Howe steps in as academic advisor

Sarah Howe is the new A.Q. Miller academic advisor for all pre-major and minor students.

Also lead recruiter for the school and faculty advisor for the JMC Ambassadors, Howe teaches MC 010, a Pre-Major Orientation class each fall.

Howe was raised in Manhattan and is a K-State graduate with a Bachelor’s of Science in Agriculture in Park Management and Conservation and a secondary major in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. She completed her Master's in Student Affairs in Higher Education and College Student Development, in December.

Howe is a beekeeper, and enjoys helping at her family farm where they raise goats and ducks. She and her husband love to fish, do home improvement projects and refinish furniture. She loves watching K-State sports.

An award-winning documentary filmmaker and former executive producer at KTWU/Washburn University, Dave Kendall joined the faculty of the A.Q. Miller School in August as Interim News Director.

He started his academic career at K-State as a liberal arts major before completing a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Geography and a Master of Arts in Media Arts from the University of Kansas.

One of his longest-standing shows is Sunflower Journeys, a magazine-format public television series that focuses on history, culture, communities and the natural heritage of Kansas. He has produced 13 half-hour shows every year since 1987. Most featured on PBS.

Kendall was named by Kansas! Magazine to their list of “Kansas Finest,” in the Winter 2015 issue of that magazine. He is one of six included in “The 2015 Class of Kansas Promoters, Lovers and Supporters.”

In November Kendall was awarded a grant for a documentary project in collaboration with the Flint Hills Discovery Center. He received an earlier grant from the Tusler Foundation in Emporia. The documentary focuses on the Flint Hills and the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, which will be observing its 20th anniversary in the Fall of 2016.

— Steve Mwangi

News

FROM AROUND JMC

Professor Tom Hallaq’s video production class partnered with the National Science Foundation to produce and distribute videos communicating science to the public. The videos will highlight NSF-supported research efforts at K-State.

STUDENT AWARDS

Three JMC students were recognized by the South Central Broadcast Society/BEA Region 5. Tana Akers, Dakota German and Amy Pond won the grand prize for their Wildcat Watch video of Chase Fortune’s performance “Capable,” filmed at Kite’s Bar in Aggieville.
Zhang adds perspective on crisis communication

After completing her doctorate at the University of Florida, Angela Zhang joined the A.Q. Miller school in August as assistant professor of mass communications and journalism.

Originally from Beijing, Zhang’s research interests include international/intercultural communication, consumer research, corporate social responsibility and the corporate crisis phenomenon.

Earlier this semester, she received a Faculty Development Award for her dissertation, titled “Effects of self-affirmation on publics’ perception of crisis.”

Zhang likened the K-State football team’s struggle to win this year with the “corporate crisis” phenomenon, which is a major area of her research.

Such an event impacts students and their social identity, said Zhang.

“When you really like a corporation, people are going to react in different ways when that corporation has a crisis,” Zhang said. “When K-State football started to lose, we saw blue Kansas City Royals shirts instead of purple. People detached themselves from the K-State identity because it was making them feel bad. It’s the self-affirmation theory. What I proposed is that this changes how people feel about themselves.”

“We’re excited that she’s here,” said Curtis Matthews, assistant professor in journalism and mass communications. “She represents a good blend of academic thinking and real-world professionalism in the position. We’re excited that we’ve found someone that’s a combination of both. She’s a great fit for what we’re doing.”

Maya Tilmon, senior, who was enrolled in Zhang’s Strategic Communications class and said she enjoyed it, and that it is important to pay attention to detail in the class.

“She grades seriously so there’s no room for slacking, but she’s good with giving feedback and letting us know what we did wrong and how to improve our work,” Tilmon said.

— By Nicholas Cady for The Collegian
Sara Quinn, the new R.M. Seaton Professional Journalism Chair in the A.Q. Miller School, has worked all over the world as a visual journalist, researcher and teacher.

In her classrooms at Kedzie, you can expect a hands-on approach. “I love to see students learn to express themselves with all of the visual tools available,” she said.

After graduating from Wichita State University in 1986, Quinn worked at The Wichita Eagle for 11 years, before moving to the Sarasota Herald-Tribune in Florida.

After that, she spent more than a decade of training on the road for The Poynter Institute for Media Studies. “I have taught in newsrooms and classrooms from Fairbanks to Vienna to Kuala Lumpur,” she said.

“I have close family in Manhattan and I love it here,” she said of her move back to the Little Apple.

President of the Society for News Design, Quinn met David Kordalski, the former SND president. “I’ve known Sara by her great design reputation for years,” said Kordalski. “She’s a get-things-done, keep everyone’s energy up, visionary leader. I really admire that.”

Joy Mayer was hired by Quinn for her first job as a page designer at The Wichita Eagle. “She is this great mixture of high standards and having a lot of fun,” said Mayer, now an associate professor at the Missouri School of Journalism. “She is a real career and life mentor for me.”

A two-month road trip this summer took Quinn to 11 states with her little dog, Pete for whitewater rafting with family and a visit to the Redwoods. “I put a lot of miles on my Mini Cooper,” she said.

K-State has an experienced, new, hands-on professor. “It’s a visual world,” said Quinn. “It’s important to be able to communicate that way.”

— By James Davis

Quinn presented eyetracking research on photojournalism at the American Society of News Editors and Associated Press Media Editor’s joint conference in Palo Alto in October.

Follow her on Twitter @saraquinn

What makes a photo worth publishing?

STANFORD
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

See page 24 for one of his winning images.
Kedziepalooza took over the lawn just east of Kedzie Hall one afternoon last September.

Approximately 250 students took part of the third annual event, learning about the many opportunities JMC student media groups have to offer.

Led by new academic advisor, Sarah Howe, the JMC Ambassadors served food and challenged folks to dunk them in a tank.

#Kedziepalooza!
**Ambassadors spread the word on JMC**

Twenty-two ambassadors represent the A.Q. Miller School to advocate for the college and provide perspective for incoming students.

Comprised mostly of upperclassmen, JMC ambassadors meet every other Monday to brainstorm and organize events. **Gary Hadachek**, a junior in public relations, earned a spot as ambassador last May and started in the fall. He loves representing Kansas State. “(Even) in a minor role, there’s the opportunity to mingle with students and really share my perspective. Incoming students want to know ‘Why Kansas State? Why JMC?’” Hadachek said.

— Laura Parker

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**Public Relations Student Society of America**

The Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) offers K-State students a chance to develop their professional careers while still in college.

A big focus recently has been to strengthen the relationship with its parent chapter in Kansas City. Aside from attending events put together by the Kansas City PRSA chapter such as the PRISM Awards, the students have toured agencies and seen first hand what a day in the life of a PR professional looks like.

They have increased their presence at national and regional conferences. Nine students traveled to a conference at Belmont University in Nashville last spring.

**Kylie Fairman**, vice-president of the student chapter, represented Kansas State at the Leadership Rally in Scottsdale, Arizona, and at the National Conference in Atlanta.

With Public Relations becoming an increasingly popular choice in the JMC School, Kansas State PRSSA is looking forward to an increase in membership and alumni participation.

— Rafael Ramos

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**Society of Professional Journalists**

K-State has the only SPJ chapter for college students in Kansas.

**A student you should meet**

**Meagan Miller**, president of the Society of Professional Journalists is a senior in journalism and digital media.

**How did you get involved in SPJ, Meagan?**

I had a class as a sophomore with (professor) Tom Hallaq, when he was the advisor. He made it sound worthwhile, and it is!

**What’s new about SPJ?**

We started the “JMC Professionals Day” at the Union last spring. It’s a networking/job fair type of event. We are doing that again this year, in March.

**What’s is your favorite thing about SPJ?**

It’s a national organization and there are conferences all over the country that allow journalists to network and learn more about our field.

— Interview by Jamie Teixeira

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Gary Hadachek, junior, celebrates as a fellow JMC Ambassador takes a dip in the tank during Kedziepalooza.

**Photo by Kelly Furnas**
AWARD-WINNING 1994 ALUMNUS DEREK SIMMONS HAS A passion for design & storytelling

Assistant Managing Editor for Visuals for the Minneapolis Star Tribune and Deputy Design Director at the LA Times before that, 1994 graduate Derek Simmons has come a long way from designing pages as sports editor at the K-State Collegian.

Update caught up with Derek to talk about design, his time as Collegian sports editor and his passion for craft beer.

What drew you to design?

Part of my responsibilities as sports editor for the Collegian my first semester in 1993 included doing the daily layout. It usually included the Sports cover and a couple of inside pages, and our football section on the weekends.

Writing — in particular sports writing — was what drew me to journalism. But the more I did design work, the more I liked it. I liked the adrenaline rush of starting with a blank canvas and making it all come together in just a few hours. I liked the challenge of coming up with unique and interesting ways to present information. I liked seeing people with the newspaper the next day. And I really liked the people I worked with. Most of them are still good friends. Great design requires great collaboration.

What’s a favorite K-State memory?

I was there for eight semesters (including summers), so there are many great memories. I covered the first football bowl win in school history (1993 Copper Bowl), and the men’s epic upset of No. 1 ranked KU at Allen Fieldhouse in 1994. But at the top of the list is probably an NIT quarterfinal game later that year.

It was spring break, so the crowd was kind of sparse. The people who were there, however, witnessed one of the most dominating scoring performances in college basketball history. Askia Jones lit up Fresno State for 62 points, including an unbelievable 14 of 18 three-pointers. As a nearly lifelong basketball player and now a youth basketball coach, it was otherworldly to see someone “in the zone” like that, and it was great for Ski because he worked tirelessly on his game. We would often see him down at the student rec center shooting incessantly, and he would sometimes play pick-up games with us.

He came out of the Fresno State game with about three minutes left. When coach Dana Altman realized he was close to breaking the Big 8 record for points in a game, he sent Ski back to the scorer’s table. The Fresno coach nearly

Derek Simmons has designed for newspapers, magazines, books and even a label for a craft vodka company. His love of design got a big boost at Kansas State, when he worked on the Collegian staff.

Below, a coffee table book that showcases Minnesota where he currently lives with his wife and two sons.
lost his mind. Altman cupped his hands over his mouth and said, “he’s going after a record!” The Fresno coach was not amused.

Ski got the record. Even with a lot of empty seats, the atmosphere was electric. Nearly 22 years later, he is the last D-I men’s player to have a 60-point regulation game.

What are some of the favorite designs that you’ve done?

Like my K-State memories, it’s difficult to choose just a few pieces of work from almost 20 years of professional visual journalism.

My mind starts racing recalling some of the events I’ve been a part of over the years ... 9/11, the election of our first black president (and the line wrapped around the block at the Los Angeles Times to get a copy of the paper the next morning), raging Southern California wildfires, the deaths of John Wooden, Michael Jackson (big news in Los Angeles), Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden, a couple of NBA Finals between the Lakers and the Celtics, several summer and winter Olympics, the birth of an NHL franchise (Minneapolis Wild), photo shoots with Herb Brooks, Joe Mauer, the Dodgers, Daunte Culpepper and on and on.

I’ve also helped lead redesigns, including the Los Angeles Times (print) in 2008 and the Star Tribune (digital) in 2015.

I’ve designed coffee table books, e-books, apps, t-shirts, a label for a start-up craft vodka maker, logos, resumes, DVDs, and posters.

I’ve also had the enormous pleasure of working with and art directing some of the finest freelance illustrators in the world. And I’ve been lucky enough to help lead teams that have garnered staggering accolades at the Society for News Design’s annual international creative competition.

What’s your process for coming up with designs? Also on average, how long do you work on each individual one?

I draw upon numerous sources for inspiration. We are in the Golden Age for creativity right now: animated films, TV shows, commercials, websites, product and publication design, billboards, technology, and so many other areas.

I am in particular fascinated with title sequences for television shows, especially the ones on HBO. The intros for shows like True Detective, Game of Thrones, Boardwalk Empire, True Blood and Deadwood are like works of art and visual gold.

If I could go back and change careers, that’s what I would do. That or photography.

As for time needed for a particular project, a great quote from Leonardo Da Vinci sums it up for me: “Art is never finished, only abandoned.” Abandoned for us because of deadlines. I think
you have to be a bit obsessively mad to be really good at anything you do. It can, at times, consume you.

So the short answer for me is this: However long it takes or however much time we have, from a couple of hours to 100-hour weeks and/or all-nighters.

Another reason I've stayed in this industry is that it is not a typical 9 to 5 job. When there is something big and important to work on, it is a 24/7 job. And then there are some down times to catch your breath. That's what keeps it fresh and exciting.

Who were some of your heroes growing up and how have they influenced you?

My mom, Sandra, had the strongest work ethic of anyone I have ever known. She is now enjoying a much-deserved life of retirement. She raised two kids by herself and juggled as many as three jobs. I learned from her that what you make out of a life rests squarely on your own shoulders.

I've also had a few great sports coaches in my life, and they all taught me incredible life lessons, mostly about teamwork. I learned so much about how to be a citizen of the world from playing on a lot of sports teams. Cliché, but very true. And putting out a newspaper is definitely like a team sport.

But the person who put me on a rocket ship toward this career was Ron Johnson, who was the Collegian adviser and a professor at K-State for years. Many of us in this industry owe a good portion of our success to him. He's like the Kevin Bacon of newspapers; there probably isn't more than seven degrees of separation between him and most of the movers and shakers in this industry. He taught me what good design was all about. He also taught the difference between regular design and visual journalism. Anytime he asks me to do a presentation for any reason, I don't hesitate. Because I owe him for, like, infinity.

What are your hobbies away from journalism and design?

I have two boys, Jackson, 10 and Teegan, 4. My wife, Sheri, and I also recently got a Goldendoodle puppy, Jordy (yep, huge Packers fans). So all of that keeps me very busy.

I am a youth coach and a member of local basketball and football boards. If there were yet another profession I could go back and try, it would be coaching.

I used to play a lot of golf, but who has time for that? Also, I am on a mission to try every craft beer in the world. I am currently at 196 (I have a spreadsheet), so a long way to go.

What purpose does design have in today's world?

Design is everywhere. It touches everything (for better or worse).

Another quote, this one from Steve Jobs: “Design is not just what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works.” To that end, design is not a luxury, it is a necessity. When done right, design completes the circle. It runs the gamut from helping save lives (good road signs) to helping make a company billions of dollars (Apple’s iPhone).

— Interview by Timothy Everson
A French village, a Kansas town: a historic connection

A new chapter was written in the sisterhood between the Kansas town of Morganville and the French town of Fèves, as a contingent of 20 Fèves citizens made its first group visit to the U.S. in the history of the towns’ relationship, visiting Manhattan, Morganville and Clay Center.

For many of the visiting Fèves citizens, the visit was emotional. The town of Morganville played an instrumental role in sustaining Fèves after World War II. Three of the visitors were direct recipients of the aid during their childhoods.

“I think it’s very important for us to reconnect a little bit with the States,” Francis Pracht, citizen of Fèves, France, said. “It’s important to remember the war and the events after it. The young people, they don’t know, or they don’t care about this history, and I think it’s important to refresh that for them and to tell them what happened.”

Pracht also said that the history of the towns can teach current and future generations about the spirit of giving.

“When you see what is happening in the world at the moment, we need to remember that it happened at our home also,” Pracht said. “With the big problem in Europe involving the sudden surge of refugees, it’s important to remember the help that we received from these strangers.”

The delegation toured campus, starting with a visit to the campus World War II memorial. Greeting the group at the memorial were provost and senior vice president April Mason, Andrew Orr, assistant professor of history; Birgit Wassmuth, director of the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications; Gloria Freeland, assistant professor of journalism and director of the Huck Boyd National Center for Community Media; and Art Vaughan, historian of the Morganville-Fèves relationship.

Vaughan and Freeland played a significant role in the visit, as the couple traveled to
THE HISTORY

1948: Farming town Morganville, Kansas, put on a pageant to raise money and aid for residents of WWII-ravaged Fèves, France — also a small farming town.

2013: Gloria Freeland’s “News and Feature Writing” class discovered the historic sister-city relationship during a class assignment.

September 2015: Encouraged by Freeland and her husband, Art Vaughan, residents of Fèves visited K-State and Morganville.

“(One volunteer) figured the milk ration for sixty children for six months. Elaine and Janet Caulfield rode their bikes to collect baby clothes. ... We made woolen comforter-squares out of old pants.” — Morganville organizer Velma Carson, seen above, left

Much of Fèves, France, was destroyed, like the Roundel home, seen above in 1949.

Key organizer Velma Carson, at left, worked with Morganville community leaders, Kansas State University President Milton Eisenhower and others to forge the relationship.
“With the big problem in Europe involving the sudden surge of refugees, it’s important to remember the help that we received from these strangers.”

— Francis Pracht, who visited Morganville from Fèves, France

Fèves in the summers of 2014 and 2015.

“I think it’s important for the group to feel the atmosphere at K-State and to see how friendly we are,” Freeland said. “It makes the connection more real for them to actually meet people from Kansas.”

During the visit, Vaughan recounted the history of the connection between the two towns, which goes back to 1948. The French town was ravaged by the effects of World War II.

Nearly 75 percent of the town was destroyed by the war.

Across the ocean, the small Kansas town of Morganville was emotionally moved by Europe’s plight.

Despite a population of only 250, Morganville felt the need to assist the effort to rebuild.

After considering towns in Holland, Germany and Italy, Morganville finally decided on the French town of Fèves, a rural town, chosen for its striking similarity to Morganville.

Out of the 200 American towns that participated in helping Europe, Morganville was by far the smallest, but this did not stop the Kansas town from its fundraising efforts.

To raise funds, the citizens of Morganville held a pageant, which they named the One-World Peace Festival. According to a
November 2013, Topeka Capital-Journal article, the pageant recounted the town’s history up until the point of the beginning of its relationship with Fèves.

Vaughan said the pageant marked the beginning of a cultural relationship between the towns. In addition to the charitable gifts and aid sent to Fèves, the towns exchanged other items as well, including artwork and letters.

After Fèves was rebuilt, the towns’ relationship dwindled until 2013 when students in Freeland’s “News and Feature Writing” class discovered the sister-city relationship during a class assignment.

While fact-checking a student’s article, Vaughan reached out to Gérard Torlotting, nephew of Henri Torlotting, the schoolmaster in charge of distribution of the donated supplies.

— Excerpted from an article by Rafael Garcia for The Collegian

Three of the visitors from Fèves received aid from Morganville when they were children: Gérard and Solange Torlotting and Marc Davoli.

Francine Hannen examines a head of milo on her visit. With her is Morganville Mayor Brent Rundel.
Cassandra Nguyen
for The Collegian

A member of the homecoming Greek pairing of Kappa Alpha Theta, Delta Chi, Alpha Gamma Rho high fives Quinton Clotfelter, resident of Manhattan, at the homecoming parade in Aggieville.

Emily Starkey for The Collegian

Five-year-old Izabel Nelson and her three-year-old sister Teske race down the slides at the Riley County Fair in CiCo Park in July.
With a rich tradition of photojournalism as a backdrop, student media photographers renewed their enthusiasm for the craft that has long been a source of pride at K-State.

Through a healthy in-house competition, seven photographers submitted a small portfolio of their work to compete for only two spots in the 2015 Hearst Photojournalism competition. Photography professionals and K-State alumni reviewed each entry to cast a vote on who would get the nod.

“It’s a noticeable uptick in terms of a unified photo front,” Cary Conover said. “Seeing this gallery was a lot to take in, in a good way.” Conover is a freelance photographer, K-State alumnus and publication adviser at Andover High School.

Evert Nelson and Parker Rob were selected to represent K-State in the competition. Nelson placed 14th in the contest, earning him a place among the best student photographers in the country.

— Kelly Glasscock, Assistant Director/Royal Purple Adviser Collegian Media
Wesley Cole, from Oklahoma Panhandle State University, leans back on a bronco to distribute his weight while riding during the bareback finals of the KSU Rodeo held at Weber Arena.
A Kansas State University student rides the crowd of fellow students packed into the entrance of K-State’s Hale Library during HALEstorm, a tradition in which students overrun the library with a flash-mob rave and short dance party to alleviate stress during finals week.
George Walker for The Collegian

The K-State Marching Band runs onto the field for the pregame performance of the football game between K-State and Texas Christian University in October in Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

Mason Swenson for The Royal Purple

Erica Haake, freshman in architectural engineering, sits in a hammock on the quad in September with Molly Lenhausen, freshman in ceramics.
It’s what we see on TV, read in the papers and hear on our radios that creates a picture in our minds of what it’s like in countries we’ve never visited, and what makes the people there tick. That’s how it was for this Brit (well Dutchman actually but let’s not spoil a good story). I’ve always been fascinated by USA, its people and their way of life but never got round to visiting.

Thanks to fate and the wonderful and ever-positive Dr. Barb DeSanto, my business partner Kate Cox and I were offered the opportunity, and the privilege, to experience a slice of the USA for ourselves, spending an outstanding week with the students, staff and the local community at K-State in October.

I can’t imagine that we could get a warmer welcome or finer hospitality anywhere else in the USA. For both of us, the week has been an unforgettable and in some ways, life-changing experience.

We’ve come back to Chester with so many memories: prairie, bison, enormous breakfasts, Hershey bars, Stetsons – the list is almost endless.

We were lucky enough to be part of a live country and western event – the music and dancing were just awesome. Kate and I are now seriously considering taking up line dancing! And we survived the Aggieville experience in the company of some wonderful students!

Let’s not forget one other highlight — the opportunity to see the Wildcats in action at our first-ever American football experience. What a show! The marching bands and cheerleaders provided a stunning spectacle. I think I’m beginning to understand how football works, and why you need so many players!

The most special aspects of our visit? Easy. Spending time and talking with students in and out of the lecture room, sharing different views and experiences, answering searching questions, challenging and being challenged and celebrating what we have in common and what makes us different.

We had one aspiration when we came out to see you and that was to add some value and make a difference. I hope we succeeded in one way or another and that we can continue to grow the links and relationships we’ve created.

For what you’ve given us, taught us and shared with us both, thank you.

— Hems de Winter
Founder and CEO of de Winter PR & Marketing
Liverpool Chester and Manchester, England
The A.Q. Miller School plays a major role in a unique partnership between Kansas State University and Fort Riley. Directed by JMC’s Deb Skidmore, faculty members travel to the post twice a month to conduct classes for military and civilian journalists assigned to the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley.

One of only a handful of U.S. universities partnering with a military base, K-State also offers educational opportunities to military families.

In September, KSU President Kirk Schulz welcomed Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby to the Alumni Center to sign a formal agreement, renewing the seven year partnership.

Schulz said he is pleased that Fort Riley continues to be part of the K-State experience.

Grigsby said his goal is for Fort Riley to be “the best place to train, deploy from and come home to” and he values the role played by Kansas State University.

For seven years now, the Miller School has been doing its part to strengthen this partnership.

Among those teaching classes for soldiers and staff this semester are JMC’s Kim Baltrip, Kelly Furnas, Joye Gordon and Sara Quinn.

Additionally, Fort Riley offers internship opportunities to students in the Journalism and PR departments. Grigsby emphasized the military’s goal is to build leaders, “We build leaders first through education. Leaders need to be experts and great teammates.”

— Rafael Ramos

Maj. Gen. Grigsby came to Fort Riley in August from Africa, where he served as commander of the Combined Jointed task Force-Horn of Africa. He has moved 23 times in 31 years. He is married and has five children and two grandchildren.
Jeremy Davis, a senior in public relations, started at K-State on a four-year scholarship in the College of Business. As he started taking higher-level courses, he was no longer sure he wanted to major in business.

He discovered the A.Q. Miller School by seeing where the classes he had taken would fit well.

He joined PRSSA as communications officer on the executive board.

The switch to PR as an upperclassman had him graduating a semester after four years, but he received scholarships to help him with tuition.

After a summer internship with Engage Mobile Solutions in Kansas City he graduated in December 2015 and is working for the new KC-based company, VideoFizz, as marketing manager.

— Rafael Ramos
F rom traveling as a member of the Powercat Gameday crew to calling Manhattan High Football games to putting together the daily sports talk show, The Game, KMAN sports director and 2011 grad John Kurtz has been busy since he stepped off campus.

Kurtz sat down with Update to give insight on his time at K-State, manning the air waves as sports director at KSDB and life today.

Can you give us some background on yourself?

I was born in Wichita and lived there until I was 11. Then we moved to Overland Park.

My grandparents live here in Manhattan. My grandpa, Ray Kurtz, taught elementary education at K-State.

All I cared about as a kid was K-State sports. I grew up coming to games every single weekend. My parents tell stories about taking me as a little kid, when I could get in for free. I was born in 1989 so my life coincides with the Bill Snyder era.

K-State football was what I was raised on.

I joined Delta Sigma Phi and spent most of my time doing radio.

What led you to radio?

Honestly, (KSDB) was probably the best thing that ever happened to me. I came to school thinking I was going to do video. I went to Blue Valley West High School which had a really nice video program and that’s all I had done.

But I had a friend who was in radio. I found out that you could do sports and I thought ‘What the heck, I’ll try it out.’

We traveled to a lot of road games. Eventually I was the sports director (and learned) how to manage getting all the stuff set up.

That led to an internship (at Manhattan Broadcasting). So I pretty much owe everything in my career to KSDB.
What are your favorite memories from KSDB?

We didn’t get to go to Salt Lake, (back in 2011) when we made the Elite Eight run. But we did get to cover those first two games because they were in Oklahoma City. I got to call the BYU game when we won and went to the Sweet 16. So that was a day I won’t forget.

We went to UCLA, so I got to call a football game in the Rose Bowl. That was really cool.

The 2009 win, when we finally beat Mark Mangino and KU in Snyder’s first year back. That’s probably the most excited I’ve been on air. That’s kind of how I learned I need to not scream all of the time.

What crazy things happen on the road, with KMAN?

I know immediately what comes to mind.

On all of these road trips, sometimes it’s been a little tough (technically). But we always find a way to get on the air.

This year we went to Austin when the Wildcats played Texas. It was an 11 a.m. kick-off and it was going to be a monsoon. We knew that no one was going to be there because the show would start at 7 am.

We did (the show) at a piano bar—a dueling piano bar at 7 in the morning. They’re not even used to being open or serving food. People weren’t there because of the bad weather.

Something happened to our studio overnight. We got there at 6:15 in the morning and we could not get on the air, like, the whole time.

We ended up doing the show talking on two cell phones on opposite ends of the bar, going back and forth and tossing to our pre-produced stuff.

It was kind of a nightmare.

What does the future hold for John Kurtz?

Because I’ve been so radio-focused, I’d like to be the radio play-by-play voice for a college. Maybe it would change, but I’ve never had much interest in NBA, NFL, stuff like that. I love college sports so much more.

I’ve done some (television) on-air stuff. I recently did a women’s basketball game on TV, and that was a blast.

Play-by-play, whether it’s radio or TV, that’s what I like doing the most.

What has being associated with K-State for most of your life done for you?

I can’t really imagine where I would be without K-State. My dad went to school here, his brother, my uncle. My grandpa taught here. I was just born into it.

There really wasn’t a doubt in my mind, I didn’t look into going to school anywhere else.

I’m not sure I would be doing what I am right now if it wasn’t for head coach Bill Snyder and the football program. That just sparked my interest.

I can recite all of those highlight videos that they made for season ticket holders. Mitch Holtus and Greg Sharpe and those guys narrated the videos. And I would watch those all of the time as a kid, instead of watching movies and stuff.

Since 2007, I’ve been living here. It’s given me the chance to do everything I wanted to do when I was younger.

Everything I’ve done, if you would’ve told me, when I was a kid, I would’ve been thrilled.

— Interview with Timothy Everson
The Journalism Education Association, the largest association of high school journalism teachers, has been headquartered at the Miller School since 1990 and in that time has seen its membership and programming grow tremendously. Among the most visible outreach is its twice annual National High School Journalism Convention, which it co-sponsors with the National Scholastic Press Association. This fall, JEA staff — and about 6,200 high school students and teachers — were in Orlando for the organization’s fourth-largest convention ever. In April the convention heads to Los Angeles.

Highlights in the planning process, which starts about four years before each convention:

- Securing space, including contract negotiations with hotels, unions, vendors, audio-visual providers and caterers.
- Recruiting, scheduling and coordinating speakers and logistics for the more than 300 breakout sessions.
- Identifying and contracting two keynote speakers (this fall: Sports Illustrated reporter Andy Staples and NPR correspondent Eric Deggans).
- Managing an on-site bookstore for educators and students.
- Running on-site contests for almost 2,000 high school students.
- Administering awards for the nation’s best scholastic journalism educators.
- Creating the program of events (as well as the accompanying mobile app).

Of course, the fall convention isn’t the only thing JEA does. It runs a smaller, advisers-only convention in the summer. It operates the mail-order bookstore year-round. It published a quarterly journal “Communication: Journalism Education Today.” It develops curriculum materials for teachers. It offers certification for scholastic journalism educators. And it maintains finances, networking mailing lists, dozens of committees and commissions, and a general membership database of more than 3,000 teachers, professionals and libraries.

— Kelly Furnas
Higgin's used this photograph on a poster he designed to promote his October speech. It was taken by his friend Jen Smith for a class project.

Uncomfortable, at first, with such a personal moment, Higgins said “I had to look at it like ‘how can this influence somebody or reach out to somebody.’”
Public relations students at the A.Q. Miller School learn how to present and communicate on behalf of organizations. But, one student has learned to tell his own, quite personal story.

After formally being diagnosed in late 2014 with a chromosome variation that includes an extra X chromosome, Michael Higgins said the world actually calmed down, at least for him. “I feel like the hardest thing with this (was) not knowing,” he said of some of his symptoms. “And I know now,” Higgins said. “Now we can move on.”

Commonly called Klinefelter Syndrome, Higgins’ diagnosis at the age of 26 turned into a point of tension and awkwardness for others around him. “Ever since I got the diagnosis, it’s just been more of a crisis for everybody around me because they don’t understand it,” Higgins said. “I mean, I don’t even fully understand it.”

Higgins currently knows of only one other person diagnosed with Klinefelter Syndrome in the state of Kansas. “My XY variation is 47XXY,” he said. And there are many other variations.

In parts of the U.S. with higher numbers, diagnosis often comes earlier in life, often around puberty. Higgins committed to a class project, making a public presentation to explain his story in November at the Staley School of Leadership Studies.

Higgins said the hardest part of being his own public relations manager was advertising for the event.

KLINEFELTER SYNDROME

Most males have one Y and one X chromosome. Genetic variations occur when a boy is born with one or more extra X chromosomes.

Possible, unusual physical traits

- taller than average height (Higgins is 6’ 8” tall)
- low testosterone
- unexplained weight gain, enlarged breasts and wide hips
- disproportionately long arms and legs compared to length of body

Above, Higgins made his presentation to several hundred people in November.

PHOTO BY JEN SMITH

PHOTO BY SARA QUINN

Higgin’s mother, Dona Higgins, left, and grandmother, Beverly Barnhart listen during his presentation, “Exxtraordinary Me.”

PHOTO BY SARA QUINN

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and allowing himself to be vulnerable.

“My biggest fear was probably the promotion side of it. When I first saw the picture we were going to use (for the poster), I hated it,” Higgins said. “But as we started to progress toward the speech I thought, ‘how can this influence somebody or reach out to somebody.’”

He tried to see his own PR campaign as if he was someone else.

“I had to remove myself and my own personal feelings and focus on what we were trying to do and who we were trying to reach — which was everybody, essentially,” Higgins said.

Along with researching his diagnosis and planning his presentation, Higgins spent time trying to find a community he could belong to.

Encouraged by professors at K-State, he attended a conference last July, at the Johns Hopkins Klinefelter Syndrome Center in Baltimore. Hosted by the AXYS Foundation, the AXYS Family Conference included dozens of people of all ages being treated for a wide variety of XY chromosome symptoms.

Unfortunately, he did not find the community connection he had hoped for.

“Honestly, the conference didn’t turn out like we expected,” Higgins said. “We knew that there would be a lot of people there with their children with similar diagnosis, but I wasn’t prepared for people’s reactions.”

Perhaps because of his later age of diagnosis, and the fact that he was attending a university, Higgins said he did not necessarily fit in with the other attendees at the conference.

“I felt outcast by the organization and its members because I didn’t fit the stereotype for an XY chromosome variation,” Higgins said. “I wasn’t prepared for that.” He coped by “calling home and venting quite a bit,” he said.

But Higgins looked for a silver lining in his conference experience.

“One of the pros is that I’m not nearly as negatively affected as some of the other people,” he said.

Higgins used this positive energy in putting together his presentation. He said the presentation was a success and he welcomes other times when he might use his PR skills to share his story again.

— Jamie Teixeira

Joel Aschbrenner
Class of 2010

From the early days of cheering on Michael Bishop and the football team, Joel Aschbrenner was a Wildcat at heart, making road trips to Alabama, Oklahoma and Texas to support the Wildcats.

He graduated with a major in print journalism with a minor in business.

As editor in chief for the Collegian he remembers being up until 3 a.m. on a day when the lights went out in Kedzie. Proudly, they still got the issue out that day.

He also learned how to hire the right people, he wrote in an e-mail interview, to figure payroll and host orientation for prospective students, potentially interested in the Collegian.

“The most beneficial aspect of my time as editor was being able to surround myself with talented people and learning from their skills,” he wrote. “We had some great wordsmiths working as copy editors and what I learned about language by just spending time with them has been incredibly helpful in my career.”

“The same goes for the features and desk editors who worked for me at the Collegian. I learned a lot by watching them develop sources and craft story ideas with reporters.”

“I have to give a ton of credit to managing editor Matt Binter,” Aschbrenner wrote. “Matt’s an incredibly talented photographer and designer who worked with me at the Collegian for several years.”

“Picking Matt to help me run the paper was the best decision I made. Not only was he a workhorse with real news chops, but by working alongside someone with such an eye for photography and design I learned so much about making a newspaper and a website visually appealing,” he wrote. “I think that is something important for any print reporter to appreciate. No one is going to read your story if the page looks like garbage. As a reporter, the photogs and designers should be your best friends.”

After graduation, Aschbrenner left for the Pacific Northwest. He credits his willingness to move as the reason he found a job, and says that students should not be worrying about getting a job as long as they are willing to move, be involved and get experience.

After internships with the Wichita Eagle and Salina Journal and stints in Oregon at The (Bend) Bulletin and Herald and News in Klamath Falls, Aschbrenner moved to the Des Moines Register where he covers the real estate, downtown, the Des Moines International Airport and the Iowa caucuses. He is also the Iowa correspondent for USA Today.

— Von Wiltz

Now 6’8” tall, Higgins joked that everyone thought he would be a natural at playing basketball. “Not so,” he said, especially with an unusual growth spurt, during high school in LeCompton, Kansas.

PHOTO BY SARA QUINN

PHOTO BY KEDZIE
COLLEGIAN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF JON PARTON SIGNS ON FOR ANOTHER SEMESTER

2016: In the editor’s chair

Jon Parton, editor in chief of the K-State Collegian, said he wasn’t entirely sure what he was getting into when he became a staff writer in the fall of 2013. Parton was a transfer student from Johnson County Community College, where he worked on the student newspaper as well.

While Parton made the transition from JCCC to K-State, he also made the transition from a biweekly news publication to a daily print paper.

Parton said it was shocking, not only to print daily, but to go from a staff of about ten students to about 80. The transition was not necessarily comfortable.

“I didn’t know anyone,” Parton said. He didn’t feel as though it was easy to plug in and find help. “So I wanted to change that.”

As the EIC, Parton said he strives to make the atmosphere a friendlier place.

“I want to make it a place where students write, get experience, and also get help,” Parton said. “We’re not doing our job unless we’re helping other students who are in the same boat as us.”

The atmosphere is not the only thing Parton has tried to change as EIC. He put an emphasis on the Collegian’s online presence by creating an online editor position and by encouraging stories to be posted throughout the day.

“(I tried to place) a greater focus on our online efforts. If we don’t do that, we’re going to go extinct,” Parton said.

“(We are) making sure we have three updates to the website a day,” Parton said.

He also established new features, solely for the online presence. One example is “Ask Me Live” which features guests, like KSU Coach Bill Snyder, in an exclusive online Q&A forum that is open to the public.

Parton will graduate in May 2016 with a degree in political science and a passion to pursue journalism. He said he plans to continue to work for newspapers in the future.

The position of EIC has its challenges but overall Parton said the rewards are worth it.

“For me, the greatest reward is seeing your ideas implemented and take affect across campus,” Parton said.

— Jamie Teixeira
Manhattan, Kansas reminded junior Katherine Gravel-Coursol of her home of Mirabel, Quebec, a French-speaking, small suburb of Montreal. Manhattan wasn’t her first experience south of the (Canadian) border. She still has fond memories of yearly trips down to Florida with her mother and grandparents, enjoying a popsicle in the Floridian heat, hunting for seashells along the beaches and the sweet smell of the air permeating around her.

So, when she ventured west and not as south to visit K-State the five and a half hour flight set her in a place that felt familiar to her. A place where she felt welcomed by everyone she met and a place where she could play the sport that she loves, golf.

Manhattan, Kansas reminded junior Katherine Gravel-Coursol of her home of Mirabel, Quebec, a French-speaking, small suburb of Montreal. Manhattan wasn’t her first experience south of the (Canadian) border. She still has fond memories of yearly trips down to Florida with her mother and grandparents, enjoying a popsicle in the Floridian heat, hunting for seashells along the beaches and the sweet smell of the air permeating around her.

She came to K-State as one of the top junior golfers in her area, ranking 1st in the Quebec Junior Girls Order of Merit in 2012 and won Quebec Juvenile Championship when she was 14. Now, in her third season at K-State, she’s already improved. In the 2014 season her highest finish was 17th place but this past season, she carded a career low 71 in two rounds of the Johnie Imes Invitational to place 10th, the highest finish of her career so far.

While being a student athlete takes up much of her time, when she’s not hitting the links, she loves stay in and tap into her creative side by finding her way through a puzzle or painting.

It was her need for creativity and freedom that led her to leave her original major of business and pursue a mass communication degree after gaining inspiration in an advertising class she happened to take. From then on, her path was set with hopes of someday, after a professional golf career, settling down at an ad agency or finding her place in the world of broadcasting.

— Timothy Everson

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— Danielle Cook, freshman in Pre Journalism and Mass Communications

“My voice recorder has been a lifesaver in my journalism classes!”

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Daniela Martinez-Serrano loves her current job as a multimedia journalist with WIBW-TV. She will graduate in May, with an emphasis in digital media. The hands-on classes she has taken in Dole Hall, like Advanced Digital News and Producing Digital News, have been the most important part of her experience in the program, she said. These classes, collectively called Channel 8 News, are an exciting part of the JMC curriculum, she said, because of the experiences and opportunities and the level of professional work required and expected of the students. As a JMC Ambassador, she has gotten to know the A.Q. Miller School well. “I love being an Ambassador because it enables me to promote our program,” Martinez-Serrano said. “We have a great journalism program. I feel proud and honored to be a student here. That is why I am an ambassador, to expose that passion and persuade others to attend our great school.” Her current job with WIBW-TV is her dream job. Eventually, she would like to work in the Kansas City area because “Kansas City is home and it is a top level market,” she said.

— By Jamie Teixeira

Daniela Martinez-Serrano
Senior, Journalism

Som Kandlur
Senior, PR

Originally from India, Som Kandlur is a fifth-year senior, who started his college career at the University of Tilburg in the Netherlands. He transferred to K-State as an accounting/finance major, but soon found himself in Kedzie, studying public relations.

Kandlur served as managing editor of the Collegian and president of PRSSA throughout the 2014-15 school year. As a PR major who worked on the Collegian, Kandlur said he took particular interest in fallout from an incident that happened as students rushed the court following a K-State basketball victory over KU.

The “chicken-winging incident,” in which a KSU fan threw an elbow at Kansas forward Jamari Traylor as he walked off the court, made national headlines and resulted in an apology from K-State Athletic Director John Currie.

Kandlur worked with PRSSA to strengthen ties with alumni throughout Kansas. He looks forward to graduating and working in the Kansas City area.

— By Rafael Ramos

Jamie Brond
Senior, PR

Graduation?
May 2017

Major?
Public relations.

Hometown?
Liberal, Kansas.

Dream job?
As of right now, being a crisis communicator for a large corporation or for a professional sports team because I want to be able to make a difference and I have always loved getting to have a hand in reputation and brand management. I would love to head down to the Dallas area; I have always loved the charm and pace of life down there.

What made you choose K-State?
I am the fourth generation on both sides of my family to attend. I have grown up dreaming of attending this wonderful university and every single time I came to Manhattan, I knew this was the place I wanted to be.

Advice for those considering K-State and PR?
I would tell them to do it. It’s a sequence that’s fun to learn about. And something that you will have no trouble finding a job in. I have loved all of my classes and absolutely have no regrets in making my decision to pursue PR.

One thing I wish I’d known as a freshman is ...
It’s okay to not have everything figured out.
Alumni

**Dennis Boone**
Class of ’79

JMC major at KSU, journalism master’s at Penn State, ’82.

“After a 30-year career in newspapers (Olathe, Salina, Wichita and KC), the industry ran out of lifeboats.”

Now managing editor at Ingram’s, a 41-year-old business magazine in KC.

Raised three kids in Wichita, all of whom are now married; have three younger ones in KC (all in grade school) and hoping not to move again, because I don’t have the energy to raise three more. Younger ones got to see their older sister in LA, where she’s an attorney, and made the epic journey to Wally World.

**Favorite memories of Kedzie and the Collegian?**
Wow! Too many to list. Really. A favorite story was covering the firing of football coach Ellis Rainsberger, a night that ended with my first water-tower climb. And I’ll never forget being ripped up the outside the county courthouse to apply for marriage licenses, following completion of the fall harvest. (Headline: “They’re engaged . . . in Intercourse”).

Brown’s comment: “You guys may be funny as hell as individuals, but some day, you’ll have to learn that your humor does NOT translate well into print.”

**Favorite memory?**
Again, way too many, but I gave the three younger kids the campus tour, and showed them the access point for the old heat tunnel system that ran under campus (don’t know if you can get in there these days), and pointed out the Anderson Hall flagpole (since removed) where my roommate and I saluted Parents Weekend 1978 by raising his sister’s bra and panties on Friday night — they flew there until Monday a.m.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE SWEENEY/INGRAM’S

Boone with his youngest daughter before a Snowflake Dance (father-daughter) in KCMO.

**Kevin Dale**
Class of ’90

I left K-State in December of ’85, for a job at The Ellsworth Reporter. I was two electives short of a degree, but my professors praised legendary Ellsworth publisher (and K-State alumnus) Karl Gaston and how he would further my training. It was great advice!

In 1990, while working at the Los Angeles Daily News, I took two elective courses, transferred them to K-State and officially earned my BS in Journalism.

**Currently:**
After 15 years at The Denver Post, I was named Executive Editor and Professor of Practice for Cronkite News at Arizona PBS, the professional program for the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. I lead the professional immersion programs for broadcast and digital students in news, business and sports.

At The Post, I was news director, the second-ranking editor in the newsroom, responsible for our coverage strategies across platforms.

PHOTO BY HOWARD PETERSON

Dale

My favorite JMC memories all include Professor Bill Brown, bellowing lessons throughout his classroom. It was his passion that cemented my desire to enter the profession. I try to keep Bill’s voice in my head as I talk to students every day in our newsroom at Cronkite.
As editor of the weekly tabloid newspaper InView for K-State, I hired then Kansas State Collegian staff photographer Hürriyet Aydogan in 1981 to photograph secretaries, professors, groundskeepers, lab techs, deans, residence hall house keepers, etc.

In 2012, I received a first place award in the feature specialty category in the Society of Feature Journalists national competition for “The Altar Boys’ Secret” series, which told the story of a 30-year mystery of alleged abuse and suicide.

Also that year, I received first place in the Religion Newswriters Association “Religion Reporter of the Year” contest in the metropolitan newspaper division.

Over the next year, I worked on a project on domestic terrorism and the “face of hate” in America. The series, published in April 2015, included interviews with the killer and others now in prison for committing acts of terrorism.

Family:
My husband, Tracy Thomas, is a 1982 K-State graduate and vice president of marketing at U.S. Premium Beef in Kansas City. Our son, Justin, is a May 2015 K-State graduate now working at Cerner in Kansas City, and son, Nathan, is a freshman at KSU majoring in mechanical engineering.

A favorite KSU memory?
I have tons of great memories from my time at the Collegian, including the Kedzie Kapers, borrowing a Geiger counter to investigate an anonymous tip alleging radioactive activity on campus, and getting caught by the campus cops while sneaking into the Purple Masque Theatre in search of Nick the Ghost. But my favorite memories would have to be exposing an airline ticket scam that resulted in federal contempt charges against a California ticket brokerage company and revealing that the Riley County landfill was contaminating the water of nearby residents. The airline story landed me in federal court in San Diego and the landfill story led to an investigation by the attorney general.

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—— Tim Lindenmuth, long-time editor of K-Stater alumni magazine
Justin Smith

Class of ’14

Major: B.S. in Mass Communications
- Advertising

Minor: Business

I am currently a copywriter at Barkley in Kansas City, Missouri.

I work on the creative side on a variety of quick service restaurants including Dairy Queen, Noodles & Co, and Wingstop, writing content for TV, social, radio, print, etc.

My real passions are barbecue and the Royals.

Kansas City is a great place to be.

A favorite KSU memory?

I really enjoyed representing the JMC Ambassadors at JEA conferences in Boston and San Diego. I got to wear a purple polyester polo for three days straight and never felt more alive. I also loved being on the Advertising Production staff for the Collegian.

Advice for JMC students?

Start creating now. Don’t wait for a perfect opportunity or grand inspiration. And definitely don’t wait until right before the job hunt.

Employers want to see that you’re passionate about something — a side gig, hobby, talent.

Find a way to tell that story in an interesting way.

Smith fondly remembers rushing the basketball court after the Wildcats beat KU on February 10, 2014.

Whitney Davis

Class of ’06

Major: B.S. in Journalism

Whitney Davis is a 2006 graduate of Kansas State from Wichita who grew up watching Dan Rather and Walter Cronkite on CBS.

She interned with CBS New York while at K-State and later went on to be a part of the evening news team.

That’s where she “cut her teeth,” she said, producing, shooting and editing breaking news across multiple platforms for CBS Evening News, CBS This Morning, Sunday Morning and CBS.com.

As a producer in the field, she covered breaking news events including the Bernie Madoff scandal, West Virginia coal mine explosion, the Gabrielle Giffords shooting in Arizona and the Japan earthquake and tsunami among other stories.

Davis decided to leave New York for Los Angeles where she is currently the Manager for Entertainment Diversity. She collaborates with CBS Entertainment Executives in Casting, Current Programming, Development, Publicity, Daytime and Program Practices to ensure that they maintain an excellence in diversity an inclusion.

Davis gives high praise to Myra Gordon, K-State provost for diversity, who was her mentor at K-State.

Davis’ best advice: “Give effort to say thanks, give appreciation because we can all get caught up sometimes, but to always be grateful.”

— By Von Wiltz

PHOTO BY JUSTIN SMITH
Essentially, I shoot, write and produce videos that coincide with our weekly mission offerings or for any other special events that take place through the church. I also do freelance voice and on-air work throughout the community.

A favorite KSU memory?

One of my favorite memories of my time on campus, was working for the campus radio station, KSDB. I may not have "loved" my first experience of anchoring the early morning newscasts, but I did love that it expanded into an opportunity to be the sideline reporter for the Women's basketball broadcasts. I worked alongside Tim Beemer and Matt Walters — an awesome opportunity that encompassed my love of sports and reporting!

As a side note, we just took our oldest daughter to K-State’s Junior Days! It was awesome to be back on campus and see all of the wonderful change. We love our K-State roots and will be happy if she decides to attend there. We know she would be in good hands!!

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David Skretta  Class of ’05

B.S. degree in Print Journalism and History (double major)

I am an Associated Press Sports Writer based in Kansas City, covering the Royals, Chiefs and college sports. I’ve also been sent on assignment numerous times to cover four World Series, four Final Fours, three Indy 500s, the London Olympics, the Belmont Stakes, the U.S. Open and next year will be part of our team at the Rio Olympics.

Favorite memory? I don’t know if it’s a favorite memory, per se, but I do know that I learned more from working at the Collegian than in any one class. Sorry, Smethers.

It’s true. The opportunity to get real-world experience there and with internships at the Topeka Capital-Journal and USA Today proved invaluable.

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Advice for JMC Students

Get a double major, preferably in an engineering discipline. The ability to think critically and solve problems, not just opine on them, will serve people well in the digital-content age, where opinions alone count for little. Content is truly valuable when it’s usable. Trust me: nobody cares if your cat just threw up something with an orange hue. — Dennis Boone, Class of ’79
A small, but mighty staff created this publication for you: *Timothy Everson*, senior in journalism and digital media; *Jamie Teixeira*, senior in English; *Von Wiltz*, junior in public relations, and *Rafael Ramos*, senior in public relations.