The alumni publication of the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications

K-State alumnus Rob Clark shares his fantastic photography. Learn more about him and his travels on page 24.

Info on the Fred White Scholarship - Page 6

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Welcome!

As the new director of the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications I would like to welcome you to this edition of Update magazine. It offers exciting highlights from the Fall 2013 semester.

I came to K-State from Kennesaw State University near Atlanta, Ga., where I chaired the Department of Communication and managed its unbridled growth for seven and a half years. When I arrived at K-State in July my two top priorities were: to guide the faculty through the process of re-accreditation (a six-year cycle) and to submit a compelling proposal to keep the Journalism Education Association (JEA) at K-State.

In late October, a four-member accreditation team of the Accrediting Council for Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC) visited us for four days and, at the end of their visit, recommended us for re-accreditation. The recommendation will be reviewed, discussed, and voted on by the Accrediting Committee on March 22 in Chicago, and by the Accrediting Council on May 2 in Arlington, Va. At that point, the decision will be official.

A review team from JEA visited us in late September to discuss our proposal. In the final round, we were competing against heavy-hitters Vanderbilt and Colorado State University. At the November meeting of JEA in Boston, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to keep JEA at K-State and housed in the A.Q. Miller School. President Schulz, Provost Mason, Dean Dorhout, and I are delighted to continue and strengthen our long-standing relationship with JEA. Together we will be developing a few academic programs including a new master’s degree in Scholastic Journalism Education and Management.

At the beginning of the fall semester, we welcomed two new colleagues to our faculty: Dr. Tom Hallaq (Journalism and Digital Media), who joined us from Idaho State University, and Dr. Jinsoo Kim (Advertising) from Rhode Island College. We are delighted to have them on board.

In early November, I met with our Advisory Council for the first time. I shared with them my vision for the School to become a “program of distinction.” It seems that, together, we are ready to “rock ‘n’ roll” and make things happen.

This academic year, we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the naming of the A.Q. Miller School. To recognize this important milestone we are planning to introduce a special fundraising effort called the “25 Fund,” which will help establish a JMC Hall of Fame and an A.Q. Miller Lecture Series.

Since the beginning of the fall semester, I have been visiting as many classes as I could fit into my schedule. The purpose of these class visits was to introduce myself and to listen to what the students have to say. I had them fill out a brief survey to solicit input regarding various topics such as accreditation, curriculum, technology, facilities, etc. I’ll be analyzing these data over the holiday break. The voice of our students is important to us.

Our immediate next task is to conceptualize a solution for our space and facility needs. As you know, we are bursting at the seams. Several exciting alternatives are being developed, and we want your input. Please watch for a survey that will be sent to you within the next few weeks. Once we know which direction to follow, we will start a Capital Campaign to make things happen.

It’s good to be here. Please keep in touch. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Birgit Wassmuth

On the cover

Rob Clark has made a career of telling the stories of exotic people in exotic places. In Cambodia he captured this striking picture of a monk emerging from a temple overgrown by a tree.

His eye for the unusual has allowed him to shoot 24 covers for National Geographic, capture the story of high school football in Texas and bring to life the stories of thousands.

Special thanks to

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On our website

For more information about A.Q. Miller School news, visit the website www.jmc.ksu.edu

Find a complete listing of alumni updates, stories and additional info on our website at updatejmc.com.
After the success of their event last year, the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications decided to bring Kedziepalooza back on Sept. 3. Although the organizers for the event changed, the new pre-major adviser Jenny Robertson took control and planned the event.

“IT wasn’t difficult this year,” Robertson said. “Tom Roesler really had a great plan already in place from the previous year, I didn’t diverge from that too much. I just stuck with what he did and made sure everything was taken care of.”

Though she followed last year’s structure, Robertson faced a challenge in planning the event.

“One thing I think was really frantic is that Kedziepalooza is always the second week of classes and our JMC ambassadors help out a lot with it, and I really didn’t get to meet with them until the week before classes started.”

Despite meeting the ambassadors last minute, Robertson said the students were ready to work and helped promote the event to journalism students.

“They did a great job and when we met the first time they were ready to start on it,” Robertson said. “They showed up and they were really excited.”

Kedziepalooza allowed members of journalism clubs to meet and discuss their group and plans for the year with students.

“I am the president of Diverse Mass Communicators which is a revived organization here at the school of journalism to promote diversity in all forms and manners through the whole journalism department regardless of your color or sexual identity or anything of that sort,” Belema Iyo, senior in public relations and advertising said.

For Iyo, having a booth for the Diverse Mass Communicators group gave them the opportunity to gain new more members.

“Being able to be a part of the group of people bringing it back and starting something with new people and new ideas is always a great thing,” Iyo said. “I feel really proud and happy that I get to share about diversity and let people also learn about different cultures.”

For some students, attending Kedziepalooza gave them the chance to learn about the school and meet fellow journalism students.

“It’s really cool; I didn’t know there were so many clubs,” Renee Gragg, sophomore in public relations, said. “It’s pretty neat to see what’s going on since I’m a sophomore and I just got into the major.”

Although the next Kedziepalooza is a year away, Robertson plans to use the time plan and improve the event.

“I think if I had more time to plan, it I would maybe try to have a special guest be able to come or some kind of other fun activity going on while we’re doing the event, just to bring in more students and get them more excited. But I’ll have to think about that for next year,” Robertson said.

Kedzie by the Numbers

Instruction in printing began at K-State in 1874

Number of students enrolled in

Advertising: 71
Journalism Digital Media: 58
Print Media: 29
Public Relations: 143
Pre-majors: 290

Number of Journalism School Alumni 6,200

The journalism program was established in 1910
Student Fees Improve
College of Arts and Sciences
by Bria Dansby

This year, students enrolled in the Kansas State University College of Arts and Sciences saw an additional fee on their tuition statement. Students within the college were charged an additional $8 per credit hour that would go toward funding supplies and programs throughout the school.

“None of this fee money goes to paying faculty,” Ross Jensby, student fee committee member said. “This fee money goes toward things that will impact the students’ learning environment.”

The student fee committee had made it a point to communicate with officials about the funds the college had received for the fall semester.

“The committee that I’m on meets with some of the faculty and administrators within the College of Arts and Sciences, since the college instituted the new credit hour fee,” Jensby said. “It’s kind of a way of transparency and communication between students and the administration to make sure the students’ needs are met in an appropriate and responsible way.”

The tuition strategies committee approved the fee for students in the College of Arts and Sciences last year to ensure the school has enough money for supplies.

“One of the main reasons was because of the funding,” Jensby said. “We had a lot of dated equipment especially within the chemistry department, but that’s just one example.”

The College of Arts and Sciences is not the first to implement a student fee on campus.

“[The colleges of] Business and Engineering have much higher student fees and have had them for several years,” Dr. Beth Montelone, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences said. “A few years ago, a fee was imposed across all colleges and is used to support instruction and advising.”

The fee money will go toward items such as instructional equipment, laboratories, instruments and audio. Although the fees could become costly to some students, the current fee is an improvement from the committee’s initial price.

“We did decrease the initial proposal from $10 per credit hour to $8 per credit hour,” Jensby said. “The main reason for the decrease was because people just wanted to be responsible with the students’ money. We wanted to make sure we were serving the students the best way we could.”

For students enrolled in the A.Q. Miller School, the student fees mean progress for the college.

“I think it’s a good idea because we are constantly needing to update equipment whether it’s cameras, equipment, for the Channel 8 News studio or the computers in Kedzie,” Nicolette Sessin, senior in digital media said. “The money is well worth it, and I wish more of our tuition money was spent on the things we really need.”

Jensby feels the college’s decision is beneficial to the students and their education.

“I think in order to keep K-State competitive, it was something we needed to see, and there are other universities that have a program like this,” Jensby said. “Honestly, with state funding decreasing for public universities, you hate to see another fee for students, but you don’t want the students to be paying high tuition for an atmosphere where they’re not getting a decent education.”
School Recommended for Reaccreditation

While most students pass through the halls of Kedzie Hall in four (or five) years, the faculty of the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications spent six years planning for a test of its own. The results were successful.

The A.Q. Miller School is reviewed for reaccreditation every six years. In October of 2013, a team of professionals from the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, ACEJMC, reviewed the program’s academic and physical aspects and opportunities. The School was recommended for re-accreditation at the end of the review.

The process began six years ago, including the preparation of a self-study and other reports and materials for the accreditation team.

“There’s just a lot of details,” Wassmuth said. “We (put) together a ring binder together full of flyers, brochures, and programs of any activities that we’ve sponsored for the last six years. It’s a lot of materials.”

Steve Smethers, associate professor of journalism and associate director for undergraduate programs for the A.Q. Miller School, was instrumental in preparing for the re-accreditation process.

“It’s an arduous task, it really is,” Smethers said. “You have to go back and look at so many things. You have to keep in mind that faculty have come and gone within the last six years, so imagine trying to track of all that.”

Accreditation Compliance Standards:
A.Q. Miller School Passes

1. Mission, Governance and Administration
2. Curriculum and Instruction
3. Diversity and Inclusiveness
4. Full-Time and Part-Time Faculty
5. Scholarship: Research, Creative and Professional Activity
6. Student Services
7. Resources, Facilities and Equipment
8. Professional and Public Service
9. Assessment of Learning Outcomes

Senior Jordan Rogers checks the PRSSA sign up sheet. The new PRSSA board was put up to coincide with the reaccreditation visit.

“The process is where they bring people in for three days, and they look at everything,” Stark said. “Your syllabi, your spaces, everything, and compare it to their guidelines. My impression, though, is that they were always willing to work with the school. It’s not a kind of harsh, ‘You did or did not succeed’ thing. They offer suggestions and talk with the faculty.”

The preparation included extensive documentation of the program, Wassmuth said.

“There are nine chapters and an intro-
that the school must “update its assessment plan
visit. The ninth standard, Assessment, was not
program. I think that’s healthy, for any sort of
“It’s a diagnostic report on the excellence of our
standards are and a chance to assess ourselves in
the information into a cohesive report. ”

The process also helps faculty check on
their own progress, according to Smethers.
“It’s a reminder to us about what our
standards are and a chance to assess ourselves in
a variety of different standards,” Smethers said.
“It’s a diagnostic report on the excellence of our
program. I think that’s healthy, for any sort of
program.”

The A.Q. Miller School passed eight of the
nine standards that ACEJMC examines in a site
visit. The ninth standard, Assessment, was not
passed. A draft of the accreditors’ report states
that the school must “update its assessment plan
to incorporate ACEJMC’s 12 professional values
and competencies” and “analyze internship
supervisor responses by cohort and sequence.”
Essentially, the site team felt that the A.Q. Miller
School needed stronger assessment applied to its
required courses.

Wassmuth is no stranger to the accredita-
tion process. She served as a member of accredi-
tation teams for universities in the past. With
her experience, Wassmuth said, comes a better
understanding of the process.

“It’s not about being perfect. It’s about
meeting standards,” Wassmuth said. “Overall, if
you do well in each of the standards then you’ll
look really good.”

The draft of the accreditors’ review is just
that, a draft, and will not become final until May
of 2014, when the accreditors will present their
reports to the accrediting council. This leaves
time for Wasmuth and the A.Q. Miller school to
contest any critiques if they so choose.

During the review on Oct. 27-30, the
team met with faculty and students, and toured
Kedzie Hall, McCain Auditorium, the K-State
Student Union, and Dole Halls. Aspects of the
JMC School are housed in each of these loca-
tions. The accreditation team consisted of Cae-
sar Andrews, distinguished professor of ethics
and writing at the University of Nevada-Reno,
Pat Rose, executive director of the American
Academy of Advertising in Pittsboro, NC, John
Paluszek, senior counsel, Ketchum in New York,
NY and team leader Pam Lucke, head of the
department of journalism and mass communi-
cations for Washington and Lee University in
Lexington, Ky.

The accreditation team highlighted several
strengths in the program, including “engaged,
motivated students,” “caring and well qualified
faculty,” “strong student media outlets” and a
promising new director in Wasmuth.

At the A.Q Miller School, the accredita-
tion committee spent three days producing their
official report. It was given to K-State President
Kirk Schulz on Oct. 30.

“It’s an exciting exercise. It gives us an
opportunity to showcase what we do,” Wassmuth
said. “I think we look pretty good. I think we
have an outstanding faculty. Everybody is com-
mitted to high quality standards, and I think it
shows.”

Q&A with Advisory Council
Co-chairman Paul Arnhold

Paul Arnhold shares his views of the JMC
School Advisory Council which met on campus
in November.

Q: What is the role of the Advisory
Council?
Our goal is to have a good diversity of
alums from all decades of graduation and in
form departments within the school (journalism,
advertising, public relations and broadcast) sit
on the council to ultimately provide guidance
back to the school. We currently have around 50
members and now meet twice a year instead of
just once.

Q: What made the council decide
to meet twice a year instead of a usual
single meeting?
We typically only meet once in the spring
for a large meeting, but decided that just wasn’t
allowing us to communicate and plan together
as much as we would like. We decided to meet
again in the fall, for more of a working meeting,
to touch base on our goals. This fall meeting was
especially important so the council could be intro-
duced to the new director, Dr. Wassmuth, and to
hear her vision for the school’s future.

Q: What is the Council hoping to
accomplish within the next year?
Anything that is a focus for the school is a
focus for the council. The advisory council wants
to be a resource that the school can always come
to. Our goal is to have a more active presence
within the school and to help keep alum updated
and connected.

Q: How will the Council help with
Dr. Wassmuth’s vision?
The closer we can keep alumni to the school,
the closer they’ll be able to contribute to the
school, through whatever outlet that may be. We
have always had the idea of an alumni-mentor-
ing program, but it hasn’t been able to be used as
much as we would have like. This year, our goal
is to set up a two-step mentoring program, where
upperclassman help advise incoming students on
classes and opportunities within the school and
our alumni can help mentor the older students who
are getting ready to enter the workforce. We want
to fill the gap between the alumni and the school,
so they are able to take on a more active role. Our
JMC alumni are wonderful assets, especially since
they are all so active in such diverse professions
throughout all the different JMC departments.
They are able to advise not only the students,
but also the school on what skills are needed to
be successful in the workforce today. Their input
allows the school’s curriculum, technology and
facades to be kept up to date with industry
standards so we can prepare students for success
after graduation.

Q: What types of opportunities
are there for alumni to take part in?
Helping to mentor current students in
networking, job shadowing, helping to find
internships and just answering the questions
about their profession would be a great way to get
involved. Fundraising is another important goal
for the advisory council, and is also another great
opportunity for alumni to give back to the school.

Q: Any other exiting opportuni-
ties for the future that the council has
discussed?
We are hoping to continue to build our
relationship with the military school on campus,
along with Ft. Riley. They are an ideal resource
to have within KSU’s backyard, and could be a great
way for students, who aren’t necessarily enlisted,
to learn military communication and the import-
tant role it plays within a military community.
The great thing about a degree from the JMC
School is that the possibilities are endless.
Gone, but Never Forgotten

by Corbin McGuire

Steve Physioc, A.Q. Miller School graduate and now Kansas City Royals broadcaster, recalls surprising conversations during the early stages of his career regarding how many phone calls Fred White, Voice of the K-State Wildcats during the 1960s and early 1970s, made on his behalf.

“I had no idea until years later when somebody would say ‘well, Fred White called me up and said ‘you’ve got to listen to this young broadcaster from Kansas State University’, or, ‘you’ve got to listen to this young broadcaster from Hastings, Nebraska,’” Physioc said. “Fred White was a guy who helped everybody. He helped every single young broadcaster, took an interest, and he tried to spot somebody’s enthusiasm for the business, hoped they would have the talent and helped them move forward.”

When White passed away in May at the age of 76, Physioc and Mitch Holthus, another A.Q. Miller School graduate and current voice of the Kansas City Chiefs, wanted to preserve the legacy of a man who positively affected countless sports broadcasters.

“Whenever I would say thank you to Fred, he said ‘Steve, don’t thank me. When another young broadcaster comes along, help him. That’s the way that you can thank me,’” Physioc said. “So one of the ways we can continue to allow that Fred White legacy to grow is to develop a scholarship fund, and not necessarily find a student who has the highest GPA, but the student who has the passion for broadcasting.”

White was not a Kansas State graduate, but his love for the school was unquestioned.

“Jack Hartman is one of the greatest coaches in the history of Kansas State basketball, and he was the best man at Fred’s wedding,” Physioc said. “Even when he turned the [“Voice of the Wildcats”] position over to me, and then later I turned it over to Mitch Holthus, Fred and [his wife] would go to countless games. He loved the university and he always wanted to see it have success. That’s why Mitch and I kind of came up with this game plan to move forward.”

Talks of founding the Fred White Sports Broadcasting Scholarship began shortly before White’s funeral, which Physioc said was more of “a celebration of life.”

Physioc and Holthus contacted David Spafford, Associate Director of Development for the Kansas State University Foundation, to help put the idea into action.

“I work with matching their passions of what they want to do and help find a way to recognize Fred. One of the avenues that we have is endowed scholarships,” said Spafford, who added endowed scholarships require a $25,000 minimum of pledges and donations before an actual scholarship can be given. “We’re very close, I think, in reaching that commitment of pledges up to $25,000.”

Reaching the minimum shouldn’t be a problem considering the number of people White helped, Spafford said, adding the ultimate fundraising goal is $100,000. “Then we’ll be able to start awarding it each year and at some point, depending on when that full $25,000 is in the account, then the account itself will start generating the revenue for the scholarship.”

The scholarship, which Spafford said could grow to more than $3,000 a year, will preserve White’s best-known trait—helping others the way he did Physioc, Holthus, Greg Sharpe—Voice of the Nebraska Cornhuskers, Wyatt Thompson—currently the Voice of the Wildcats—and many others.

“In this particular instance, we wanted to do something that would recognize Fred from here to forever, and to recognize his willingness to always help,” Spafford said. “He always wanted to help a young person in their career and help move them along that process and utilize his knowledge and his connections to help them get to where they want to go.”

Fred White worked as the voice of the Wildcats and of the Kansas City Royals, but he is remembered for mentoring A.Q. Miller School Alumni who are now founding the scholarship in his honor.

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The Good Old Days:  
8th Annual Radio History Symposium

Oct. 24 marked a special day on the calendar of the A.Q. Miller School. Not only did the program host Jane P. Marshall as the speaker for the Huck Boyd Lecture on Community Media, but also the eighth annual Great Plains Radio History Symposium, all simultaneously with Kansas State University’s sesquicentennial.

The Symposium, a four-hour event held in the Hemisphere Room of Hale Library on Thursday, Oct. 24, served as a celebration of radio’s history in Kansas. The state of Kansas is home to a number of radio’s beginning steps, but K-State’s role in the history of radio was the main topic of discussion. The A.Q. Miller School’s own Steve Smethers, associate professor in the JDM Sequence, and Vern Wirka, instructor in the JDM sequence, hosted and moderated the event.

Two panels of past and present local radio professionals encompassed most of the Symposium. The first panel, made up of former and current staff members of KSAC radio, discussed the station’s history and unique aspects of the station that helped stand modern radio on its feet. The KSAC radio towers, which still stand on the south side of K-State’s campus, are two of a small number of remaining radio towers in the U.S., and they are the only ones in Kansas.

The KSAC panel featured Ralph Titus, professor emeritus of extension communications and former KSAC program director and manager, and his wife Mary Ellen. Mary Ellen Titus does exclusive research on KSAC history, and has a bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate from K-State. Ralph drew upon his experiences working at the local station to present and answer questions. Other members of the KSAC panel included Eric Atkinson, Ron Wilson and Deanna Wright. Richard Baker, associate professor in Communications and Agricultural Education and director of the K-State Radio Network, also moderated the panel.

The second portion of the event featured a panel of former and current staff members of student radio station KSDB. The panelists, Lee Buller, Bob Fidler, Ed and Brandon Klimek, Maura Wery and Steve Physioc all took turns sharing their personal experiences with the K-State student radio station. Throughout their panel presentation, audience members witnessed the transformation of the radio station into its current state.

Brandon Klimek presented what may have been considered the most promising and engaging piece of the Symposium—the future of radio in online streaming. Klimek’s project, the Internet Radio Database, Inc., works as a personal interactive radio station in streaming and recording live audio. Klimek said his K-State degree in computer science and specialization in web technologies aided him in creating and maintaining the site, and the organization now works on providing networking connections for a variety of clients.

Smethers is one of the founders of the Great Plains Radio Symposium, and his passion to spread information about the history of radio was exposed during his brief time to introduce panelists and engage the audience.

Birgit Wassmuth, director of the A.Q. Miller School, and Lou Benjamin, former interim director, were in attendance as well as several other journalism professors and students. Visiting patrons got to view items such as radio microphones, books, recordings and photos from K-State’s radio station from as far back as the 1930s. The community journalism feel that the symposium aimed to create was rejuvenated and the audience gave the panelists and moderators the appreciation of a standing ovation.

The eighth annual Symposium was coordinated by Gloria Freeland, Smethers and Wirka. It was sponsored by the Huck Boyd National Center for Community Media in the A.Q. Miller School and the K-State Libraries.

Kansas radio history timeline by Melanie Thomas
Take one look at Birgit Wassmuth, the new director of the A.Q. Miller School, and your first thought might be, “This is one busy woman,” and you’d be right. That busy woman is making herself known throughout Kedzie. Literally.

Since the start of the fall semester, German native Wassmuth blitzes through the halls from one class to the next making introductions and familiarizing herself with students and faculty. She goes straight to the horse’s mouth using a two-birds-one-stone tactic, asking students and faculty what is in need of improvement.

The former Fulbright Scholar’s years of experience working on both the Accrediting Council and accreditation teams benefit her with knowledge regarding the accreditation process as defined by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism Mass Communications.

Taking a sip from her purple, lidless coffee cup, Wassmuth wipes away a dab of whipped cream from the tip of her nose and motions toward the floor where three binders align the wall. The three purple binders included the school’s self-assessment for the re-accreditation process and looked to be double the size of an encyclopedia.

The binders weren’t the only things purple in her office. Wassmuth’s daily wardrobe consists of various shades of purple.

Sometimes the shade is light lavender. Other times she’ll sport a deeper hue of purple; her shade of purple this particular day? A lavender pantsuit with a purple K-State pin on her lapel, light purple eye shadow and her signature blonde asymmetrical bob.

Her favorite color will always be purple. Every corner of her office shares the same theme—her distractingly obvious sense of purple pride.

Two purple chairs, purple coffee mugs and memorabilia adorning a floor-to-ceiling bookshelf cover the entire rear wall. Wassmuth is a walking theme of organization. The whole look comes together and everything says something about her. She stands out. Wassmuth’s demeanor lets you know she wants what she wants and she’ll get the job done.

“That’s a door opener for me. I don’t take no for an answer,” Wassmuth said. “When somebody says ‘no’ that’s the beginning of a conversation for me. I want to know why that person would say no to whatever the situation is. I’m curious to know what their position is, and then I can either respect that and say, ‘I disagree or I can say ‘let’s talk about that—you know there’s another way to look at that,’ Wassmuth said, her advertising psychology background showing. Years of previous experience in administration at other universities prepared her to jump into this position with no qualms or feelings of self-doubt.

Wassmuth cares and it clearly shows. She cares about the curriculum. She cares about Kedzie Hall. She cares about the students and faculty. She cares about the A.Q. Miller School on a global scale.

“Becoming a program of distinction is something I mentioned in my interview,” she said, “and that is something that’s going to be a collaborative effort of the whole faculty. All the things that we’re in right now like the re-accreditation, are going to lead up to developing a program of distinction.

“I don’t know exactly what that is yet, but when the president of our university meets a president of another university at a conference somewhere in the world, and they recognize each other’s name tag, ‘Oh, the Miller School, that’s where they do this,’ that’s a program of distinction—a top-of-mind awareness to people everywhere around the country and overseas. So we hope to become the program of distinction in a few years.”

Former interim director and Ross Beach Chair, Louise Benjamin thinks Wassmuth has the position under control.

“Oh definitely, she’s got the background coming from Kennesaw State and before that Drake University where she was the head of the departments, plus her own intellectual curiosity,” Benjamin said.

Benjamin isn’t the only faculty member who is convinced Wassmuth’s leadership style

Program of Distinction

by Ariel Crockett
will be successful. Associate Director for Undergraduate Studies, Steve Smathers met Wassmuth for the first time when she interviewed for the position last spring. With neighboring offices, and traveling to an accreditation meeting in Chicago, the two have had the opportunity to get to know each other.

What does Smathers think of Wassmuth?
"Well [she's] very friendly, very outgoing and very organized," Smathers said smiling. "[She's] someone with a real vision—someone who is able to see the big picture, how every little bitty facet of this department contributes to the big picture and what we offer."

Smathers agreed Wassmuth's administrative experience makes her an asset to the A.Q. Miller School.
"She's very accomplished and she's very good at what she does. She's really a management specialist who understands how to run the big organizations," Smathers said.

How does she do so much in just 24-hour days?
Wassmuth laughs, "No sleep."
The self-proclaimed multitasker believes in the power of doing many things at once. "Working on two to three projects at a time allows me to step away for a while, so when I come back to the first project, it's like oh, I was stuck here. Here is a solution," Wassmuth said.

Her passion for education might indicate being an educator was her lifelong dream, but she never intended on becoming a university professor. Her career choice came from circumstance. While finishing her thesis for her undergraduate degree in Germany, the examining committee took interest in further exploring her thesis topic on how to teach graphic design differently and more effectively. In fact, the committee offered her a job at her final examination.

"You've done some innovative work here, but it's all theoretical at this point. We want you to try it out and teach what you plan to do," said Wassmuth, recalling the conversation with the examining committee.

Wassmuth got her first job teaching graphic design her way, for two consecutive semesters. But her transition into education didn't end there.

After teaching graphic design in Germany, she applied for a Fulbright Scholarship as a graduate student and came to the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. It was there she worked with a faculty member as a graduate student in visual communications. He gave her small teaching jobs as an assistant. She liked her U.S. experience in journalism graphics and as she was completing her Ph.D., she had to make a decision.

Wassmuth had to choose between returning to Germany to work in advertising, or staying in the U.S. and work in academia. She ultimately chose the latter. A job offer from Drake University held much of the weight in her final decision.

"We're so lucky to have Birgit, [we are] very fortunate she decided K-State was the best place for her in her career right now. I really look forward to us doing good things," Smathers said.

What's the best advice she ever received?
"If you have to swallow a frog, don't look at it too long. If you have to swallow two frogs, swallow the biggest one first," Wassmuth said. This advice, closely resembling a Mark Twain quote, has been her guiding principle as an administrator.

"If you feel like you have to do something and you don't really want to do it because it's ugly," Wassmuth said, before finishing her point in a whisper, "just do it."
Sunlight filters through the blinds and reflects off the crisp white walls of the office, leaving it bathed in the brightness of a Midwest fall day. Stacks of books and magazines overflow the bookshelves lining the walls with the haphazard organization of those who read frequently. On the desk, stacks of paper—homework assignments and essays—sit awaiting grading or return to the students who wrote them.

Leaning over the desk, Kimetris Baltrip looks at the first page of a stack of assignments, deeply focused and flicking a green pen over the student’s mistakes. It is her ninth year as an assistant professor in the Miller School, and she is fast becoming a veteran instructor.

Baltrip has been from the world of academia, doing Master’s and doctoral study at the University of Akron, to working in the journalism industry at the Houston Chronicle and The New York Times, and back again. Teaching in higher education has become an important part of her life she says she doesn’t want to abandon.

“I can’t imagine leaving higher education and finding as much fulfillment, unless I was doing some sort of ministry,” Baltrip said. “And interestingly enough, I think for me, being a faculty member is a sort of ministry.”

For Baltrip, teaching isn’t just throwing information at students and hoping some of it will stick. It’s about connecting with young people and helping them.

“I want students to understand that I know their struggles, I know their challenges, I know their fears and their self-doubts,” Baltrip said. “So I like to try to be transparent as much as I can about those same issues that I had when I was their age, and I think doing that helps me to be more approachable to students.”

Baltrip said she thinks it’s important that she is approachable, so she can help students through issues related to journalism.

“I enjoy when I can look into a student’s eyes and I see that I’ve connected with them,” Baltrip said, a glimmer of passion showing on her face. “And then the next thing you know, they show up at my door with a question, or they show up at my door saying, ‘you know, you said something, and I really am having problems in that area.’”

Emily Wearing, senior in electronic journalism, took Computer Assisted Reporting from Baltrip in the fall of 2012. She said Baltrip was able to help her overcome some of her fears and anxieties when it came to one of her projects.

“I wasn’t confident about confronting someone about a story that could be considered controversial or hard-hitting,” Wearing said. “She taught me how to get over that fear to make a story great. There is probably someone out there that has experienced the same thing so it is important to get that story out.”

Jena Sauber, senior in print journalism, took Computer Assisted Reporting from Baltrip in the spring of 2013. She said Baltrip was an approachable and helpful professor.

“She is really approachable,” Sauber said. “It is clear that she loves helping students. She puts forth the effort to be available, and help students during class and outside of class.”

Beyond being simply available and approachable, Sauber said, Baltrip also made an effort to make coursework interesting and applicable.

“She made our topics very relatable, and more than just sitting in a lecture,” Sauber said. “She was also really open to questions, and meeting us where we were in the class as far as experiences and knowledge.”

Even in the summers, when she isn’t teaching, Baltrip said she works hard to prepare herself and learn about the latest changes and advances in journalism.

“I think what most students don’t know about some professors, and at least what they don’t know about me, is that my standard is always higher than theirs, and I push myself every semester, and then I go into class and I push my students,” Baltrip said. “Students are really just getting the residual of what I’ve already put myself through. They probably feel like I’m putting them through a lot more rigidity, but it’s not more than what I put myself through.”

All that hard work goes toward a strong purpose. She said she doesn’t view her work as a climb up the academic ladder, but an opportunity to influence lives.

“Caring is hard work. It really is,” Baltrip said, looking up from her work and resting her grading pen on the desk.

“When you see your career as a purpose as opposed to a position, it really makes a huge difference in how you approach everything and how you process everything.”

While she said it’s important to put in a lot of work and learning each year for her students, Baltrip also said the true role of professors is to guide students.

“I don’t believe professors give students anything,” she said. “I think they help students discover what they already have, and to play a small role in that process is really a gift.”

Helping students discover their talents leads to what Baltrip said is the greatest part of being a professor—watching students grow in their abilities and succeed in their careers.

“What I like best about being a professor is watching students bloom,” Baltrip said, a smile tugging at the corners of her mouth. “It’s really a blessing. They may come in shy, or unsure of themselves. Maybe their writing isn’t very strong, maybe they kind of know what they want to do but they don’t have a real sense of how to get there. And watching them go through the process and mature over four or five years, or however long it takes them to graduate, and then hearing about their triumph, their stories of accomplishment and achievement, you know, there’s nothing greater than that in the world.” Her smile spread to a full grin of satisfied accomplishment as Baltrip considered the successes of several of her students.

Baltrip said knowing she has been able to influence students and have a part in helping them become who they are gives purpose not only to her job, but also to every other aspect of her life.

“The idea that there are a few hundred students out there, people in the world, whose lives I’ve touched, especially if they’ve gone on to do great things, it just makes you feel like your life is significant—that you have a purpose,” Baltrip said.
A Community Cookbook: The 14th Annual Huck Boyd Lecture

As part of the 14th annual Huck Boyd Lecture in Community Media, K-State professor Jane P. Marshall talked about her new cookbook, “Tea Time to Tailgates: 150 years at the K-State Table.”

“This morning, I am talking about Wildcats and journalism graduates and others who went out into the world and affected the way people cooked, ate and made their food choices. I’m going to talk about newspapers and the spirit they evoke in a community especially when they write about food,” Marshall said.

She went on to explain how food and the stories behind them can have significant meanings.

“Food and the memories associated with them touch people’s lives. Like food, newspapers also touch people’s lives in a way that nothing else can,” Marshall said.

She also spoke about community journalism and the way it’s changed since she was in the journalism field.

“Community journalism had a whole different meaning when I graduated from KSU in days of hot type and Rolodexes and electric typewriters. Part of community journalism is what we called reader appreciation. We asked readers for their opinion and then we published them in the paper,” Marshall said.

Marshall told of one such instance during her time as editor of the Houston Chronicle.

“At the Houston Chronicle, we did a lot of these (reader participation). They were very trendy at the time. One of my favorites was about pie. It wasn’t an ordinary pie contest. People had to send in their pie recipes and then a story that went with their pie recipes. The stories and the pie were judged equally. We were shocked by the responses and ended up devoting two weeks of food section to the contest. The stories were funny and they were sad and they were uplifting,” Marshall said.

“These stories were not about pie, they were about people and people things. Like friendship, revenge, hope, Thanksgiving, war, peace, success, mishaps. But mostly they were stories about love.”

She equated the pie stories from the Houston Chronicle to the recipes and stories in “Tea Time to Tailgates”.

“This is what “Tea Time to Tailgates” is all about. It’s community journalism and community that is small and enormous. I call it a history story recipe book. It’s also a thank you book. It’s a salute to those on whose shoulders we stand. Those men and women who made community, raised families, established their businesses,” Marshall said.

“Tea Time to Tailgates” actually started as a sesquicentennial project for the department of Human Ecology and Marshall just ran with it.

“For months, I read books, newspapers and diaries. I interviewed, I searched, I tested recipes, I proofread, I tested more recipes, did more proofreading. I asked faculty, staff, students and alumni to share recipes and stories and they did. I asked dining services to whittle their recipes that fed hundreds down to family size, and they did. I asked the archivists at Hale library and the Riley County Historical Society for help and they rescued me time and time again,” Marshall said.

Through the recipes and stories she got from various K-Staters, she gained a vivid history.

“Together the information that I gathered formed a picture of the rich food heritage of the nation’s first land-grant institution, a heritage that frankly stunned me with its depth. Throughout its existence, K-State has helped set the table of the world with its research with its hearty influence of its faculty and graduates who are dieters, chefs, teachers, writers, agronomists, farmers and much, much more,” Marshall said.

She talked about K-State graduates who worked as food writers like Clementine Padelford, Nells Nichols, Jane Butell, Kathleen Kelly and Micheal Bauer.

“Standing in the middle of all the food commotion more times than not is a person with a reporter’s notebook. These food journalists guide, inform and entertain those of us who put the soup on the table and those of us who put the soup spoon to mouth. A handful of these missionaries have K-State roots,” Marshall said.

At the end of it all, Marshall said she wanted her book to show the history of both the state of Kansas and K-State.

“I wanted this book to make people proud of their university and this state. I wanted the people to grasp the deep and lasting influence of the university. And I wanted people to read a story and say, ‘I remember that …or ‘that reminds me…’ I wanted to preserve history or start a conversation and to make connections.

“Tea Time to Tailgates” has 13 bread recipes, 31 meat recipes, 28 desserts and two green leafy vegetables. Kansas has a diverse food heritage. The state’s contribution to the country’s culinary tapestry is wonderful, it’s a strange and wonderful mix that I think speaks of our past and our present and our future,” Marshall said.
On a typical day, the Virginia Tech campus would be filled with students trekking to class with a calm ambience surrounding them. This normality, however, would be disrupted on the morning of April 16, 2007.

Kelly Furnas, assistant professor in the A.Q. Miller School, Journalism Education Association executive director and assistant director of the Collegian Media Group, was caught in the middle of what turned out to be chaos.

"There were two sets of shootings, one at a residence hall early in the morning. I wasn't on campus when that one happened, " Furnas said. "By the time I got on campus, police were already investigating [the residence hall shooting] and looking for the subject."

It was during Furnas’ third year at Virginia Tech when images of the school’s campus were plastered on every U.S. news station for a devastating reason.

"It was surreal, " Furnas said. "I didn't have a lot of time to personally digest what had happened until a day or a couple of days later."

When the second shooting occurred, Furnas was in his office located in the student union when school officials placed the building on lockdown.

"It was so surreal and hectic that I'm not sure fear ever went through my mind," Furnas said. "I think I was concerned about my students, and where are my students and what building was this happening in?"

After grasping what had happened, Furnas focused on the newspaper and how they could cover the tragedy in a factual way.

"My first call was to the editor of our student newspaper to see if she heard about this and talk to her about what our next steps were," Furnas said. "She called the reporters and photographers and dispatched them to the different scenes to where we heard it happened."

Throughout his students’ coverage of the shooting, Furnas made sure they were okay.

"I think really [my attention] was focused on trying to help the students do their jobs as much as possible and keeping a close watch on their health and well being to make sure they were coping and handling the incredibly stressful and heartbreak situation as best they could," Furnas said. "As a collective, I think the students did an extraordinary job of informing the community and the world of what was going on."

According to Furnas, the staff of the Collegiate Times reacted to the tragedy in their own way.

"In a situation like that, everyone reacts differently," Furnas said. "We saw staff members in that entire spectrum, some who were incredibly involved and some who said they were going to take care of other things first instead of working for the publication."

While the national media focused on the shooter, Seung-Hui Cho, the Collegiate Times’ staff concentrated on who mattered most, the victims.

"The first instinct of the students was to figure out who the victims were," Furnas said. "I think it shows that their minds were in the right place of ‘we’re not covering this for the national landscape, we’re covering this for the Virginia Tech community.’"

Though it was difficult for Furnas and his students to write about the shootings while coping with how it affected the community, Furnas felt the Collegiate Times produced a great publication.

"In terms of the work for the publication, I think it was pretty remarkable work under duress and under extraordinary circumstances to write about their community and tell stories and always to keep the reader in mind," Furnas said.

Although a tragedy of the Virginia Tech
magnitude hasn't happened here, Furnas’ experience drives home how challenging reporting it would be.

For current K-State Collegian video editor Jena Sauber, covering a tragic event would be difficult.

“That’s an intense situation,” Sauber said. “I think our immediate response would be to cover it as factually as possible. I think it would take a full-staff effort.”

Three years after the shootings, Furnas re-located to Kansas and returned to Kedzie Hall.

“I thought it was a great opportunity to come back to an accredited school of journalism and be able to teach great students here as well as work with the student media,” Furnas said. “Being able to work with the JEA, which is the association of journalism teachers, gave me the ability to not only shape the students lives I interact with, but also students lives around the country.

Though his days are consumed with leadership roles, like his newspaper staff at Virginia Tech, he and the people surrounding him are a team.

“I think part of it is having really, really good people around you,” Furnas said. “Having incredible support from my faculty, colleagues in what I do with the journalism school, having a tremendous staff at the student media and having a tremendous core staff, members and volunteers from around the country at the JEA really does help even the work load. It’s an interesting challenge.”

Virginia Tech: In Numbers

73 Days Cho prepared for shooting

2 Hours between the shootings

3 Minutes VTPD took to respond to second shooting

32 Number of people Cho killed before killing himself

168 Connections per second before the Collegiate Times server crashed
Waking up at 3:30 a.m. to watch the moon set behind the mountain peaks and waiting patiently for herds of elk to cross the roads was just another day for Andy Nelson, R.M. Seaton Professional Journalism Chair and sequence head for journalism and digital media in the A.Q. Miller School. Nelson spent two weeks this past summer working as an Artist-in-Residence at Rocky Mountain National Park.

With more than 35 years of photography experience from all over the world under his belt, Nelson decided to apply for one of the six artist-in-residency positions.

“I had seen the artist-in-residency posting many years ago on the Rocky Mountain National Park website, and thought it would be a very cool thing to do some day” Nelson said, “and then I saw the information again and knew that I had a couple of weeks open in the summer and decided to apply.”

The application included a proposal of a photography concept that would relate to the park’s 100th anniversary in 2015.

“'I decided to focus on the park’s volun-
teers and this came from a perspective that the people who were very influential in advocating for the park were often there on their own time. They were volunteering their time to make Rocky Mountain National Park happen, so now 100 years later there are still people donating their time to continue to make the park an enjoyable place for people to visit and for it to sustain its legacy. My intention was to show through photography what volunteers do and how they interact and help the park.”

Nelson obtained all the research he could to get an idea of what the Rocky Mountain National Park volunteer program was about. The program has about 1,500 volunteers each summer and is the ninth largest volunteer program in national parks in the county.

A typical day included waking up around 4 to 5 a.m. to shoot the sunrise. “Because landscapes weren’t my primary focus, around 8 or 9 p.m. I was meeting with volunteers to then photograph them as they were pursuing whatever activity they were doing. Sometimes it was people helping traffic control with elk herds, or heading out with research volunteers.”

By 5 p.m. the volunteers had finished their day, but Nelson still took advantage of the daylight to continue photographing the landscapes.

“My days were long, but I love taking pictures and had this wonderful opportunity to shoot, so that kept me motivated.”

But it wasn’t all easy.

Once selected from more than 80 candidates, Nelson spent two weeks in June staying in a cabin located in the heart of the park, photographing the volunteers. “Most of the volunteers were men and women over 70 years old who were out there day after day hiking, herding, building bridges and other new structures,” Nelson said.

Other volunteers included boy scouts and campers from Camp Cheley in Estes Park, a camp Nelson attended as a boy.

Of the 2,500 photos he took, Nelson is undecided about his favorite.

“There are many that I like, but I haven’t decided which one is ‘The One.’ I have a year until I have to present the photo, so I still have some time to decide.”

Knowing how much work is involved, would he do the Artist in Residence program again?

“In a heartbeat,” he said.

When talking about Rocky Mountain National Park Nelson lights up as it holds a special place in his heart from spending summers there as a child to the Artist-in-Residence program today.

“The park was an influential place for me that taught me a lot about myself and helped me gain an appreciation for the outdoors and other people,” he said. “It’s been an important place in my life, so any chance I get to go out there I do. It’s a very soothing place to me where I can take time and reset.”

### Passing On: Shirley Smith

Shirley Smith, a model, actress and artist in both the Big Apple and the Little Apple, died Oct. 10 in New York City at the age of 84.

Shirley Ann Smith was born in 1929 in Whitewater, a small town near Wichita. The daughter of the local undertaker, she was involved in community and school theatrical productions, and these skills, combined with her auburn hair and appealing freshness earned her the title of Miss Butler County in 1947.

She majored in radio at Kansas State University, was in several productions of the K-State Players and was involved with the campus radio station. Representing her sorority, Alpha Delta Pi, she was crowned Miss Manhattan in 1949 and an American Royal Princess in Kansas City.

Graduating in 1951, she moved to Kansas City where she worked at KCMO Radio. Walking on the Country Club Plaza she was spotted by a photographer, and appeared on billboards and newspaper advertisements for Helzberg’s, Kansas City’s major jewelry store. Shirley also appeared in independent films by an aspiring local film maker, Robert Altman.

After a year she moved to New York City where she was signed by the Huntington Hartford Modeling Agency. Featured in Vogue, Mademoiselle and Harper’s, she appeared in three of the first 10 national magazine ads for Maidenform. Those advertisements earned a place at the Smithsonian as “Classic Americana.”

With the money she made from modeling, she took acting classes. Among her unknown classmates were Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. Shirley was chosen for the part of a Kansas girl in a new Broadway show, “Picnic” by native Kansan William Inge. She was in other Broadway shows, one with Robert Redford and one with Tallulah Bankhead. She appeared in a film with Peter Falk and had the lead in an Alfred Hitchcock TV show.

Between acting jobs, she took up painting, and studied at the Art Students League with Helen Frankenthaler and at an art colony in Provincetown. As part of a new movement called “Lyrical Abstraction,” Shirley had two paintings on exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City.

In her later years, she also embraced video and digital art. In 1991, she was honored by The American Academy of Arts and Letters.

In 1999, Shirley had a major exhibit at the Beach Museum of Art. In accordance with her wishes, much of her work will become part of the permanent collection at the Museum.
It's no secret getting an internship before graduation is a wise choice. In fact, for students at the A.Q. Miller School it's a requirement for graduation. It's up to the students, though, to figure out exactly where that internship will be, and for several students, that internship led them far from Kansas for the summer, while others stayed close to home to gain valuable skills in a real workplace environment.

Summer internships took more than 65 A.Q. Miller School students from Kansas to all parts of the country to gain skills in a workplace environment.

Katie Leibham, Emily DeShazer and Chloe Salmon had different types of internships in different areas of the country, but all three agreed the internship experience gave them an extra dimension to their education.

**West**

Katie Leibham, senior in journalism and digital media, spent her summer in Sunnyvale, Calif., interning for Cepheid as an audio and video editor. Cepheid, a molecular diagnostics company, works to improve molecular systems and tests, and share information about prevalent diseases with the general public.

Leibham said her main responsibilities as an intern included daily office tasks, editing the audio of webinars hosted by staff members and helping produce animated informational videos on chlamydia and gonorrhea.

Typically, the webinars Leibham edited involved medical doctors from all over the world. Leibham said most of the people who listened to the webinars were students who often got credit for listening in.

Working on the informational videos, Leibham said, was her favorite part of the internship because she worked with Fat Box Films and experienced what it is like to produce videos in a real business environment.

"It was very much your title that got you things," Leibham said. "People would see other people's names, and there was an automatic respect associated with their title, so I learned a lot about that… and how much work it took to look professional."

Leibham said every college student should go somewhere unknown and learn what it's like to work in a real-world environment before leaving college.

"I recommend people get out of their comfort zone," Leibham said. "Go other places. Don't stay in Kansas. Because you're going to learn how the real world works."

**Central**

Not all students traveled halfway across the country to encounter new experiences. Emily DeShazer, junior in journalism and digital media, headed just down the road from Manhattan to Salina, interning as a photographer for The Salina Journal. She said that just because she stayed in Kansas for her internship didn't mean she didn't learn a lot from her mentors or encounter any adventures.

DeShazer described a day in which she and her fellow interns spent the morning and part of the afternoon following Salina police as they chased suspects who were on the run.

"[The suspects] were driving on their rims on the shoulder, going 80 miles an hour," DeShazer said. "They stopped, and two guys took off, and then a lady took off, too. And they caught the two guys, but they didn't catch the woman."

This all happened at around 5 a.m., DeShazer said, and when she arrived in the office at 9 a.m., she was told to go out and catch the story.

"At nine o'clock, they were like, 'yeah, you need to go out and look for the police officers looking for this lady,'” DeShazer said.

DeShazer said they caught up with the police, but weren't able to stay long enough to watch them catch the runaway suspect.

In spite of the excitement of that day, DeShazer said her favorite part of the internship was a two-week stint in which she was the sole photographer for the newspaper, as her boss was out of town.

"I got a real-world taste for how it's going to work, doing the 12-hour days," DeShazer said.

"Some days you’ll have like four events in one day, and the next not so much. But then they’re really relying on you to find some wild art [interesting pictures from around town]. It was a really good experience to be able to say that I was the sole photographer for a real newspaper."

DeShazer said internships are a vital part of learning journalism and photography.

"School can only teach you so much," DeShazer said. "Internships are really what is going to tell you if this is what you want to do or not, and really, the earlier you do it, the better, because it helps you know what to pay attention to in class."

It was an inspirational experience, DeShazer said, to work with someone who has experience in and is excellent the job.

"I think you really have to think about who you intern with, because you want to be with somebody that you can really learn"
from and will challenge you,” DeShazer said.

East

Chloe Salmon, senior in public relations and anthropology, headed east to New York City for her internship, and worked as the social media intern for Publicolor, a non-profit company that works to help disadvantaged kids succeed academically.

“I was in charge of all of Publicolor’s social media channels,” Salmon said. “They had Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr and LinkedIn.”

During the first half of her internship, Salmon said her sole job was social media, but during the second half, she participated in a program called Summer Design Studio, held on the Pratt Institute campus in Brooklyn. She split her time between being at the Pratt Institute and helping paint a community center with the kids who were participating in Publicolor’s programs.

Her favorite part of the internship took place when she took a group of kids to see the PUNK: Chaos to Couture display at The Met, followed by taking part in Glam 4 Good, a charity run by fashion designer Mary Alice Stephenson.

“This charity takes underprivileged kids and she styles them and lets them dress up and have fun in a way they don’t usually get to do,” Salmon said. “We got to just basically play dress up for an hour. I live Tweeted that and posted a lot of it to Facebook…and they let us keep all the clothes at the end of it.”

Salmon said it’s vital to get an internship in order to get ahead in this field.

“It’s a really competitive job market,” Salmon said. “If you have experience already, it gives you an edge over people who maybe don’t have experience, and you just kind of feel like everyone’s getting internships nowadays, so you don’t want to be the one person who’s applying for a job who’s never had an internship.”

1940s

Alice Roper, Industrial Journalism ’47, of Bushton, Kan., has four children, three of whom graduated from K-State as well. She belonged to the Domestic Science club and YWCA, writing secretary notes for each organization. While at K-State, Roper was a part of the Royal Purple staff from 1945-47, and received two gold K-Keys. See story page 20.

1970s

Bob Burgdorfer, Print ’74, of Downers Grove, Ill., has worked the last 25 years with Reuters, now a business and financial reporting website, where his is currently a desk editor. While at K-State, Burgdorfer wrote for the Royal Purple and worked as a reporter for the Collegian.

Eric Deffenbaugh, Broadcast ’76, worked for a radio station after graduating and was an ordained minister for 15 years. For his doctorate of ministry degree, Deffenbaugh used his education in journalism to write a thesis on multimedia in sermons. After nine years of being a stay-at-home father, Deffenbaugh now works as a DJ for complete Bear and Dragon fitness. Deffenbaugh can be contacted at bearanddragonfitness.com.

Tim Horan, Print ’78, was recently promoted to editor and publisher of the Abilene Reflector-Chronicle in April of 2013. While at K-State, Horan was the assistant editorial for the Collegian newspaper. Horan can be reached at tim.horan@abilene-rc.com.

1980s

Sherry Arnott, Radio and Television ’80, of Oberlin, Kan., continued on to receive her masters in PR at K-State. She then traveled to Fl., working for the U.S. government and helping educate Semione County on their new recycling law, achieving their goal of diminishing 30 percent of waste stream in three years. Arnott moved onto Sacramento and then to Georgia, still spreading the word of the benefits of recycling.

Gary McIntyre, Master of Arts — Mass Communication ’86, of Mansfield, Penn., worked in broadcast radio and as an instructor. In radio, he worked at KMAN Manhattan before going to direct and manage stations in Jamestown, N.Y. and Evansville, Ind. He worked as Operations Director at Platinum Broadcasting Radio Group in Manhattan, Kan. from 2001-2004, and is currently a consultant for Media One Radio Group in Jamestown, N.Y. As an instructor, he taught broadcasting at East Carolina University, Buena Vista College, and Jamestown Community College. He currently is an assistant professor of mass communication and electronic media at Mansfield University.

Judd Annis, Print ’89, worked for Garmin International as an editor and website content administrator. Now a resident of De Soto, Kan., Annis is the president of Limerick Lawn and Landscape.

1990s

Monica Cooley, Advertising ’94, of Bonner Springs, Kan., worked as the art director for Global Gaining Business magazine and also works as a freelance graphic artist. While studying advertising, Monica worked in the JMC advertising department, as well as the Collegian.

Robert Wells Jr., Master’s ’96, a resident of Stroudsburg, Pa., Wells currently works as an income maintenance caseworker for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. While at K-State, Wells participated in K-State’s radio station KSDB and was a graduate school teacher’s assistant for Paul Prince from 1995-96. Wells can be reached at rcwellsjr@yahoo.com

Amy Fischbach, Print ’97, of Overland Park, is the contributing editor of Penton Media and national president of ASBPE. In addition, she writes for trade magazines, including Transmission and Distribution World. While studying print journalism and PR, Fischbach worked at the Collegian. She can be reached at amyfischbach@penton.com

2000s

Krista Suozzo, PR and Print ‘04, of Lansing, Kan., spent four years as the marketing coordinator at Kansas City Life Insurance Company before taking a job as the marketing manager of the Overland Park Convention Center. Next, she found her way to creative marketing, where she spent the next seven years as the digital marketing manager. Suozzo recently became the owner of Kansas City-based Enso Marketing Solutions. While at K-State, she was lead journalism ambassador and part of PRSSA.

Meredith Hinman, Advertising ’05, of Overland Park, started her career in the media department of Platform Advertising in Olathe. She then moved to Colorado, opening the door to her six years at ShotAtHome.com, where she currently is a senior marketing manager. While attending K-State, Hinman was a part of Alpha Xi Delta sorority as well as the advertising club.

Michelle Mesa, PR and Advertising ’06, of Topeka, started her career with Abercrombie and Fitch, and has worked her way up. Starting in Dallas, Mesa opened the new Gilly Hicks brand, and moved to New York and then Germany, where Mesa lived for two years and opened the first non-English speaking Gilly Hicks in Europe. At K-State, Mesa was vice president of the Kappa Delta Sorority and minor in marketing.

Michelle Dean, PR ’08, of Kansas City, Mo.,
Ever since she was a student, Nabeeha Kazi Hutchins has been helping people. Since graduating in 1996, she has launched product advertising campaigns, successfully campaigned to cut sexually-transmitted disease rates in Kansas City and was recruited by Bill Clinton for the HIV initiative in Africa. Hutchins, although small in frame, has become no small force in the humanitarian world.

It's been this way for a while.

“I was a very active student,” Hutchins said. “I was also very curious while I was on campus. About my studies, about the people I was with, about my extracurricular activities. I also feel that my advocacy streak started here. I was definitely a global-oriented, cause-oriented student.”

Hutchins found herself at K-State after a little convincing from her father to go to his alma mater.

“I didn’t want to go to K-State at first, but it turned out to be the perfect place for me to begin,” Hutchins said.

“I came in feeling like I was entering a very warm, nurturing community, so that helped me.”

In addition to studying for two degrees, Hutchins was involved in PRSSA, SGA, HALO, BlueKey and still made time to perform in every Winter and Spring Dance. Passionate describes almost anything Hutchins put her mind to in school.

One of Hutchins’s internships while at K-State was with FleishmanHillard, one of the largest and most reputable PR firms in the nation, with 111 offices in 29 countries across the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe, Middle East and Africa. She was offered a job there immediately after her graduation.

“I was the intern who always asked, ‘What else do you need me to do? Is there anything else that I can help with?’”

And they found plenty for her to do. Hutchins’s compassion and dedication to good work served her positively with the firm.

“I only worked for one PR company and that was FleishmanHillard, so the team, your managers, your peers, those who may have worked under you even, you felt that people always had your back, and as a result I think that instilled me having their back,” Hutchins said.

After K-State, Hutchins attended grad school in New York where she was recruited by the Clinton Administration to aid in organizing and launching an HIV campaign in Africa.

“It’s easy to say that the coolest person I’ve ever worked with is Bill Clinton,” Hutchins said. “He’s such a presence. When you’re talking to him, he makes you feel like there’s no one else in the room but you and him.”

A World Changer

by Darrington Clark

Nabeeha Kazi Hutchins, 1996 graduate in advertising and political science, seeks to improve conditions for all people around the globe.

Nabeeha Kazi Hutchins presents a speech on Sept. 5 in the K-State Student Union Little Theater.

photo by Hannah Hunsinger
Clinton was interested in Hutchins because of her work. Motivated to help others in any way she could, working from the Oval Office allowed her to travel the world and begin initiatives of her own, which started a new chapter in her life.

Hutchins's advice to students is the same she follows herself.

"Be positively disruptive in this world," Hutchins said. "That's my motivation to do what I do."

Fluent in at least four languages and savvy from her education, Hutchins uses her knowledge in global marketing and affairs to create her very own positive disruption.

"She founded an international development organization and works to address issues mostly in developing countries," said Theodore Stavropoulos, senior in management.

"Her main message was about the importance of global citizenship and stewardship in the U.S. and abroad."

Stavropoulos met with Hutchins for only a brief time at the Leadership Studies building where she received the 2013 Spirit of Leadership Award Sept 6. Stavropoulos said he was left with an unmistakable impression.

"She is an amazing story of how a K-State can change the world," Stavropoulos said.

Hutchins was honored with the annual title for her unique work in humanitarian efforts and support for young girls in nations across the world.

"She provides a tremendous example of a female who has done extraordinary things during some difficult economic times to establish a world class business that does tremendous good throughout the world," said Pat Bosco, vice president of student life. "It's inspiring."

The day before her award acceptance, Kazi gave a presentation titled, "Mass Communication as Global Citizens," where she emphasized the importance of thinking past the U.S. border. Hutchins said her talks with students in more intimate settings of 20-30 yielded surprising results.

"I've been speaking to a lot of classes since I've been back here," Hutchins said. "It just seems that people are a lot more globally committed. They want to make a difference, not necessarily in it all for themselves."

Hutchins' goal when she visits is to make sure global awareness remains integral to students.

"I want people to stay in touch, I want people to come visit me. My intention is to grow my global family," Hutchins said.

Hutchins said everyone, especially young women in developing countries, needs a representative to aid them in their problems, but also to understand them. Without that link to the outside world, Hutchins said those individuals lose a vital human right.

"I want to make sure that [every person's] situation is accounted for," Hutchins said. "That their voice be accounted for. Your life is important, so we collectively have the obligation to represent and to be the voice."

The work, the traveling, the juggling act never stops for Hutchins. Between the world travel and business meetings, campus visits and awards ceremonies, Hutchins makes time for birthdays and family outings.

"I think I always wanted a family. I never went around dreaming about children or a husband, because all of those things in some way were out of my control," Hutchins said. "What was in my control was going to school, working to get internships, having interesting jobs, and when I met a wonderful man who became my best friend and then my partner, who puts up with a lot, we quickly decided to have children."

At this point in her career, Hutchins said there has never been more of a pull to be home with her kids, Sunna and Coleman.

"I never thought it would be as challenging as it is right now, but this work makes it worth it for me," she said. "I know my kids are at home with nutritious food and care, and a clean living space. Those children in Guatemala are starving," Hutchins said.

She recalled a time when an inquisitive Sunna asked her about her job.

"She's three and a half and she said once, 'Mama, whey you go?' It was a combination of where and why. I said, Sunna, you have milk, you have squash (she loves squash), you have fruit. There are a lot of babies in the world who don't have that. They're hungry. So mama has to help them. And she said, 'Okay mama.'"

For Hutchins, the work isn't about the impression, the recognition or even the personal benefit. It's the imprint she can leave on her children. She is a force, a drive, a person committed to betterment, and she hopes Sunna and Coleman will be too.

"I think it's a good example to give my children," Hutchins said. "Hopefully they'll grow to be good global citizens and productive people."
Then and Now

Alice Roper tells how the news of Pearl Harbor changed K-State and her life.

by Tara Cowley

Watercolors scattered across the dining room table. Three unique paintings of butterflies and flowers aligned in the corner, ready for upcoming birthdays. With sight becoming a problem, Alice Roper fills her time with the multiple shades of watercolors.

A large window looking across the Flint Hills provides natural light to each corner of her small, but quaint, apartment.

“I like to watch the storms come in over the hills,” she said as she looked out at the sunny outskirts of Manhattan.

In September 1941, Roper enrolled at Kansas State University, majoring in Industrial Journalism. Franklin D. Roosevelt was president and the country was coming out of the Great Depression. Coming from a large German family, Roper was one of five children. Only three of the five were allowed to attend college. To help with expenses, Roper took part in chores around Van Zile Hall, the only women’s residence hall on campus.

“Tasks were on a rotation basis; two weeks as breakfast help, then dinner servers, housekeeping, and a week off,” Roper said. “There were two phone lines into the hall, and an extension on each floor. The students manned the switchboards.”

Roper’s role as a woman on campus was different from today. Women wore dresses or skirts on campus, and could not wear pants unless it was below 18 degrees Fahrenheit.

“Of course no one even considered wearing shorts,” Roper added.

There was a strict no smoking ban on campus, so Roper and her friends sat on the wall with their feet facing the street to smoke.

“Money was tight, though. We were coming out of the depression. I couldn’t even afford a Coke, and I had to bum a cigarette.”

Though the economy was struggling, Roper found pleasure in attending dime dances in Anderson Hall, provided by the YMCA and YWCA. Admission was 10 cents, and they danced for a few hours to an array of records. It was there in Anderson Hall, where she met her husband, Victor Roper.

“He taught me the two step,” she said. “I was thrilled to find him in one of my classes the next semester.”

On Dec. 7, 1941, Alice was attending Sunday dinner with the rest of the girls in Van Zile. The girl working the switchboard came into the room and whispered to Dean Helen Moore, the residence director. She nodded and they continued their meal. When everyone was finished, the announcement was made—the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor.

“There was a stampede for the telephones, and general hysteria,” she said.

“Everyone either had relatives or knew someone who was in the Navy or Army. We didn’t realize how our lives would be changed.”

At the end of her sophomore year, 1943, it was announced that the Armed Services would occupy all housing: residence halls, fraternities and sororities with the Army Special Training Program. They were ROTC students, awaiting their assignments to Officer Training Schools. Victor Roper and many of Alice’s friends were among them.

“My roommate and I had to find another place to live,” she said. “We had a room in the home of the chief of police. We shared a double bed and the space in one upstairs bedroom.”

The girls worked in a dining hall across the street from their new home, serving the evening meals.

In January, 1945, Victor Roper left for war. While Victor was away, due to an ex-

K-State Journalism Class Reconnects Towns

A small town in Kansas and one in France are reconnecting, thanks, in part, to a Kansas State University journalism and mass communications class assignment.

Students in Gloria Freeland’s News and Feature Writing classes researched and wrote stories about nearby Clay County communities as their final project of the spring 2013 semester. One story, “Morganville and Fèves—unlikely sisters,” has led to re-establishing ties between the two communities.

In 1947, Morganville, Kan., population less than 300, wanted to aid a village devastated by World War II. The town adopted Fèves, France, a small farming community in the Moselle Valley of Lorraine. Their story was broadcast on the NBC radio network and Armed Forces Radio Service in 1950 and publicized in newspapers across the U.S. It was also featured in a 1955 book.

Public relations students Mariah Rietbrock, senior, Logan Falletti, junior, and Katie Good, junior, wrote the story for Freeland’s class.

“… I thought that the compassion Morganville showed to Fèves was incredible,” Rietbrock said. “My favorite part was finding our focus and being able to just go with it.”

Good said she learned how to keep searching to find answers.

“I thought it was interesting to learn that Morganville wasn’t just a small town with some cool piece of architecture such as a church, schoolhouse, etc., but it has history deep in the roots connecting it with the town’s sister city of Fèves, France,” Good said. “… I also learned how to dig deeper into investigative reporting – finding the facts I need to know and putting them into a story.”

Freeland and her husband Arthur Vaughan did additional research, and Vaughan created a website (www.morganvillefeves.org) relating the story.

Morganville produced a pageant, “One World Peace Festival,” in August 1948. More than 2,000 people — 10 times the town’s population — attended. People came from as far away as New York. Velma Carson, a
Continuing to enjoy the sites of Manhattan, Alice Roper sits on her couch with a view.

Alice Roper and her roommate take a break between classes. The girls found a spot on a wall to pose for a picture and sometimes enjoyed a cigarette there.

Morganville native and K-State journalism student during World War I, wrote the pageant. With the money raised from the pageant, Morganville began shipping items — powdered milk, shoes and clothing, small toys, seed packets, comforters, layettes, pencils and other needed supplies — to the resilient citizens of the French town.

Fèves schoolmaster Henri Torlotting was a key person in the distribution of the items. But hard economic times in France meant that neither Torlotting nor anyone else from Fèves visited their partner village in Kansas, although several families from Morganville traveled to Fèves.

But in December, Gérard Torlotting — nephew of Henri — and his wife will fly to Houston, Texas to join their son, Hervé Torlotting, his wife and two children for the holidays. All six will travel to Kansas, visiting Morganville Dec. 29. Gérard, now 71, was 6 when the items from Morganville began arriving.

Hervé said people in Fèves are getting quite excited and hope to form a permanent relationship with perhaps a connection between schools.

The old Morganville elementary school will be the site of a reception for the Torlottings. Presentations will show how the sister-city relationship developed and the status of Fèves today. Students in Freeland’s class began their research by visiting the Clay County Historical Society Museum. Cathy Haney, museum curator, helped guide the students.

Several of the stories have been published in “The Clay Center Dispatch,” and radio station KCLY did a four-part series about the students’ stories for its “Up Close Rural” program.

“I’m always looking for real-world experiences for my students,” Freeland said. “I had read about ‘The Kansas Lost Towns Project’ at K-State’s Chapman Center for Rural Studies, and I thought it would provide a great opportunity. It allowed my students to do background research, interview people who have memories of the communities, and put stories together. And the Morganville story has grown to include international connections — something my students and I weren’t expecting. It’s exciting and rewarding.”

Falletti is also amazed where it led.

“The project was a good exercise in finding the story in anything,” she said. “There wasn’t much to work with at the beginning... I can’t believe how much this has blown up.”

Rietbrock may be able to meet the French visitors while they’re in Kansas.

“I think it’s interesting that our story is what sparked their interest in coming here,” she said.
Climb to the Top

by Corbin McGuire
Photos courtesy Mike Bennett/Lighthouse Imaging

Being mentioned in the same breath as an industry legend. Check.
Working with an NCAA Division I national championship team. Check.
Being recognized nationally multiple times for your work. Check.

At 39, Chris Masters, the associate media relations director at Notre Dame and 1998 A.Q. Miller School graduate, is climbing the sports information world at a rapid pace.

The San Francisco, Calif., native's accomplishments are journey filled, and the journey from the West Coast to the middle of the country began for one reason.

Financial Flight

Masters was set to attend Oregon to study mass communications and journalism, stay on the side of the country he was accustomed to and pursue his original career plan as a sports print reporter. Then Ohio Wesleyan called. The school located in Delaware, Ohio, offered Masters an academic scholarship to attend school more than 2,000 miles from the area he called home.

"I thought it'd be a great opportunity to get off the West Coast and see a different part of the country," said Masters, who graduated cum laude from Ohio Wesleyan in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in journalism. "I never really left the Midwest after that."

Masters' next move would also be financially influenced, but the trip only shifted him one time zone to the west to Manhattan, Kan., for graduate school.

Kansas State University was one of five schools Masters looked into for graduate school. When a paid teaching assistant position opened up for him under Ron Johnson, the adviser for the Collegian at the time, K-State became the obvious choice.

"That teaching position allowed me to pay for grad school," Masters said, "and that was an offer that none of the other schools I was looking at could match. They were all great schools, but it just so happened that this opportunity presented itself for me to go to K-State."

Little Apple Answers

Kent Brown, starting his first year as Sports Information Director at K-State as Masters was beginning graduate school, discovered a mutually beneficial relationship with Masters begin with one face-to-face meeting.

Brown was engulfed with the newness of the area, school and campus so getting a student staff together was a challenge.

Masters still wasn't sure which direction he wanted to take his career, but after working a little with Ohio Wesleyan's Sports Information Department, he knew sports information was a possibility.

Masters offered to work for Brown on a volunteer basis, which the first-year director accepted enthusiastically.

"He did a great job for us," said Brown, now the Associate Athletic Director for Athletic Communications at Illinois. "He was a guy we could depend on to work a lot of different events.

"When he was done with grad school there, I had no problems with recommending him for a full-time [job] as he moved on in his career."

Masters said his experiences at K-State, where he graduated with a master's degree in mass communications and journalism with an emphasis in public relations, "crys-
tallized” his decision to pursue a career in sports information.

“Well, [K-State] was the first school that I had the chance to work in athletic media relations, or sports information as it’s sometimes called, at the Division I level,” Masters said. “The [public relations] track coupled with working in the athletic department for two years certainly helped form the foundation for the career path I’m on now.”

No Luck Needed

In June, Masters was selected as an at-large member of the board of directors for the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) for a three-year term. Ironically, Brown’s term on the board had just ended.

The honor, impressive in itself, but tied to the fact he’s the first Notre Dame representative in nearly 25 years, becomes more of a shock.

“There have been so many tremendously talented folks that have come through our office, or are currently working in our office, that for it to be 25 years since somebody from Notre Dame had been on the CoSIDA Board...” Masters said before pausing for nearly 10 seconds. “I can’t really wrap my head around that.”

The last Notre Dame representative on the board was sports information legend Roger Valdiserri – best known for changing the pronunciation of Joe Theismann’s last name from THEES-man to THEIS-man, which happened to rhyme with Heisman (Theismann finished second for the Heisman in 1970).

Masters’ rise in the industry to this plateau is no “accident,” said John Heisler, Senior Associate Athletic Director For Media and Broadcast Relations at Notre Dame.

“It’s [CoSIDA board selection] obviously a great honor so I think that speaks to his reputation in the business because those things don’t happen by accident,” Heisler said. “You have to have made an impression on a good number of people for some time.

“It’s just a great compliment I think at what he’s done and how long he’s done it.”

What He’s Done, How Long He’s Done It

Masters said he was “thrust into the deep end of the pool,” when he started his three-year stint for Western Kentucky as a Sports Information Director (SID) – his first full-time job out of graduate school – for the women's basketball, volleyball and soccer teams while also serving as the publications coordinator.

Volunteering at multiple women’s NCAA basketball Final Four events – 1998, 1999 and 2000 – opened the door for Masters in 2001 when a position became available at Notre Dame. Now in his 13th year, Masters has been the media contact for the women’s basketball team since he arrived.

His time with the team is highlighted by three consecutive Final Four appearances by the Irish in the last three years.

He’s worked with the women’s soccer team, which won the 2010 NCAA national championship, for the past six years while helping out with football game day duties.

Twenty of Masters’ publications have received national or regional recognition from the CoSIDA including a runner-up honor for his 2012 women’s soccer media guide.

“It’s gratifying because it comes from your peers,” Masters said, “and for them to think that highly of me [and] to evaluate your work and think that it’s worthy of something like that, it’s just incredibly-humbling.

“But our job is not to be winning awards and being in front of the camera.”

Masters’ humility is part of what Heisler said will continue his climb in the profession, allowing him to, “see the bigger picture.”

“Sometimes in our business, there are so many little things that you can get caught up in all the trees and not really understand what the forest looks like,” said Heisler, who is in his 36th year at Notre Dame. “Part of the challenge is to try and get [younger SIDs] a little bit better picture of the big picture, and kind of understand why it is we’re doing all these other little things.”

The most challenging part of Masters’ job? Finding something to complain about.

“I’m pretty sure there hasn’t been a day where I haven’t woken up and been really excited for, or looking forward to, going into the office,” Masters said. “That includes days where you’re coming to work the day after your season has come to an end in the Final Four, or you’ve lost in the first round of the NCAA tournament, or haven’t even made the NCAA tournament, or your football team goes 3-9.

“I get paid to watch sports, and that’s the essence of it. That’s a pretty cool thing.”

Getting paid to do what you love. Check.
Kansas Born and Greatness Bound
Robert Clark made his long time dream come true through his 34 stories published with National Geographic.

by Tara Cowley/photos by Robert Clark

A group of men shuttle home after a day’s work cutting sugar cane in the fields of Brazil. Robert Clark followed them through their day, from their work, to home with their families and the the extremities of the climate.

Men line the inside walls of a bus, their hands, faces and bodies dirtied from the day’s work. Some wear shirts, most do not. The work of tomorrow can be seen through each window. Sunlight shines brighter on one man, a man dirtied like the rest, though the gold of his wedding band shines. This describes one of the 14 Robert Clark photographs in his Cane Cutter project.

Clark was born in Hays, Kan., and quickly found his passion for photography, but it wasn’t until his time at Kansas State University, that he was able to build his skills toward a career.

“I never had another job. I am dyslexic; I was a terrible student. But if I saw a picture that I liked, I remembered the picture and who took it,” Clark said.

Clark worked on the Collegian staff while at K-State, and felt the environment provided by a student-run organization was like his laboratory; he was able to work on what he wanted.

Clark graduated from the A.Q. Miller School in 1985. Shortly after he accepted a contract job for the Philadelphia Inquirer—his first big success. In 1989, Clark did a shoot titled Friday Night Lights. Set in Odessa, Tex., and based on the lives of high school football players and their Texas-rooted passion for the game, Clark’s photos inspired a movie and the NBC television series that followed.

Friday Night Lights was the success he needed. Not long after returning to the Philadelphia Inquirer, Clark quit.

“I never got a full-time job offer at the Philadelphia Inquirer. I wasn’t going to get a full-time job at the Philadelphia Inquirer. It is a tough career, and even tougher now that everybody has their phones,” Clark said.

He traveled a bit, working for smaller magazines, though he said he wasn’t getting where he wanted to go. So, in 1993, he sold all of his belongings in Utah and moved to New York.

A fellow K-State alumnus, John Sleezer, had received a scholarship with National Geographic. It was then, that Clark made the decision to learn more about lighting to become more well rounded. His deci-
mission paid off and set him a part from other photographers.

Clark found himself working beside both Sleezer, as well as 1969 alumnus, Jim Richardson.

“(Richardson) He has had a huge visual influence on me, more than anyone working in the Midwest,” Clark said.

Richardson had his first story for National Geographic in 1984. He is known for his work highlighting the Midwest. Though Clark and Richardson never worked on a story together, they admired each other’s work.

“My experience with Rob has been around the halls of National Geographic, where he and I have crossed paths while working various, separate projects. Rob is always in the know, much connected and able to make a lot of needful things happen,” Richardson said. “Rob’s work has always been very sophisticated, extraordinarily well produced, and he takes on complex projects that require a lot of conceptual insight combined with arduous studio and lighting work to pull off.”

Clark has produced 34 stories and 16 covers published through National Geographic. He is currently working on four stories, the most he has ever taken on at once. The stories range from taxidermy, to 3D printing. Traveling comes with the job, as Clark has shot in multiple countries.

“Before a big shoot, I try to learn as much as I can about the subject matter. I try to get as much information as I can. When I walk in, I try to stay open,” Clark said. “I look at the color of the wall, or just the different aspects of the surroundings. I don’t think anything matters as much as really immersing yourself in the subject matter.”

Now as a husband and a father, Clark lives in Brooklyn, N.Y. He has built the career he wanted—the one he looked toward in the laboratory of the Collegian and the one he sold everything in Utah to get. Clark continues to freelance for National Geographic, as well as work on a book documenting the birth of science and evolution.

“For Rob to call me one of his influences is an honor, of course, and I’m pleased to have shared our college background,” Richardson said. “Rob is always gregarious, but he is also loyal and earnest. He does Kansas State proud.”

Permian Panthers’ quarterback, Mike Winchell waits for a pep rally to begin as the team awaits their game against arch-rival, Midland Lee. The photo is included in Robert Clark’s famous Friday Night Lights collection.

Robert Clark’s work has been multiple publications from Time magazine, Sports Illustrated and National Geographic.