A.Q. Miller School Celebrates 25th Anniversary

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Welcome to this edition of Update magazine!

I am delighted to share the good news that the Accrediting Council (ACEJMC), at their meeting, May 2, voted in support of the accrediting team’s recommendation and the Accrediting Committee’s vote to re-accredit the programs at the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications for another six years. This is a major milestone and a proud moment in the long history of journalism education at K-State. If it weren’t for accreditation, we would not be a school, and we would not be the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

This academic year has been full of unexpected opportunities. In January, Lou Benjamin, holder of the Ross Beach Chair, moved up to become Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences. Her office is now in Eisenhower Hall. We wish her the best in her new position. She will be greatly missed as a JMC colleague. A search to fill the Ross Beach Chair position is underway.

Dr. Barb DeSanto pioneered innovative pedagogy during the January Intersession when she taught two public relations tourism courses simultaneously, one on location in Costa Rica, the other one online. It was a successful experiment worth repeating. (See story page 21.)

Advancing the body of knowledge is one of three pillars in the academy. Our faculty, as well as our graduate students, have actively engaged in systematic inquiry and publicly disseminated their work at national and international conferences. They also published their findings in appropriate journals and books.

This semester, I continued my “listening tour” and visited as many JMC classes as possible to give our students an opportunity to meet me face-to-face, share their insights, voice any concerns they may have and offer suggestions regarding curriculum, technology, space, career opportunities, etc. One of the most surprising findings from a survey they completed was that 99% of our students (majors and minors) own a laptop. This gave us the confidence to pursue introducing “computer-less computer labs,” a concept pioneered in 2008 at a few institutions and discussed in detail in the Chronicle of Higher Education ever since. Our new laptop policy will be in effect this fall semester. (See story page 40.)

As part of K-State’s partnership with Fort Riley, we have started a series of workshops some of our faculty have offered on the Base, covering topics such as photojournalism, videography, writing, editing, ethics and a Myers-Briggs personality-strengthening seminar. In addition, we have developed a new course in Military Reporting that will be offered for the first time in the fall on the Manhattan campus.

Our Honors Banquet in late April was another proud moment for us. This year, we were able to award 113 student scholarships in the amount of $182,000. We truly appreciate the continued support from our alumni and loyal donors. (See story page 33.)

As our student population grows and our collaborations with other academic disciplines across campus mature, we are looking forward to strengthening our curriculum and building a program of distinction with national and international reach to actively contribute to the K-State 2025 Vision of becoming a Top 50 Research Institution.

Together we can make it happen.

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On the Cover | Colophon


Colophon: Thirteen students in the Magazine Article and Feature Writing class produced this issue of Update magazine. Students developed stories and designs from class projects. Designs were created using Adobe inDesign C5.5. Ag Press in Manhattan printed the 5,500 press run and distributed the magazine to alumni and friends. All fonts are Myraid Pro. Headlines are 55-point. Body copy is 9-point. Captions are 7-point. The purple spot color is Pantone 159C.
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Want to Know More?
A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications: For the latest in events and happenings in the school go to www.jmc.edu or scan the QR code on the back cover.
Update Magazine: For additional information and photographs about the stories in Update, and to see the work of web designer Callie Friedrich go to updatejmc.com
Top Birgit Wassmuth, Monty, Doris and Alix Miller at the 140th birthday celebration of Monty’s grandfather, A.Q. Miller. Above Birthday banner and cakes for the bash. Photos by Linda Puntney Left Doris Miller listens to granddaughter Alix talk about her plans to work in the family media. Photo by Tom Hallaq
Birthday Bash

Students, faculty and staff gather to celebrate the 140th birthday of school's namesake

People gathered in the Kedzie Library Feb 7, to mark the 25th anniversary of the naming of the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications, and to celebrate the 140th birthday of Alexander Quintella Miller, the school's namesake.

The Miller family made a surprise visit to the birthday bash and brought with them A.Q. Miller's great great-granddaughter Alexandra "Alix" Miller. A junior in marketing, Alix chose the major to help her become involved in the family's media enterprises and carry on the Miller tradition.

"My family is involved in different sources of media," Alix said. "I want to carry on the tradition and there are so many different things you can do with a marketing major."

Alix's grandmother Doris, who married A.Q. Miller's grandson, Monty, said they were married in 1962 after A.Q. Miller had passed away; therefore, she never had a chance to meet him.

"But his influences have been passed on," Doris said. "All of his kids have graduated from K-State. The whole family is involved in journalism in some kind of way."

The fast fact sheets about A.Q. Miller at the celebration, helped students learn about him.

Birgit Wassmuth, director of the A.Q. Miller School, said when she first came to K-State, she noticed the students and staff didn't know much about A.Q. Miller.

After reading a book about his life, elements of his story gradually fell into place. It was a story she thought needed to be shared.

"I realized he had such a rich life and was very much engaged with the community," Wassmuth said. "He was a role model, students don't know about him. This is about to change. I think today is the day."

Before the birthday bash, the A.Q. Miller School website was redesigned to feature the 25th anniversary and the school's namesake.

Quick reads on the website show how the number 25 is used throughout the world, biographical information about Alexander Quintilla Miller and a reminder that the contributions of A.Q. Miller lay beyond simple success.

By Shengyi Wang

Facts about A.Q. Miller

- A.Q. Miller was a journalist from Belleville, Kan.
- His son, Carl Miller, founded the Pacific edition of the Wall Street Journal.
- The KSU journalism school was named after A.Q. Miller when Carl made a significant donation in his father's name in 1987.
- In 1930, A.Q. Miller was appointed executive clerk of the United States Senate.
- A.Q. Miller was one of the visionaries in U.S highway development.
- He wrote his last editorial for his newspaper in Belleville on the day of his death, Dec. 29, 1959.
- The journalism education at K-State began in 1910.
- The program is one of the nation's oldest nationally accredited programs.
A Night of Possibilities

Thirty companies gathered to converse with students

1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley Public Affairs
Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau
American Jazz Museum
Associated Integrated Marketing
Walsworth Publishing Company
Eagle Communications
Eisenhower Presidential Library
Flint Hills Discovery Center
Garden City Telegram
Great Bend Tribune
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc
Kansas First News
Kansas State Athletics Communications
KSNW--NBC--Wichita
Journalism Broadcast Group
Great Plains Christian Radio - KJIL
Great Plains Media
Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy
Manhattan Broadcasting Company, Inc.
Manhattan Mercury
Meredith Corporation - KCTV/KSMO
Morris Communications - Flinthills Radio
Radio Kansas
Rocking M Radio, Inc.
Salina Journal
Sullivan Higdon & Sink (SHS)
Trozzolo Communications
Trust Women
Uhlig LLC
Collegian Media Group

Right Students gather in the K-State Student Union to mingle with more than 20 companies about job and intern opportunities.
Far Right A student meets with a company during the annual Network Night on March 6 in the K-State Student Union. Below Two people have a conversation during the A.Q. Miller School Network Night. Students found this event beneficial in helping them speak with real-world professionals. Photos by Brina Rickabaugh
Students and companies benefit from annual networking event

The largest Network Night yet brought 80 students and 30 potential employers together to explore internship and job opportunities. More than 20 companies gathered March 6 in the K-State Student Union to mingle with students and talk about internship and job opportunities.

With resumes and portfolios in hand, A.Q. Miller School students walked from table to table speaking with companies specializing in the journalism, print, digital and broadcast, advertising and public relations industries.

Even if a student was not ready to start an internship or job, some found it beneficial to get their names out to companies in hopes of gaining recognition when they began their job searches.

“I’m a first generation college student and so I kind of don’t want my college experience to go to waste. When great opportunities like this are presented, I just go with it and I knew there would be some great companies here to talk with,” Daniela Leon, sophomore in journalism and mass communications, said. “So even though I’m a sophomore, it’s a good experience to get to know what these companies are looking for.”

Knowing the right people could help land a dream job, and Lauren Meehan, junior in public relations and advertising, saw the Network Night as a step in that direction.

“Networking is the biggest thing with journalism. It’s all about who you know. That’s what’s going to get you a job,” Meehan said. “It was nice to have the companies put a face to the name and get them to remember me.”

The two-hour event was not only beneficial for students, but for the companies as well. For many, Network Night was where they would find future employees. For others, it was a way to get the word out about their business.

Gloria Freeland, journalism professor and event planner for Network Night, said that companies were thrilled with the professionalism of the students they interacted with.

“This year’s Networking Night was quite successful. It included a wide variety of employers, all of whom were excited to be at K-State,” Freeland said. “Many of them mentioned how well-prepared and engaged our K-State JMC students were.”

Dale Hogg, managing editor for the Great Bend Tribune, enjoyed his first year being part of Network Night. Hogg said he was impressed with the students he spoke with.

“I enjoy the caliber of the conversations I’ve had so far,” Hogg said. “This gives students a chance to meet face to face with media professionals, and that’s something you don’t do in the classroom.”

Most of the companies are located in Kansas. Even local businesses, like the Flint Hills Discovery Center, enjoyed networking at the event.

“It’s important for the Discovery Center to participate because we want the opportunity to engage with the students and hear what they’re interested in,” Pamela Kulokas, outreach coordinator, said. In previous years, the Flint Hills Discovery Center found student employees from Network Night.

“Our current outreach intern, I met last year at this event. It’s turned out to be successful partnership,” Kulokas said. “The school of journalism consistently turns out really high quality student interns and we love working with them.”

By Jacinda Dent

MacFarland, professor emeritus of the A.Q. Miller School and author, picked up writing the book after Richard Fatherley, the original author, died of a heart attack in 2010.

According to MacFarland, Fatherley, who worked at the Storz stations in Kansas City and St. Louis, presented at the Great Plains Radio Symposium annually, to tell the Storz story.

“(Radio) is something you want to grab you somehow or another, you want to experience an emotion because of it,” MacFarland said. “You want a series of different experiences.”

Fatherley used to write commercial copy. Therefore, when he began writing the history of broadcasting, he wrote it the way he would write commercial copy—by half-pages. When Fatherley passed away, he had only written up to the point in Storz’ company history when it moved to Omaha, Neb.

Fatherley started his radio career in 1949 in Connecticut after graduating from high school. He moved to Kansas in 1957 to take a position as a program director for a Storz radio station.

“They were life-changing experiences for Fatherley,” MacFarland said. “He never got over how much fun he had working at those two stations.”

According to Steve Smethers, associate director of the A.Q. Miller School and professor of journalism and mass communications, MacFarland was well qualified to finish the book.

“Dave was the sole historian for Top 40 radio for a while,” Smethers said. “Others just chimed in.”

MacFarland began teaching at the A.Q. Miller School in 1972 after he completed his doctoral dissertation about Top 40 radio. He taught production courses, programming and radio and television writing. After 35 years, he retired from his teaching career in 2007.

Smetthers said MacFarland’s work is admirable not only because he was a groundbreaker in broadcasting, but also because he put the book together and made sure things that needed extra coverage, got it.

“This happened here in the rural U.S.,” Smethers said. “This is what saved radio from extinction in the ’50s.”

The story takes you from Todd Storz, the son of a banker becoming a brew master, to how he became one of the most important people in the history of Top 40 radio.

Fatherley was always present at the “Great Plains Radio Symposium,” according to MacFarland.

When he finished writing the book to capture how radio changed, MacFarland determined listeners were listening to the radio to experience certain moods.

According to Smethers, MacFarland’s, like all research done in the school, gives more value to a K-State degree.

“It puts K-State in a better light,” Smethers said. “It is very much a feather in the cap that he authored this.”

By Maria Betzold
As a former professor in the A.Q. Miller School, David MacFarland brings his experience with radio to another level. MacFarland authored his fourth book on radio programming, “The Birth of Top 40 Radio,” which was published in December 2013. Photo by Marisa Love.
Jean Folkerts, a highly decorated and long-time educator, is experiencing a whole new meaning of homecoming.

There is a sense of nostalgia for the long-time educator as she returns to campus and the A.Q. Miller School.

“I love the campus,” Folkerts said. “I love the limestone buildings. It’s a unique feature, you don’t see that on other campuses. It feels like you’re coming home when you walk in the door, which is just great. I had some very good teachers here and I value them very, very highly.”

Folkerts returned to her alma mater as a visiting professor and scholar. Her primary focus will be research.

Despite being retired, Folkerts returned to the classroom during the spring semester.

Louise Benjamin, former interim director of the A.Q. Miller School, moved to the dean’s office in the College of Arts and Sciences. Her departure opened a teaching position for the media history course. This class is in conjunction with the history department, which alternates teaching the course, with the Miller School.

The course was a perfect fit for the long-time historian.

Folkerts graduated in 1967 with a bachelor’s degree in journalism and mass communications. After receiving her masters at K-State, Folkerts moved to the University of Kansas for her Ph.D in American Studies.

Folkerts said she has wonderful memories at K-State.

“I was editor of the Collegian, so when I come through that part of the building it brings back lots of really wonderful memories,” Folkerts said. “It was a really great time for me.”

The Collegian took her to Vietnam in 1967, one of her favorite memories. Folkerts said she was able to travel with another student, who is now her husband.

“That’s one of the great things about journalism you (can) hang a camera around your neck and get in places,” Folkerts said. “It was an incredible experience.”

This is the first time since their time at K-State Folkerts and her husband have called Manhattan home.

“It feels like a really great place to be anchored,” Folkerts said. “We’re really enjoying that. I never really had the opportunity to come back until now.”

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill kept Folkerts away since 2006. There she was dean and alumni distinguished professor for the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. Although she worked as a newspaper reporter, editor of a magazine, public relations professional, and assistant press secretary for Governor Robert Bennett of Kansas, Folkerts said she returned to academia because she wanted to share those experiences.

“I think it’s really important to have worked in the field,” Folkerts said, “My experience now is kind of old but I have tried to really keep it current.”

Before retiring and returning to K-State, Folkerts left a lasting legacy at UNC. Susan King, Folkerts’ successor as dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, said.

“I think one of her most successful legacies here at UNC is the Reese News Lab,” King said. “They have really worked on the digital future of journalism. It is very vital and a terrific legacy I think for the School that Jean had a hand in helping to shape it as an idea. She may be a historian, but she always had her eye on the digital future.”

While at UNC, Folkerts said she traveled the country meeting with alumni. She often discussed curriculum ensuring it matched what was being practiced in the field.

“I tried to always stay current with the professional viewpoint and vision and tie it in to how we reshaped our curriculum, and I think that’s really important to do,” Folkerts said. “Also, I think it’s important
not to just do a kind of knee-jerk reaction to what’s trendy at the moment, but to think about journalism in the broad scope and its importance and why we do it.”

King said she didn’t have the opportunity to work directly with Folkerts, but they did work together through the Carnegie Knight Initiative on the Future of Journalism Education. King said Folkerts was the first woman dean to join the initiative.

Brigit Wassmuth, director of the A.Q. Miller School, said Folkerts contacted her in the fall about returning to Manhattan. “She said if there’s any way to connect with the School, she would love to just offer services,” Wassmuth said. “She said all I want is really just a desk and access to the library.” Wassmuth welcomed the former dean’s experiences to Kedzie Hall.

“To be able to pick her brain, sit down for coffee, have lunch with her, as a junior faculty member in particular, is just a tremendous value,” Wassmuth said. “We can’t put a price-tag on that.”

Folkerts who has several books published, has shared her experiences with some of the faculty and has more meetings on the books. Her background as a scholar and conducting research provides a special insight for faculty.

“My main mentoring role here is with faculty who want to publish, are coming up for tenure and promotion, of establishing a research agenda,” Folkerts said. “So, I want to help those faculty get their research programs going in the right direction. I really enjoy working with faculty, helping them make some decisions about a plan for their careers.”

“Mentoring and teaching is more than just work for Folkerts. Her roots dip deep in the A.Q. Miller School so for her it’s about giving back to the school that helped her develop a successful career in journalism.”

“I think it’s partly a sense of giving back,” Folkerts said. “When I came to K-State I had grown up pretty much in little towns. We had lived in the city when I was really small for a little while, but K-State introduced me to a lot of new ideas, different kinds of people, really challenged me to think about worlds I didn’t know and so it’s really gratifying to me if I can bring some of my experiences back and help people, students, faculty, whoever I can be useful to, to give back some of what I learned. K-State started me on my road.”

By Austin Nichols
Kelly Glasscock and Lindsey Thorpe have had an impeccable relationship since they walked through the doors of Kedzie Hall in 2002.

Glasscock, former photo editor of the Royal Purple yearbook, and Thorpe, former editor-in-chief, began their journey as highly involved college students working towards the same goal - a profession in journalism. Their professional dreams made for two busy students, who were mostly interested and involved in Student Publications, Inc.

“Kelly and I met at Linda Puntney’s house during a Royal Purple staff get-together,” Thorpe said as she began the story of how their life became what it is now. “It was a kick-off party for the new school year and I was a newbie. The way he tells it, I ‘caught his eye.’ I was a little shy and unsure about what to expect coming onto staff for the first time.”

Thorpe added, that she was the one who was in charge.

“Technically I was his boss. The following year I became the editor-in-chief and hired him as a photo editor,” Thorpe said. “Our relationship progressed so slowly at first I thought he wasn’t interested in me that way, but he finally kissed me for the first time in the pouring rain under a large tree in his backyard. Two years to the day later, he proposed under the same tree and captured the moment with his tripod camera.”

During their senior year, Thorpe and Glasscock led the staff to win the 2003 National Pacemaker Award, from the Associated Collegiate Press, and the Gold Crown Award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

Developing, creating and writing for their beloved Royal Purple allowed the couple to develop a deeper relationship. In 2004, Glasscock proposed to Thorpe just before they graduated in May.

Two college graduates, with careers they

Continued on 12
Kelly Glasscock, newly hired adviser for the Royal Purple yearbook, poses with his family, Adelynn, Lindsey and Lily in Exploration Place of Wichita. Photo by Katie Johnston.
hoped would follow the same path as their relationship, were met with differing post-graduation plans. Glasscock accepted a call to work as a staff photographer at the Jackson Hole News & Guide in Jackson, Wyo. While Kelly was in Wyoming, Lindsey did two internships, both in NYC, at Real Simple and TIME Magazine.

“We got married in September,” Thorpe said. “After we got married I moved out there (Wyoming). I got a job in a local graphic design shop and did a variety of graphic design work.”

After sleepless nights in the yearbook room, internships and dedication to making their dreams become a reality, Glasscock and Thorpe hold jobs they say they are immensely grateful for.

Now living in Wichita, Thorpe works for GoWitchita, the city’s convention and visitors bureau.

“A lot of the skills I use are communication skills - designing ads or we have newspaper inserts, special publications, programs or different marketing pieces,” Thorpe said. “It is always good to have that eye for editing and to have those skills when I'm designing.”

Glasscock continues to live his dream as a photographer by freelancing for clients in Wichita, including The Wichita Eagle, Wichita State University, Associated Press, Powercat Illustrated and the Missouri Valley Conference, as well as advising and teaching photography, yearbook and newspaper at Derby (Kan.) High School.

“I had an interest in teaching when I was brought along to Journalism Education Association sessions in college,” Glasscock said. “I am grateful to be an adviser.”

Recently, a job with the Collegian Media Group opened. Glasscock saw it as an opportunity to return to K-State as the Royal Purple yearbook adviser and assistant director of the Collegian Media Group.

Matt Stamey, Glasscock’s life long friend, said he is one of the hardest workers he has seen.

“He works until he get things right,” Stamey said. “I don’t know if perfectionist is the right word, but he is always lighthearted and fun to work with too.”

Lindsay Porter, friend and assistant editor of the Royal Purple when Thorpe was editor, said she has seen Thorpe transition to a loving and caring mother.

“There were a lot of things changing during Lindsey’s year as editor,” Porter said. “She was a strong leader and got everyone up to speed. She had a strong vision of what she wanted the publication to be like. But now, it’s a different worry. She’s not worried about the quality of the staff. She is now always searching for the best method to raise growing and changing girls. She puts herself last a lot of the time for the things she wants to do for her family.”

Now with two children, Lily, 7, and Adelynn, 3, Kelly and Lindsey feel “blessed” with the life they have. A life they have always dreamed of having – a life that began in Kedzie Hall.

While speaking about their children, their excitement could not be contained.

“They are both just so expressive and different,” Thorpe said.

Lily, their first grader, is described as a social butterfly and “full of life and energy,” while Adelynn is the Glasscock’s “little bug.”

“We’ve always been family oriented and it has been a priority for us,” Glasscock said. “I guess we feel blessed to have this family.”

By Shelby Brunk

Continued from 11
Left: The Glasscock family enjoys several activities at the learning center in the Exploration Place of Wichita. Right: Lindsey Glasscock holds daughter Adelynn, age 3, as she traces over some floral patterns in Exploration Place. Photos by Katie Johnston

Artwork provided by Lily Glasscock
Serving more than 2,500 members, the Journalism Education Association, has been housed and operated in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism since 1988. A November 2013 14-0 vote of the JEA Board ensured the organization will remain at K-State through 2018.

Following a yearlong search and visits to multiple campuses, the Site Search Committee recommended the organization remain at K-State.

“There is a long history and tradition at K-State,” Mark Newton, JEA president, said. “You start to realize how good you have it.”

As a result of the new contract negotiations, Kelly Furnas, JEA executive director, will focus more of his workday on the association. Starting in July, 80 percent of his time will be dedicated to JEA. Additionally, he will teach one class each semester and serve on A.Q. Miller School committees. Previously, the executive director’s contract allowed for 25 percent of the time to be devoted to JEA.

“Less is more,” Newton said. “We wanted to simplify things for Kelly. We are the Journalism Education Association, so we wanted a director who still taught. I think that’s important.”

The organization provides students, educators and members with opportunities to succeed. JEA is the largest scholastic journalism organization in the US and provides members with opportunities to expand their journalism education through two national conventions each year, a quarterly magazine, national certification program, a summer workshop and a bookstore devoted to journalism topics.

“The headquarters staff that already exists for JEA brings decades of institutional knowledge about the association,” Furnas said. “I think losing that would have been very detrimental to the organization. It’s good to keep that in house.”

The headquarters staff, made up of four employees, echoes Furnas’ enthusiasm of keeping JEA at K-State.

“I was pleased and relieved the JEA board decided to keep its headquarters at K-State,” Connie Fulkerson, 25-year employee, said. “The JEA headquarters staff is a hard-working, friendly team with a lot of institutional knowledge. I believe our members appreciate that. It would have been sad to see our team replaced.”

Pamela Boller, who has been with JEA for six years, said her job has been a Godsend.

“I thank God that he has given me this job,” Boller said. “Evidently he is not done with me here and wants me to learn more. I have a job that I really like. It was a blessing that day when we got the call from the president of JEA. It was a relief, as that nagging of not knowing that was always in the back of our minds was gone.”

Joseph Wenberg, student employee and member of the JEA student convention team, said JEA extending its stay at K-State provides the A.Q. Miller School with unique opportunities.

“As the only national organization currently headquartered at K-State, it only makes sense that they use this 26-year-old relationship to their advantage when recruiting prospective students and promoting the university in other ways,” Wenberg said. “The university has a very bright opportunity to promote and market the fact that we have such an outstanding national organization headquartered on our campus.”

Fulkerson and Boller both credit the work of Birgit Wassmuth, director of the A.Q. Miller School, for keeping JEA housed at K-State.

“I am especially grateful for Birgit Wassmuth,” Fulkerson said. “Her enthusiasm and ideas about shared projects between K-State’s Miller School and JEA helped convince the headquarters’ search committee that K-State is a good home for JEA.”

Wassmuth said she was inspired by a recent JEA convention she attended.

“Anybody who may have doubts about the future of journalism should attend one of the JEA conventions to see for themselves what great talent there is in the pipeline for the journalism profession,” Wassmuth said. “Of all the professional and academic conventions I have attended over my 30-some years in academia, I have never been so inspired. I am relieved to know that JEA will stay at the A.Q. Miller School.”

With the contract extension secured, Furnas said JEA is looking towards the future of scholastic journalism with K-State.

“Certainly there are wonderful outreach opportunities,” Furnas said. “To be able to provide research, which fits into our land-grant mission and also to expose thousands of high school students and teachers to the staff, faculty and students at K-State might lead to increased research opportunities, or even increased enrollment.”

Joel Garver, sophomore in education and journalism and member of the student convention team, said JEA provides him a chance to travel and develop his skills as a prospective journalism teacher, skills he would not be able to get anywhere else.

“JEA has really opened my eyes to what the world of journalism education really is,” Garver said. “I couldn’t imagine JEA anywhere else. We’ve had some very good journalists come from here and with the Miller school as well as JEA headquarters, we’ve got a leg up on other journalism programs.”

By Shelby Brunk
“I was pleased and relieved the JEA board decided to keep its headquarters at K-State.”
- Connie Fulkerson, JEA Employee

“There is a long history and tradition at K-State. You start to realize how good you have it.”
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“It was a blessing that day when we got the call from the president of JEA. It was a relief, as that nagging of not knowing that was always in the back of our minds was gone.”
- Pam Boller, JEA Employee

“The headquarters staff that already exists for JEA brings decades of institutional knowledge about the association. I think losing that would have been very detrimental to the organization. It’s good to keep that in house.”
- Kelly Furnas, JEA Executive Director

Top Kelly Furnas, executive director of JEA, hands an award to a student while at the JEA convention in San Diego April 13. Photo by Mason Swenson Above left Employees Pam Boller and Connie Fulkerson pack boxes in the JEA Bookstore in Kedzie. Above right Connie Fulkerson packs boxes for the JEA bookstore. Photos by Shelby Brunk
Jenny Robertson sits down in 107A Kedzie, her office bare of personal items or homey touches. She says she wants to make some changes over the summer, after the semester and her wedding are over. Photo by Corey Schadt
Not much has changed over the past year in office 107A of Kedzie Hall. Outside, there's a paper with a list of names and appointments. Inside, a glass desk and table, two chairs, and a cabinet crammed full of student records. Almost nothing about the office has changed, except for the person working in it.

Jenny Robertson now works there as the pre-major adviser for the A.Q. Miller School. Less than a year ago, she replaced the previous adviser, Tom Roesler, who took a position with the College of Arts and Sciences. From this office, she advises more than 250 students aspiring to take JMC classes.

"You can tell Jenny really loves what she does," Steven Smethers, the associate director for undergraduate studies, said. "She genuinely enjoys working with students, and she is a very detailed person, which you have to be in that kind of a job. And she has an awesome task."

It is Robertson's job to advise incoming freshmen and transfer students applying for a major, as well as those seeking a minor. She maintains their records, helps them select classes and prepares them for a future in the department. All this is done between the various meetings and events her position requires her to attend. It's a job that keeps her busy, especially during enrollment, when the number of students she advises can swell to 350 students.

"It seems like a pretty big number of students, but it's really not," Robertson said. "I've talked with some advisers, some open option advisers, and some of them have like 500 advisees. So when I talk to them, it makes me feel not so bad."

It's been a long road to this office for Robertson. She graduated from K-State in 2008, hoping to find a place in non-profit public relations, only to find her first job in a call center. After spending two years in graduate school at Emporia State University pursuing a master's degree in library science, she found a part-time position at a library, before moving back to Manhattan to be with her now-fiancé, Adam Patman. From there, she found a job working part-time at both a library in Junction City, as well as the office at the A.Q. Miller School.

"I wasn't really actively looking to come back to K-State," Robertson said. "But I was always keeping my eye on this job because I know working at K-State is a really good opportunity, and I've always been interested in kind of recruiting. That was something I was looking at. When the job came open I was ecstatic to come back and work here."

Continued on 18
Susan Matzke, senior administrative assistant for the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism since October, understands organization. A typical day includes updating student records, working on graduation checks and answering student questions. Previously, Matzke worked as an administrative assistant for the Student Government Association office for nine years.

“When I first got here, I didn’t know what to expect,” Matzke said. “All the students talk about is how they feel like family here. It’s new because people didn’t interact that way at my other position.”

Her favorite part about her job is working with students and helping them understand the steps they need to take to graduate.

“I like to interact with the students,” Matzke said. “I enjoy getting to know them on an individual basis.”

She said her two favorite hobbies are couponing and gardening.

“I used to coupon and then stopped,” Matzke said. “Then I started watching the ‘Extreme Couponing’ show on TLC and it sucked me back in. It’s been going on three years now.”

Matzke finds her coupons in the Kansas City Star or online. Once she gathers them, she divides them into two books. She has a four-inch book for food coupons and a two-inch binder for other products such as toilet paper and soaps. Her favorite place to coupon used to be Dillons, but since they stopped doubling coupons, she shops at Ray’s Apple Market or Walmart.

“I try to get the register to $0 but my best is $2,” Matzke said. “My son watches the register and says ‘How come you didn’t get it to zero?’”

When she’s not couponing, Matzke enjoys spending time outside, tending to her garden. She prides herself in growing vegetables and fruits, such as squash, watermelon, peas, grapes, cucumbers, strawberries and blueberries.

“We have tomato bushes out back,” Matzke said. “I can make salsa from them to have for dinner.”

As she shuffles through graduation checks and helps students enroll in classes for the fall semester, she gives some words of advice to those who are about to graduate.

“Find a job that you love,” Matzke said. “It makes you feel like you don’t have a job at all. I love being here because everyone makes you feel welcome and like a family.”
Aribel Del Carmen León Parris, senior administrative assistant for the A.Q. Miller School, greets visitors and students entering Kedzie’s main office. Her smile and her eager-to-help attitude reflect her love of the job. Working since July, her job tasks include welcoming students, answering phone calls, sorting applications to the graduate programs, and assisting with faculty requests. She considers herself the first point of contact for people who come into the office.

“When I come to work, I give 100 percent,” Parris said. “It’s full and engaging and keeps me very busy.”

She said she most enjoys working with people.

“It’s good to have a team in place,” Parris said. “It makes the work environment more pleasant when you work well with people. The people and faculty make going to work every day more enjoyable.”

Originally from Panamá, Parris grew up in a military family and traveled extensively, but she has always considered Kansas home.

“Kansas is kind of like an operating base,” Parris said. “It’s been my base operation in a good way. I have been to different places but Kansas always brings me back. Manhattan has that small town feel and I like to see it blossom.”

When Parris is not at work, her hobbies include acrylic painting and hosting gatherings as a way to get to know people. One thing she is passionate about is cooking.

“My first experience with cooking was when I was a child growing up in Panamá,” Parris said. “The adult women in my family would summon all the children in the house to observe them cooking. The interesting part is that they never followed a recipe or used measuring cups.”

Parris credits those women, as well as her mother, with setting an early cooking foundation for her, which allowed her to explore different recipes and customize them.

“Cooking, for me, is my gift to others,” Parris said. “The biggest satisfaction for me is knowing my guests enjoyed the meal I prepared, as well as their feedback to enable me to improve the meal. It is all about the love poured into it and sharing it with others while sitting around the dinner table. That is a gift I received from my mother.”

She said her Italian meatballs are her most well known dish around the office.

“The faculty here will tell you that I make the best Italian meatballs,” Parris said. “I bring them for potlucks and people can’t stop eating them. People ask me all the time to make them.”

Her creativity isn’t limited to the kitchen; Parris is also involved in poetry. This helped her when she arrived to the United States and struggled with the language barrier.

“The dictionary became my friend,” Parris said. “Reading Shakespeare, Beowulf, Moliere and then being thrust into Spanish and British literature was not an easy task but it also shaped my style of writing. My dream is to publish a collection of poems.”

In 2012, she published a website titled Breast Cancer Survivors Footprints that tells of her breast cancer journey, in addition to a collection of poems she wrote. Her favorite original poem is titled “Fedele”, the Italian word for faithful. This can be read on her website http://www.breastcancersurvivorsfootprints.com.

As the spring semester comes to a close and students plan for graduation, Parris says goodbye to those faces she sees everyday but not without giving some words of advice.

“Don’t sweat the small stuff,” Parris said. “Apply yourself, make your mark and be all you can be. Go conquer the world.”

By Rachel Flattery
Reghan Tank and Katie Bourk represent the Wildcats at Sueños del Bosque, a tourist destination in Costa Rica. The K-State students created plans to help three tourism clients. Above Left: A man teaches the students the sugar cane process. This was one of four sites they stopped at during a tour of Escazú, Costa Rica. Above Right: K-State and University of Costa Rica students, Costa Rican professors and Dr. Barb DeSanto smile with the owners of the rural bed and breakfast. The owners demonstrated how to peel an orange with a machete and serenaded the group with Costa Rican songs. Photos by Reghan Tank
During the January intersession, 10 public relations students and assistant professor of public relations, Barbara DeSanto, traveled to Costa Rica to collaborate with the University of Costa Rica on a tourism project for their “Travel and Tourism” class.

“This was a well thought out study travel,” DeSanto said. “The goal was to see how tourism worked for Costa Rica and to help with public relations strategies to promote their enterprises.”

K-State students divided into groups and worked with three tourism clients – a small tourism provider specializing in eco-friendly methods; an agency focusing on life outside San Jose; and a posada, or resort, in the mountains. Five Costa Rican students and professors assisted with the projects and introduced the culture to the K-State students.

Frederick Amstutz, senior in public relations, worked with a rural bed and breakfast located in the mountains.

“We developed a plan with a goal, objectives, tactics and target audience,” Amstutz said. “We also created a brochure and set up a social media plan for them to use.”

Leah Baus, senior in public relations, assisted another group in developing ways to help their business.

“My group assisted with people in Escazú, a city outside of San Jose,” Baus said. “We helped create a small brochure for trade services.”

During that time, students in the class who remained in Manhattan and took the class online had to consider what media channels the students in Costa Rica could use.

“Communication back with students at K-State was difficult,” Baus said. “Email wasn’t quite as fluid as it could have been, so one way we combatted that was through Skype. Having a face-to-face conversation made our points come across clearer and ended up working really well.”

While the students worked during the day, they made time for exploring and were able to experience the culture. These activities included shopping at flea markets, zip lining through the rain forest or visiting coffee and sugar plantations.

“Hiking in the rainforest was definitely a highlight,” Amstutz said. “It’s like what you see in the movies, vines hanging down and everything is covered in plants. It’s all extremely green.”

At the end of the seminar, each group presented what they had come up with to the clients. The Costa Rican students helped translate each presentation into Spanish.

“My favorite part was seeing how students were prepared and eager to take charge,” DeSanto said. “It was wonderful watching them work together with the Costa Rican students.”

Amstutz said the trip forced him to come face-to-face with a new culture.

“It’s a good college experience to be put out of your comfort zone,” Amstutz said. “It forces you to try new things and makes you think in a different way than here in the middle of the United States.”

For Baus, the experience brought a financial opportunity. She received a scholarship from a Costa Rican K-State alumnus this year. The scholarship was designated to a K-State student from a small town who wanted to study abroad. The trip gave her the chance to meet her donor while in Costa Rica.

“He said I was the first recipient he was able to meet,” Baus said. “He still comes to homecoming games. The first thing he said when I met him was if I saw the K-State basketball game the other day.”

Baus encourages students who are unsure about attending the seminar next year to go and don’t second-guess it.

“This experience confirmed that I am in the right field of public relations,” Baus said. “I wish it was longer. It was amazing learning about new cultures.”

DeSanto will lead the Travel and Tourism Costa Rica seminar again next January intersession.

By Rachel Flattery

**Costa Rica by the Numbers**

- **3** Tourism groups
- **5** Costa Rica students
- **10** PR students
- **14** Days in Costa Rica
- **2,961** Miles from Manhattan to San Jose
Before Her Time

Velma Carson never lost sight of her ambitions, despite being denied her college degree.

During a time when women earned only an estimated 19 percent of all college degrees, Velma Carson refused to let Kansas State Agricultural College make decisions for her, even when that meant leaving the school with four years of education, but no diploma.

Born in 1896, Carson grew up on the outskirts of Morganville, Kan. The daughter of small-town farmers who encouraged education, she enrolled at Kansas State Agricultural College in 1915 to pursue a degree in journalism.

Carson refused to entertain the idea of an “average” college career, even by male standards. While at K-State, she was involved in Theta Sigma Phi Journalism Society, the Ionian Women’s Literary Society, the Young Women’s Christian Association, Prix Leadership Honorary, and XIX Outstanding Women Honorary. Carson also served as the editor of the Royal Purple yearbook, staff writer for the Collegian, and as president of her class.

In her last semester, Carson was told by the registrar that she needed to enroll in a three-credit-hour course called “Kitchen Gardening,” a class required for women to graduate during that time. She refused opting instead to take music appreciation, which left her sans a bachelor’s degree.

“It kind of gives you a little bit of flavor of the spunk that gal had,” local historian Art Vaughan said. “She was a very outspoken person and one of those people that if you liked, you really liked, and if you didn’t, you kind of kept your distance.”

However, even without a diploma, Carson persevered.

Gloria Freeland, associate professor of journalism and researcher of Carson’s contributions, said Carson’s “against-the-grain” mentality didn’t stop after college.

“She worked with Margaret Sanger from Planned Parenthood and passed out pamphlets when she probably could have been arrested for that,” Freeland said. “She also helped unionize Pullman porters. Some people in Clay County would have called her a communist probably because she was so radical for the times.”

Carson applied her journalism knowledge and skills acquired in the classroom in a multitude of ways after leaving the school, publishing articles in various magazines and newspapers across the nation, including the New Yorker, Harper’s and a journal titled “Independent Woman.” However, in many publications, she chose to write anonymously or under pen names since the content she covered would not have been accepted, had the public known it wasn’t written by a man.

“In every sense of the word, Velma was an artistic type,” Vaughan said. “She preferred writing poetry, but unfortunately, that wasn’t the most commercially successful for her. Short stories and advertising copy were the sorts of things that did better.”

However, in 1948, Carson was presented with a creative outlet that allowed her to write poetry, and help others. A little town called Fèves in France, devastated by WWII, was in dire need of assistance, and Carson was determined to make a difference.

“When you’re thinking about Velma, you have to keep in mind that she was a very liberal, progressive thinker in a conservative town,” Vaughan said. “Velma felt strongly that people were people, no matter where they came from, and when people needed help, you should try to help them.”

Carson began attending meetings to gather information about affiliated towns, now called “sister cities.” With the help of a local minister, Carson was able to rally the citizens of Morganville in favor of adopting the town of Fèves and offering support in the form of much-needed food and supplies.

In a letter requesting the assignment of an affiliated town, Velma wrote, “Please find for us an interesting friend—one which needs us, and one which will exercise our growing vision of a world beyond our rim of prairie… We want to test our democracy, learn to accept strangers, and to make peace if possible.”

Once the inhabitants of Morganville were on board with Carson’s vision, she began brainstorming ways to collect money and supplies to send abroad. With her skills in writing and her love of poetry, Carson settled on an idea: Morganville would host a pageant and she would write it.

The pageant, which was about 4,500 words long, described the history and settlement of Morganville. Carson developed the entire
piece herself, completing it in about two weeks. Of the nearly 300 citizens of Morganville, about 150 were cast in the pageant as performers.

On Aug. 7, 1948, the day of the performance, an estimated 3,000 people arrived in Morganville to view the pageant and donate to the Fevès cause. It’s believed that less than half of the people who attended were able to actually watch the show, due to space.

Carson’s pageant raised about $1,000, which, when adjusted for inflation, is equivalent to more than $9,700 today. With this money, the people of Morganville were able to purchase everything from seeds, to soap, and even socks, to help feed and clothe the people. Carson’s commitment to the big picture eventually allowed Morganville to become the smallest community ever in America to form a sister city relationship with a foreign country.

Carson is noted mostly for her self-assurance. Barbara Hart, whose family was close with Carson’s when she was a child, said she remembers her strong presence.

“I didn’t know what all she did when I was little,” Hart said. “I just knew she brought this aura of glamour and sophistication. She was very intellectual and very confident in everything she did.”

Vaughan agreed with Hart.

“I think it would be fair to say she was a character,” he said. “Depending on who you talk to, some people called her a bully, while some people said that she was just strong willed. But, she definitely had opinions, and didn’t have any trouble sharing them.”

Carson received an honorary degree from K-State in 1982 after the head of the music department heard about her forfeiture of a degree in lieu of taking music appreciation. Although her lack of a degree never kept her from success, a letter from Carson to the dean of the college said, “It is wonderful to be getting through school at last!”

Although Carson died in 1984, Vaughan said her memory remains strong in the minds of those whose lives she touched.

“Whenever you ask someone about their impression of Velma, they’re always initially quiet,” he said. “Then, there’s a smile that says she was a force to deal with, she had energy, and she pushed for what she believed.”

By Kaitlyn Dewell

Three journalism students uncover history of a lost town and the rich story of a blooming, international partnership

Charged with the “Lost Towns” project in Gloria Freeland’s “News and Feature Writing” class, seniors Logan Falletti and Mariah Rietbrock and junior Katie Good dug deep into Kansas and K-State history, and unearthed a story bigger than they could have foreseen.

“We were assigned Morganville, Kan.,” Falletti said. “We did all the original research and writing for the article and worked for about two or three months on the story from preliminary research to final edits.”

What they found took them back to 1947 Morganville and the story of a 300-person town with the dream of helping Fèves, a French farming village devastated by World War II.

“It was good practice in finding the story in everything,” Falletti said. “Not a lot was going on in Morganville (at the time) and we had to dig deep for something that would meet our needs. We wanted something that the whole town had participated in and really made a mark on its history. It just so happened that the anniversary of the pageant (written by Velma Carson) was coming up when we came along, so we ran with it.”

The group traveled to Morganville and Clay Center, Kan., multiple times to access records from the historical society and visit the original location of the pageant. They also used Hale Library and the Chapman Center for Rural Studies in Leasure Hall. Their research revealed more about the Morganville residents and photographs from that time, as well as deeper insight into the motivation behind the pageant.

“I found it amazing that the reason Morganville was helping Fèves was that it (American military) had destroyed the French village in the war and wanted to help them out,” Rietbrock said.

At the conclusion of their project, the group published in “The Clay Center Dispatch,” and a four-part radio series on the KCLY program “Up Close Rural.”

International communication with residents of Fèves resulted in a renewed interest in reestablishing ties between the towns. In December 2013, Gérard Torlotting (nephew of Henri Torlotting, a Fèves schoolmaster and distributer of the Morganville-sent items), his wife, son and grandchildren traveled to Morganville for a reception consisting of more than 100 attendees. Among those in attendance were 11 participants from the original 1948 pageant. Leaders of Morganville gave photographs of various locations in the town, while the Fèves visitors shared their own photographs, tea and cookies.

The success of the visit laid groundwork for a more permanent relationship between the towns. Torlotting said he hopes to bring a delegation from Fèves sometime in 2015 to follow up with the solidification of that bond.

“Morganville has significant history that affects the community as a whole – they did great things for Fèves and the cities had an unbreakable bond that the citizens will forever cherish,” Good said.

By Lindsey Staab
Highly Awarded

Breathless and Burdened: Dying from Black Lung, Buried by Law & Medicine
- Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting
- Harvard Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting
- SABEW Business Editors Award
- James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism
- White House Correspondents Association Edgar A. Poe Award

Secrecy for Sale: Inside the Global Offshore Money Maze
- Scripps Howard Foundation Award
- Overseas Press Club Award for Investigative Journalism
- Investigative Reporters and Editors Award

After the Meltdown—Where are they now?
- George Polk Award for Business Reporting

Above The Center Reporting Team with the Obamas last year. Right Bill Buzenberg, the executive director of the Center for Public Integrity. Photos courtesy of Bill Buzenberg
Bored with middle management positions, Bill Buzenberg, a 1968 JMC graduate from Kansas State University, knew he wanted to be the ultimate boss. He wanted to see what he could do with his own organization.

As the current executive director, he has been running the show at the Center for Public Integrity for the past seven years.

"Be careful what you wish for because there's a lot of work in running your own organization," Buzenberg said. "You have to worry about the finances, the marketing, the people you hire and let go. Not just the accuracy and quality of your work. Not just the editorial."

The Center, known for its nonprofit, nonpartisan investigative projects that often appear in well-known print and broadcast outlets, was founded in 1989 by Charles Lewis.

Based in Washington, D.C., CPI is one of the biggest and oldest investigative news agencies in the nation.

“We investigate private and public institutions,” Buzenberg said. “Our job is to look at money, power and influence and figure out where things go awry. No administration likes us.”

Buzenberg stands by the work they do, which is based on data, documents and facts.

“Investigative is the hardest, most expensive and riskiest part of journalism,” Buzenberg said. “It's been cut out of so many places. It takes a lot of people and a lot of time. So, we're helping fill that void.”

CPI does not supply news exclusively with anyone, but they do allow several platforms to use their work.

“We have partners all over the place in all platforms,” Buzenberg said. “TV, radio, newspapers and digital platforms...legacy media and new media...all of it. It's quite remarkable how much the Center's work gets out and the wide footprint it has when we do publish.”

There are two sources of funding for the Center: foundations and individuals. Buzenberg said they do not really take corporate or government money, but instead it comes from the collaborations they do and the partnerships they form.

“Increasingly, international foundations are helping us,” Buzenberg said. “Increasingly, individuals who believe in our work and think that it needs to exist for democracy's sake are helping us.”

A large part of his job is raising the money to keep CPI going strong. Buzenberg said it is an exciting time for nonprofit journalism, but foresees challenges in an increasingly crowded fundraising field.

“As long as we can keep figuring out a way to pay for it, nonprofit journalism will be here for a long time.”

Nominated for numerous prestigious journalism awards this season, he said the impact of their work is the key metric for success at the Center.

“We right wrongs. We set things straight. New laws are passed. Hearings are held. When we can fix something, that's the biggest impact.”

In the midst of all of the Center's accomplishments, he remains faithful to K-State. Buzenberg said being editor of the Collegian was one of the reasons he wanted to run his own investigative center in the first place.

“When you really believe in journalism, you can help change the world,” Buzenberg said. “It's a good thing.”

By Mollie Schaefer
Brad Stauffer is devoted to the mission of education. An '82 alumnus of the A.Q Miller School, Stauffer is the current director of external relations in the College of Education and Human Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The Kansas native has had a diverse career. Although the bulk of his professional life has been associated with school public relations and communications, he got his start in news and sports broadcasting.

Realizing he needed to start somewhere, Stauffer began studying business administration at Emporia State University in 1978. While in Emporia, a job he held at a local radio station led to an unexpected change in plans. Stauffer decided he wanted to pursue a degree in radio and TV. With a long history of K-State alumni in the family, he said the university was the best place for him to take the next step—a step he took after only two years at ESU.

“At the time there were other universities, which will remain nameless, that probably had better radio and TV programs," Stauffer said, "but it was like, for me, there wasn’t really another option."

He enjoyed broadcasting before enrolling at K-State, but it wasn’t until he became a member of the KSD8 campus radio station and began working as a student assistant for the sports information office that he discovered his partiality to sports broadcasting.

Stauffer accepted an offer from KKOY/KQSM Radio after graduation. Shortly thereafter, a more favorable job opportunity arose with a new TV station in Topeka. He was an employee of KLDH-TV until Mother Nature got involved.

“There was a unique situation with an ice storm," Stauffer said. “The tower collapsed from the weight of the ice and since it was a new TV station, they couldn’t afford to keep the news staff on while they were rebuilding so they laid everyone off.”

The disadvantage storm left Stauffer unemployed. He ended up at an ABC affiliate in the Des Moines area a few months later, then jumped at a chance to return to Kansas and work for WIBW TV and radio.

Seeking a change in routine, Stauffer decided it was time to go in a different direction with his career.

“The lifestyle of a sportscaster, or newscaster in general, wasn’t what I wanted anymore," Stauffer said. “You work nights and weekends, there’s no getting around that. Family and friends are important to me and it was just tough to do things ... when you work nights and weekends and that’s the only time they can get together. I decided I’d rather work more of an 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. day schedule and have my weekends and holidays free.”

When an opportunity with a school district in Topeka presented itself, he began his journey in education. The 17 years he spent working for Topeka Public Schools provided Stauffer with great experience.

“I learned a lot about public relations and communications in the education arena and really got an opportunity to grow as a leader,” Stauffer said. “Both my training at K-State in radio, TV and mass communication classes, and my professional experience with radio and TV helped prepare and position me in the job.”

Stauffer said the most notable difference between working in education and broadcasting was deadlines.

“If you’re working in broadcasting, typically on the journalism side of things, you have a firm deadline at least twice a day,” Stauffer said. “If you’re in TV, maybe more than that. In radio, every hour, a couple times an hour, or more. In educational communications and public relations, there are still deadlines but they’re not on a daily basis like they are when you’re putting a show together. Instead of immediate deadlines, there are longer-term deadlines that you can work on over time to prepare a publication, article or website.”

When he started moving up in the leadership ranks in school public relations with the Topeka School District, a group of people who were involved with the Kansas School Public Relations Associated decided to get accredited in public relations through the National School Public Relations Association. He took both a written and an oral test to become accredited.

“I enjoyed the learning aspect of the experience and it motivated me to work on a master’s degree," Stauffer said. “There was a program at the University of Kansas, based pretty much right in Topeka, in public administration and I felt that would be a good fit for me. I wasn’t an educator and didn’t have an education degree, so I knew I wouldn’t get a master’s in anything like that.”
Stauffer's time at K-State paved the way for his diverse career path. He said he is proud to work for an organization, specifically the College of Education and Human Sciences, whose official mission perfectly aligns with his own personal and professional goals; “…dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals, families, schools and communities and to strengthening the relationships among them.”

“It just kind of speaks to my heart and my desire to make a difference,” Stauffer said. “That is what’s so great about our college here at UNL, it really does. The people who go through our programs really do make a difference in those various categories. Whether they’re teachers or nutritionists or fashion designers, they are making a difference in people’s lives.”

Like any job, Stauffer’s position did not come without challenges. His main challenge is determining what to focus on from day-to-day. He developed a strategic communications plan for the college that helps prioritize things and he also worked with the dean of the college to pinpoint the top priorities.

“I’m kind of a one-person communications shop right now in our college so there are a lot of demands on my time and things people would like me to help them with,” Stauffer said. “I can’t do everything for everyone, but I can identify the most important things and focus my energies and efforts on those things.”

He is passionate about providing quality service for the people he works with, meeting the needs of the college and improving the reputation of the college. Stauffer is currently working on renovating and redesigning the college website.

His goals are short-term because of uncertainties about what could happen from year to year or what might become available to him. “I have not been a big goal-oriented person across my career,” Stauffer said. “I kind of let things come at me as they do and try to make the best of them.”

Although his position at UNL requires him to live in Husker nation, he remains proud to be a K-Stater and a huge fan of the Wildcats. “K-State was a great launching pad for me,” Stauffer said. “I enjoy going back to Manhattan to visit and would like to spend more time there. Who knows, I might end up back at K-State someday. Manhattan is a great community and would be a great place to live and work.”

By Mollie Schaefer

Multi-tasking Matthews

Missy Matthews is actively involved with K-States campus and community

Between teaching three sections of Public Relations Writing, being the vice president of K-State’s Social Club and taking care of her two children, Missy Matthews is one busy woman.

Matthews has always been interested in art, design, and writing. During her high school career, she was involved with her high school newspaper, and when she attended Texas Tech, she worked on the newspaper staff as a reporter, section editor, and copy editor, five days a week. Writing has always been a part of Matthew’s life and she said it is important for everyone to write.

“Writing is important no matter what you are doing, it helps to get ideas across and is an important skill to have,” Matthews said.

The first time Matthews taught at K-State was when she finished the semester of Public Relations Design after Todd Simon’s death in 2012. Matthews previously taught the course at Texas Tech and ended up taking the position to be a full-time temporary instructor at K-State, where she would eventually take on teaching all sections of Public Relations Writing.

Although Matthew’s degree is in advertising, she has worked more in public relations.

“My degree in advertising and art helps me remember aesthetics are important, not that form is more important than function,” Matthews said, “but making a brochure, poster, flier that is well designed helps convey to your audience that you are proud of your organization/event, and that the people behind the event have put planning and care into it.”

Matthews has spent most of her career in Texas, using her public relations and advertising skills at different organizations and businesses. For about 15 years, Matthews worked at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History in the marketing department, and then in the exhibits department. In 2007, she worked for a 5,000-member church in the Dallas-Fort Worth area as communications director, creating all internal and external pieces (website, newspaper, magazine, email news, posters, fliers, brochures.).

Aside from taking care of her 15-year old and 8-year old children, Matthews enjoys spending her time at her church, where she is part of the handbell choir. Her handbell choir in Texas traveled in the summer to and performed in 36 different states.

Matthews is also involved with The Kansas State Social Club, which is the oldest faculty club in the United States. As a vice president of the club, she helps put together activities and interest groups for people from all areas of campus to get together. Next year, she will hold the title of president of the Social Club.

By Madison Parr

Missy Matthews posing outside of Kedzie Hall Journalism Building where she teaches and where her office is located. Photo by Jenay Unruh

Update Spring 2014 Brad Stauffer|Missy Matthews  27
James Houck, 1989 graduate of the A.Q. Miller School has done a little bit of everything – on purpose.

“No writer is born with a voice—it develops over time,” Houck said, “You’re going to have to go out and get as many experiences as you can because you’re going to pull from that to write.”

While at K-State, Houck majored in print journalism, hauled hay and competed on the rodeo team. Since then he has worked as an entrepreneur, copywriter, screenwriter, author and director. He calls on all of those experiences in his novel “Ketchup Soup,” published in 2011.

Since graduation, Houck has made a living as a writer, which he admits is no easy task. His best piece of advice for young writers is to get used to the word no.

“Get comfortable with rejection,” Houck said. “Only the massively lucky or extraordinarily talented get to rush through the process of becoming a writer. There’s a lot more upfront work and failure than most people realize.”

Growing up on Rock Creek Ranch, a fourth generation homesteaded cattle ranch just outside of Council Grove, Kan., Houck said he is no stranger to hard work but was completely unprepared for how difficult post-college life would be.

He even suggested a college course where a writer tells students about the harsh realities of writing for a living.

“I’ve lost houses and done all that stuff. It’s not cool,” Houck said. “That glamour dims and it’s grim.”

Part of the difficulty for Houck is constantly renewing his career.

“A writer is a serial entrepreneur,” Houck said. “A writer starts a new business every single time they write something … It’s not for the meek.”

Some might consider Houck’s transition from a hay-hauling rodeo man to published author a strange one, but he credits his Kansas roots for a large part of his success.

“Hauling hay in the summers, building fences when it rained and when we couldn’t put up hay, pounding post holes in flintrock with a sharpened ax, they all made me learn to appreciate Kansas and want to see everything and seeing everything is what gave me experience to write something,” Houck said.

Houck started writing “Ketchup Soup” in 1990 and chipped away at it, off and on, until it was published in 2011. He was waiting for the right time, when he was a savvy enough writer to articulate the image in his head.

“It takes a long time for a writer to really learn how to say what he or she is feeling in the gut,” Houck said, “because you know that somebody else is going to read it someday and judge you by it.”

Loosely based on Houck’s own experiences as a young writer in New Orleans, “Ketchup Soup” follows a young man, James Reichardt, an energetic and somewhat delusional copywriter working at an advertising agency. Like Houck, Reichardt is a Kansas native discovering the underbelly of New Orleans for the first time.

“I strove to capture that unavoidable loneliness and natural need to build a network of friends that any young person experiences when they move to a new place where they know nobody and are alone,” Houck said.

Houck said the sales are humble thus far, but the good reviews the book has gotten are what make it worthwhile.

He is living in Miami, Fla. with his wife and two daughters while he works on other projects including his second book, “Heart of Sand.”

By Marcella Brooks
Reader reviews are in

“Ketchup Soup is 77 parts comedy with a generous dose of eccentric New Orleans life. It is an entertaining fast-moving story written with a unique rhythm and full of unusual prose, a winner for any Hunter S. Thompson fan...”

- Terry Marshall

“This is the most entertaining book I’ve read in quite some time. I laughed aloud from cover to cover. Mr. Houck has a very fertile imagination (I hope. There’s some speculation that the book is autobiographical, which is kind of scary...).”

- Don Alford

“It took me the first chapter or so to get used to the odd rhythm of this book. But once I fell into the groove though, I strapped myself in and laughed out loud at the peculiar characters and absolutely absurd reality he lives through. The writing does an amazing job of conjuring the humidity and smells of New Orleans.”

-Aiden Donnelly

Reader reviews from amazon.com
Meet the Millers

Family gives back to university where they got their start

Bill and Debbie Miller have spent their lives connected to Kansas State University and the A.Q. Miller School, even though they are not related to the school's namesake. Today, they're helping students follow that same purple path.

Debbie graduated in 1975 with a degree in journalism and Bill graduated in 1974 majoring in journalism and wildlife biology. Ironically, it was a technicality that guided Bill to become a journalism major.

“I learned about an Outdoor Writer Scholarship, but only students who were majoring in wildlife biology and journalism could receive it, so I had to enroll in a journalism class,” Bill said. “Had it not been for that scholarship, I would not have majored in journalism and, more importantly, would not have met Debbie.”

Now married with two children, Bill and Debbie started dating while working for Student Publications, Inc. in Kedzie Hall, a place Debbie referred to as her home during college. Both reporters for the Collegian, Debbie began their relationship by inviting Bill along on an assignment.

“I was assigned to cover a concert for the Collegian and invited Bill to go along with my extra free ticket,” Debbie said. “A cheap first date.”

They credit K-State for giving them the tools necessary to succeed in their careers. Bill is the vice-president of communications at a beef marketing company, U.S. Premium Beef, and Debbie, a writer for Midwest Living, a publication she helped start.

Bill and Debbie stay connected to K-State by serving on the JMC Advisory Council. It was their time spent working as student journalists at the university that jump-started their careers.

“Bill and I have always credited K-State for our opportunities and careers in journalism, and felt it was time to give back so others can have similar experiences,” Debbie said. “We’re both involved in mentoring and Big Brothers/Big Sisters programs and that has opened our eyes to the reality that many youths don’t have the support, whether socially or financially, to attend college.”

Their generosity began five years ago when they set up scholarships for several colleges at K-State, in the form of a life insurance gift. A few years after that was in place, they decided it was time to directly help current JMC students, hence the beginning of the Debra D. Leckron-Miller and William J. Miller Scholarship.

“Two years ago, we did an endowed scholarship for journalism which helps a student, each year, defray some of their college costs,” Bill said.

Bill and Debbie have asked for the journalism faculty’s help in selecting the recipients of their scholarship based on academics and involvement. They both believe in the benefits of higher education and know many students cannot afford to go to college.

“We’re hoping our contribution will let students experience the same passion, encouragement and success that K-State gave us and our two daughters,” Debbie said. “We’re so happy to be able to give back to an institution that our whole family takes pride in and a place that we credit for where we are today.”

One of their daughters, Christina Miller, was the keynote speaker at the annual Honors Banquet on April 25. The banquet brought together students with their donors and allowed students to meet the people who have lightened their financial burden.

Christina graduated from K-State in 2012 with a degree in advertising and a minor in leadership studies and now works for VML, a full service digital marketing and advertising agency, at their headquarters in Kansas City, Mo. She also serves on the JMC Advisory Council with her parents.

“I was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship through the journalism school all four years while at K-State,” Christina said. “Now as an alumna, I am doing what I can to give back to the school through serving on the Advisory Council and staying connected to professors and current students. As a recent graduate, I am passionate about helping current students prepare for what’s to come after graduation and provide advice for landing an internship or their first job.”

Both Bill and Debbie have memories of attending the Honors Banquet as students. For them, having Christina as a speaker at the banquet brought things full circle.

“I have such fond memories of attending the awards banquet, alongside my parents, when I was a journalism student at K-State. We had that same honor when Christina was a journalism student, and we watched her accept her scholarship,” Debbie said. “Now, today, we are attending that same banquet, where Christina will be the featured speaker, just two years after she was one of the students sitting in the crowd.”

Bill said part of what made Christina an instrumental speaker at the banquet was her relatability.
“I’m thrilled they chose a recent graduate to speak at this year’s banquet because I believe students will relate to someone more nearly their age who has just gone through what they are doing. I’m really proud of what Christina has accomplished in her short time since graduating,” Bill said.

Being fresh out of college, Christina has career experience to share but still remembers what being a student was like, including the importance of obtaining financial assistance.

“It’s what makes education possible for many people,” Christina said. “It can help take the burden off of students. Being a scholarship donor lets people like my parents continue to stay connected to the school. They love it. They’ve become close to the students they’ve given scholarships to.”

Bill and Debbie have met the recipients of their scholarship at previous honors banquets. They try to keep in touch, even sending a care package during finals week to continue showing their support. Cameron McLaughlin, freshman in journalism and mass communications, was awarded Bill and Debbie’s scholarship in 2013. McLaughlin said the Millers are instrumental in her success at K-State.

“Bill and Debbie have always gone out of their way to check in on me,” McLaughlin said. “I think it’s really important to have donors like them to make the JMC school feel like a family. Bill and Debbie not only helped me settle into my first year here but helped make it possible for me to come to K-State in general. I’m so thankful.”

Bill and Debbie enjoy watching their recipients mature and they like to see how students succeed after graduation.

“Meeting and helping young people who are passionate about a career in journalism is our reward,” Bill said. “It’ll be even more fun to see what they do after they graduate and start careers of their own.”

By Jacinda Dent
Scholarship Donors & Recipients

Douglas and Lucinda Anstaett
Jacquelyn Forester

Roberta G. Applegate
Caroline Fry

Aubrey and Jewel Bilger
Alexander Brase
Stephen Brunson
Kelsey Floyd
Kaitlyn Heier
Leah Hill

Henry S. Blake
Leah Knobel

Mamie Alexander Boyd
Anna Shippy

COHO Digital Media
Daniela Martinez-Serrano

Gomer T. Davies
Elizabeth Reichert

Paul and Rachel Dittemore
Elizabeth Reichert

Dow Jones Minority
Zaldy Doyungan

Arex Ehrsam
Lindsay McNary

Milton S. Eisenhower Jr.
Shelby Brunk
Steven Geist
Michael Stanton

Dr. Mary A. Erlanger
Moritz Cleve
Bethany Quesnell

Andrea Glenn
Kelsey Kendall

Max E. and Jean Hollinger
Jill Applegate
McKenzie Benoit
Courtney Burke
Catherine Caffer
Hannah Condrey
Morgan Elder
Danielle Golway
Elizabeth Heath
Bailey Kaufman
Christy Law
Alexis Leiker
April Lewis
Matthew Maynard
Sarah Menwin
Gianna Misenhelber
Scotland Preston
Sydney Ragan
Alexa Woodson
Samuel Zimmerman
Edwards

Virginia Howe
Maile Widman

Marshall Ice
Caleb Jones

JMC Merit Scholarship
James Copeland

Kansas Association of Broadcasters
Tanner Barth
Lindsay McNary

Kansas Professional Communicators
Jacquelyn Forester

Kansas City Press Club
Zaldy Doyungan

Martha and Samuel Logan
Christian Dyck

Max W. Milbourn
Jeana Lawrence

Debra Leckron-Miller and William Miller
Jessica Lopez

Dev Nelson
Aaron Finster

Vivian (Finley) Nolte
Ashley Martin

Fred M. Parris
Leah Knobel

Chester Peterson, Sr. & Ted Lindshield Award
Marisa Love

Jesse W. Priscock
Lindsay McNary

Ellen Warren Roberts
Riley Baker
Kaitlyn Marolf
Emily Moore
Chandler Riley
Sydney Pugh
Kylie Sturgis
Marin Willis

Leon Sanders
Katie Good
Bettie Merrill Seitz
Kaitlyn Dewell

Society of Collegiate Journalists
James Copeland

Carol Stiz-Pelser
James Copeland

Sullivan, Higdon and Sink
Soumitra Kandlur
Reghan Tank

Jaconette L. Tietze
Alex Achten
Rachel Boyce
Cheyanna Colburn
Jacinda Dent
Rodney Dimick
Logan Falletti
Jaquelyn Forester
Ryan Haxton
Jessica Hermesch
Ciara Holt
Alyvia Kreitolw
Alexandra Lessard
Courtney Liebl
Kristen Lyne
Lauren Meehan
Brennan Mense
Meagan Miller
Kelly Myers
Jessica Pearson
Maria Penrod
Kari Porter
Alyssa Smith
Kaylee Smith
Tate Steinlage
Clarissa Weers
Joseph Wenberg
Maile Widman

David R. and Janice W. von Riesen
Jennifer Boutte
Kylie Fairman
Emily Grotenhuis
Matthew Harrison
Mallory Heinen
Katherine Johnston
Jeana Lawrence
Morgan Moberly
Daniel Neely
Zachary Phillips
Emilio Rivera
Danielle Shearin
Reghan Tank
Allison Thomas
Mark Vaca

Ronald and Ellen Warren
Anna Shippy
Alyssa Smith

Sarah Watson
Courtney Burke
Carly Dickter

Fred White
Lindsay McNary

Malcom A. Wilson
Daniel Neely

Ernest R. Woodward
Zaldy Doyungan

David W. Wright
Katie Good

Scholarship Donors & Recipients

updatejmc.com
More than 100 students were recognized Friday, April 25 at the annual Honors and Awards Banquet in the K-State Student Union’s main ballroom. There were 44 donors who provided the 120 awards given at the event.

Christina Miller, 2012 alumna, was the speaker.

“If one door closes then another one will open,” said Miller who now works at the advertising firm VML in Kansas City, Mo.

Miller spoke of some of the challenges of getting an internship and about her success after college at VML, named after its founders. She said that though she worried at first about what she could bring to the table, VML valued her insight. Her parents are also scholarship donors.

Professor Vern Wirka was the emcee for the evening, filling the ball room with laughter.

An A. Q. Miller student, Danniel Neely was the opening entertainment and amused the guests with jokes pointed at the students and faculty in the crowd. Gloria Freeland, assistant professor and director of the Huck Boyd National Center for Community Media and chair of the Scholarship Committee, was in charge of the event and made it a memorable evening for the students, faculty and parents in attendance.

These awards are important to the students who receive them because they are directly applied to their education fees.

“Winning this scholarship means so much to me and my family, and I’m so thankful to be given this gift,” said Jennifer Boutte, a senior in mass communications.

Students had to apply for these scholarships in the beginning of the semester, and with the application due Feb. 3, the wait to learn if they had earned a scholarships was long.

Matthew Harrison, a junior in journalism and mass communications found the application process daunting. “The application took so long and I felt so underprepared that I never thought I’d be receiving one tonight,” Harrison said.

The banquet ran smoothly with recognition of new and old staff members. All of K-State’s student run radio, TV, and newspaper media organizations were represented in the awards presented along with the many thousands of dollars in scholarships.

By Kelsie Johnson
The collaboration of three classes and professional mentors allow students to gain real-world experience and reach beyond the classroom to alumni of the A.Q. Miller School when Update magazine is published each semester.

Andy Nelson, R.M. Seaton professional journalism chair, and the journalism and digital media sequence chair, has been involved with Update magazine since 2010, when he taught the class that produces the alumni publication for the A.Q. Miller School. Currently, the photojournalism class he teaches serves as the photo staff for the publication.

Nelson said one of the most important aspects of the publication is students seeing how the real world functions.

“It’s always tricky when there is coordination between different classes and people, but that’s how it works in the real world,” Nelson said.

As a 1975 alumnus, Nelson brought experience to the magazine through his students. Nelson said his students are taught to put their best foot forward.

“I always hope that regardless of the publication (students) bring the best quality of their work,” Nelson said. “You have to understand you have to give 100 percent every time you go out.”

Jacinda Dent, editor in chief of the Spring 2014 Update, and junior in journalism and mass communications, said she was excited to begin the semester with her team, who worked throughout the semester.

“Overall, I hope to make a product that represents our great school as well as we possibly can,” Dent said. “I want to make sure that alumni know how important they are to us. It’s great to be able to make a product surrounding them and their successes.”

Along with the production of the magazine, the magazine and feature writing class creates blogs, writes features and submits a final project to a potential publisher.

While the classes primarily work with their instructors and peers, the students develop a mentoring relationship with professionals within the K-State community as well.

Steve Lee, co-owner of S&N Design, brought his experience with alumni publications to Update magazine this semester. Although it is his first time working with Update, Lee said he hopes to bring more creativity to the publication through a design style, which will transition from print to web.

“I think that print is becoming a lost art,” Lee said. “Design transfers from print to web. The essence of design doesn’t change at all.”

Lee said he is eager to help students learn more about publication design. He said if he can help make the publication communicate with alumni successfully, his job has been fulfilled because communication is the key.

“There are many ways to communicate,” Lee said. “Writing is one of them.”

Lee said Update communicates with alumni through writing and design and his job is to help enhance the communication between the two.

“I’m trying to make communication clearer, the story more compelling and make (readers) come back for more,” Lee said.

Clear communication with the alumni isn’t limited to the print version of Update. For the last three semester, a student in the Web Techniques class helps design the online version of Update.

Although Update has had an online presence since 2008, collaboration with Kelly Furnas’ class beginning with the Spring 2013 issue has helped Update tackle the world of digital media while giving web students an important outlet for their work.

“For the past two semesters we’ve had a student in my class take on Update as a project,” Furnas said. “The final assignment is actually creating, from scratch, a website.”

While some students create personal profiles or take restaurants as clients, in the past year a student from Furnas’ class has taken Update magazine as a client. Prior to 2008, Update was only downloaded in PDF format onto the A.Q. Miller School’s website. Furnas chooses not to give the students too many guidelines on their websites and allows the students to come to him for advice.

“My role is not being the one that says the website needs to look like ‘this,’” Furnas said. “I want to give the students freedom and empowerment to do their own work.”

By Maria Betzold and Kelsie Johnson
Above Employees of Ag Press watch as the printing press finalizes the project it’s working on. This is one of many steps the magazine takes during production. Left The A.Q. Miller School’s magazine and feature writing class has been working on Update since January. The students and staff worked every Tuesday and Thursday during the past semester. Photos by Marcella Brooks

From the staff

“It was cool that we were all inexperienced. The photojournalism class gets to submit photos to a real publication.”

-Marcella Brooks, photo editor

“I enjoyed being a form of communication between the JMC School and alumni.”

-Austin Nichols, staff writer

“It’s good to get hands-on experience in magazine production because it is an area I hope to succeed in one day.”

-Shelby Brunk, design editor

Tom Carlin

Alumnus guarantees Update printing quality

Among the people who contribute to Update magazine, Tom Carlin, owner and general manager of Ag Press, has one of the most crucial roles.

Carlin, a 1972 alumnus, is involved in the printing, publishing and distribution of the magazine when it is complete in pre-press form.

Ag Press is a full-service printing facility, opened by Dean Coughenour in 1954 in Manhattan, Kan. The company prints everything from calendars to catalogs. In 1986 Carlin took over the management of the company.

According to Carlin, the most important part is to be on the same page as the magazine class producing Update.

“The key part is matching what the class has approved,” Carlin said. “That’s why it is important for the artists to be here.”

For more than 10 years, Carlin’s involvement with Update has added a special touch to the magazine. Carlin said he reads the magazine while it is on the production line.

“I take an extra personal interest in that job and make sure everything goes well with Update,” Carlin said. “If there are problems, they are caught by the artists.”

Carlin said although he has never personally averted any mistakes, he is proud of the artists involved because of their role in the publication’s success.

“Artists make sure top quality is achieved,” Carlin said. “It helps that I have a personal interest.”

Most of Carlin’s business with Update involves working alongside the students. This is in addition to the students’ time spent communicating with alumni and working with other classes to develop content. Carlin said he was excited Andy Nelson, R.M. Seaton Chair and digital media sequence chair, is still involved through photojournalism.

“I think K-State has always had a strong photojournalism aspect,” Carlin said. “Andy has always made a strong contribution through his students.”

When the magazine class completes their initial design of the final product, the files are sent to the artists at Ag Press. The files are sorted and double-checked for any inaccuracies or problems.

Once the artists approve the files, they print proofs to show the magazine class, on paper, what the final product will look like. This is the final viewing for the class. The next time the students see the magazine, it will be on the presses.

The last step in the process is addressing labels before the publication is sent to 5,500 alumni and friends.

By Maria Betzold
1969

Laura Scott, Technical Journalism

lives in Fairway, Kan., where she owns Laura Scott Communications. She works as a communications consultant to non-profit organizations.

She graduated from K-State with a degree in technical journalism and later received her master's degree in political science. Scott said her fondest memories are of working on the Collegian during most of her time on campus.

1975

Peter Faur, Public Relations

worked at Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. and earned several IABC Gold Quill Awards for the company's publication, Enterprise, is now the vice president of a corporate communications business called Phelps Dodge Corporation. The company is based out of Phoenix, Ariz., where he also runs his own consulting firm and lives with his family. He has been married to his wife Pat for 38 years and has two children Kate and Isaac.

Faur's favorite memory from attending K-State is meeting Gordon Parks, a native Kansan and one of the 20th century's greatest photographers.

1978

Tom Bell, Print

and his wife Roxanne also class of 1978, live in Salina, Kan., where he is the Executive Director of Governmental and Public Relations at Salina Regional Medical Center. Bell accepted the position with the Medical Center after being the publisher of the Salina Journal for 14 years, and working for Harris Enterprises, the group that owns the Salina Journal.

"The biggest thing for me has been changing careers," he said. "It's been a remarkable experience."

His best advice for students is to Learn to write. Get experience writing for the Collegian," Bell said. "You'll be doing a lot of writing no matter what you do. Newspaper writing experience is invaluable."

1980

Cindy (Cox) Horchem, Journalism

also received her Masters in Journalism with a Public Relations emphasis and her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction. She teaches journalism and photography at Piper High School in Piper, Kan., where she advises the Pirates' Log Newspaper and The Pirate yearbook.

1981

Craig Bolerjack, Broadcast

lives in Salt Lake City and has put his degree to good use. Play-by-play announcer for the NBA's Utah Jazz, Bolerjack is also in his tenth year calling play-by-play for CBS Sports' NCAA Men's Basketball Championship coverage.

1986

Morgan “Chilson” Rothenberger, Print

owns Exactly Write, a communications company in Topeka. The firm provides ghost writing, brochures, book editing, press releases and business writing classes for clients. They also publish BizManhattan, an online magazine offering internships.

Chilson/Rothenberger remembers the camaraderie of working late nights in the Collegian.

1987

Junette M. Deweese, Print

is a retired journalism teacher who taught for 30 years at Chapman High School in Chapman, Kan., Deweese's journalism programs were known for innovation and cutting-edge technology use. She is retired now and living in Abilene, Kan.

As a student she proofread for the Collegian and worked for Update magazine as a graduate student.

Amber Ray, Print

works at the US Department of Justice as a data analyst.

She says her favorite memory as a student was when K-State beat KU.
1989

Jon Chelesnik, Broadcast helps sports broadcasters advance their careers as a casting talent agent. As a K-State student he remembers traveling with Bruce Steinbrock, Cory Kopsa, and Cory McKee to broadcast Manhattan High School football. “Start working now, it’s a small industry (broadcasting) and you’ll start crossing paths tomorrow with people you’re meeting today. Introduce yourself, stay in touch, and build relationships,” he said.

Joanna Morgan, Print lives in Lawrence, Kan., where she just celebrated 15 years with the World Company—Sunflower Publishing. Sunflower Publishing handles a number of publications including Manhattan Magazine and Kansas Outdoors Magazine. Her favorite memory from attending K-State was when she worked with Wanda (then Haynie) outside of Aggieville with the Collegian staff. She learned the life skills of integrity and kindness that she values and uses daily.

1990

Susan Johannsen, Public Relations began working for EMC Insurance Companies in Overland Park, Kan., in 2013. She and her “energetic and rowdy yet lovable dog—an Australian Shepherd named Gracie,” live in Overland Park.

A favorite memory for Johannsen was attending the Landon Lectures. Her freshman year, then Vice President George H. Bush was a speaker at Ahearn. “It was amazing how they were just able to walk in. You couldn’t imagine doing that now,” she said.

1992

Jeanette DeDiemar, Print said her favorite memory as a student was working as a graduate teaching assistant and watching the students she worked with grow in their confidence and skill set. That experience has served her well as she is now associate vice president of integrated marketing and communications at Florida State University.

1993

Troy Coverdale, Broadcast of Circleville, Kan., said he chose K-State because he could immediately get involved with broadcasting, which led to his work at KSDB the Wildcat 91.9 where he did sports, news and a morning show. Coverdale also wrote a sports column for a couple of years at the Collegian. This experience took Coverdale to Goodland, Kan., Hiawatha, Kan., and Lincoln, Neb. before settling down in Greeley, Colo., where he works as the news and sports director for KSKA. Along with his roles as news and sports director, Coverdale also does play-by-play for the University of Northern Colorado’s football and men’s basketball programs, along with the Colorado Ice, a football team in the Indoor Football League.

Coverdale said his favorite memory at K-State was his time spent in the marching band, which led to him marching in the Copper Bowl his senior year.

Jacqueline (McCain) Kremer, Broadcast does voice work from home in the sound studio she and her husband built from scratch. She also does voice tracks and pre-records radio shows from a group stationed in Mississippi.

She advises “to work in as many aspects, and sometimes they’re free aspects, do anything you can do to get your foot in the door.”

1995

Craig Hacker, Print and Geology is a freelance photojournalist splitting time between Wichita and Kansas City. He has one daughter who is 15 and attends Ottawa High School.

His favorite memory is traveling with Mike Welchhans, Lajean Kene and Erin Perry O’Donnell to Little Rock Ark., to cover President Bill Clinton’s election night party and acceptance speech.

1997

Kristin Brighton, Print is the principal at New Boston Creative Group, LLC, an integrated marketing firm in Manhattan. Her favorite memory for her college days is going on her first date with her now husband, Ben Ward, at Hibachi Hut.
1997

**Sara Smith, Print** is the TV writer for the Kansas City Star, where she also edits and designs pages. She lives in Overland Park, Kan., with her husband, Dave Olsen (a '95 A.Q. Miller School graduate), and their 3-year-old son, Harrison.

She worked for the Collegian and recalls one of her most memorable opinion pieces. “During a major campus construction project, a plywood barricade was put up along the main campus walkway. Soon it was filled with graffiti, and a surprising amount of it was politically shrewd and/or artistically admirable. My favorite was a giant, spray-painted figure of Gargamel from "The Smurfs." Of course, the administration clutched their pearls and took it down for family weekend but didn’t halt construction, so your parents didn’t have to be mortified by crowd-sourced street art, just bombarded with concrete shrapnel. I wrote a strident editorial about it,” she said.

1998

**Nicole Kirby, Print** is the director of communication services for the Park Hill School District in suburban Kansas City, Mo. She is a past National School Public Relations Association vice president and 2005 Missouri School Public Relations Association Professional of the Year. She and her boyfriend, Rob, live in downtown Kansas City with their two dogs.

She said she felt at home when she started working for the Collegian. The lessons she learned and the friends she made there were the most lasting and valuable. If she had it to do over again she said she would commit to her studies as if they were a job.

2001

**Karen Gill, Public Relations** is the community relations and programs coordinator for Newport News Public Library System.

She said one of her favorite moments as a student was when she was asked to model a sari in a fashion show put on by the International Students Association. She said she enjoyed getting to know more about other countries and cultures.

2002

**Paul Arnhold, Public Relations** is the public relations manager at Bushnell Outdoor Products in Kansas City, Mo. Outside of work, his wife and 2-year-old son occupy his time.

Arnhold has served on the A.Q. Miller School Advisory Council for the past four years. He advises students to become involved. “I look back and think ‘I should’ve been a contributor to the Collegian.' That would’ve been great writing experience,” Arnhold said.

2005

**Andrew Zender, Advertising and Spanish** is editor-in-chief of the K-State Alumni Magazine. One of his favorite memories is meeting his wife and playing guitar gigs in Aggieville.

He advises students to “Find a way to combine your passion and your profession. Routines, structure and discipline are all great, but don’t be afraid to explore unfamiliar territory and try new things.”

2007

**Kristen Roderick, Print** is the social media and mobile editor at The Hutchinson News, which entails reporting, shooting videos and keeping up with the social media platforms at The News.

She is also the membership chair for Young Professionals of Reno County. She sends out a newsletter once a week and writes press releases when necessary.

She lives in Hutchinson, Kan., with her Cockapoo named Pica. “Yes, he’s named after the measurement,” she said.

2008

**Chuck Armstrong, Electronic Media** is following his dream of programming at Townsquare Media in New York City and is a member of the JMC Advisory Council.

The former program director for KSDB the Wildcat 91.9 and sports column writer for the Collegian now oversees all programming for more than 300 radio stations in more than 60 markets throughout the country.

Armstrong said he will never forget sitting in the studio at KSDB, which led to awards from the Kansas Broadcasting Association.
2011

**Don Bolerjack,** **Broadcast** is a reporter at Kansas First News. He was a journalism and mass communications major with a focus in electronic media. Bolerjack remembers his favorite memory while at K-State as being a reporter for Channel 8 News, the student-run broadcast.

**Ellie Long,** **Print** works as an implementation specialist for Uhlig, LLC. in Lenexa, Kan.

One of her favorite moments as a student was celebrating K-State's basketball win over KU in Bramlage Coliseum and then in Aggieville.

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**Kelly McHugh,** **Print** is a freelance writer and works with K-State Athletics and K-State HDTV. She was sports editor for the Collegian and loves K-State sports.

**Mark Kern,** **Print** of Winchester, Kan., started his career in Cleveland, Ohio, where he provides coverage of high school sports for Cleveland.com and the Plain Dealer.

Kern also worked two years with KSDB the Wildcat 91.9. Kern said his favorite memory of K-State came during the 2013 football season when the Wildcats beat the Texas Longhorns for the Big 12 Championship.

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**2012**

**Lauren Gocken,** **Print** teaches journalism, yearbook, newspaper, photojournalism and creative writing at East View High School in Georgetown, Texas. She also runs a small photo business shooting weddings and portraits, called Novi Photo.

Gocken suggests getting involved and doing as many things as you can to bolster your resume. “I didn’t get my job just from my degree. I got my job from working in SPUB for four years, being an editor, getting leadership experience, and traveling to JEA conventions,” she said.

**Shelby Danielsen,** **Broadcast** works for THV in Little Rock, Ark. She recently transitioned from the 5 p.m. news producer to producing more investigative work. “You don’t do your job for the money,” Danielsen said. “You do it because you love it.”

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**2013**

**Nicole Easley,** **Public Relations** is an assistant account executive with Magnetic Public Relations in Las Vegas, Nev. Magnetic Public Relations specializes in fine dining, entertainment and nightlife.

She served as a JMC Ambassador and belonged to the PRSSA organization during her time at K-State.

**Madalyn Radetic,** **Public Relations** of Lenexa, Kan., works on the special events team at Anheuser-Busch. While studying public relations and advertising, Radetic worked in the advertising department of the Collegian and was also a member of PRSSA organization.

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**Farewell to Kessinger**

The A.Q. Miller School lost a friend when Howard Kessinger, longtime editor and publisher of the Marysville Advocate, died Feb. 22 from complications of Huntington’s disease at 82.

After graduating from K-State in 1957, Kessinger worked at several newspapers, including the Junction City Republic and the Abilene Reflector Chronicle, before he became the managing editor of the Oberlin Herald. He bought the Herald with his wife Sharon, in 1965. In 1975, they purchased the Marysville Advocate from Byron and Eulalia Guise and owned it for 37 years. Throughout his career, Kessinger remained a K-State supporter, in particular the A.Q. Miller School and Student Publications, Inc.

“He was both a financial supporter and a very strong advocate for the students and for what they were trying to accomplish,” Ron Johnson, former director of Student Publications, said. “He was also a really strong supporter of staff and faculty, and he was one of the most caring people I’ve ever known.”

Kessinger was president of the Kansas Press Association, a member of the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame, an alumni fellow of the K-State Alumni Association, a member of the Board of Student Publications and the Advisory Council of the A.Q Miller School. He regularly spoke at and attended events at the school, while providing internship opportunities for K-State students.

“He was kind of a quiet man, but very compassionate,” Gloria Freeland, internship coordinator of the A.Q. Miller School said. “(He was) very interested in his community and the community history. He was interested in preserving some of the architecture, and some of the buildings in Marysville. They were very involved in the community as well as having a very good newspaper.”

Kessinger contributed local and national columns for the paper, each with emphasis on the community. When he and Sharon retired in 2012, their daughter Sarah, who worked several years at the Advocate, succeeded them, ensuring the paper maintained its community connection.

“He was a pretty strict taskmaster,” Sarah said. “He pushed us pretty hard to work towards high expectations. I think he did the same with the newspaper and his staff. He expected them to work up to a high quality level, but they appreciated him. He was really good about having a great sense of humor, and the staff laughed a lot and had a good time, but at the same time they knew they were expected to put out a good paper.”

*By Randall Hellmer*
J

JMC ambassadors have been selected for next school year. The 12 new ambassadors will join six returning ambassadors. Ambassadors serve as representatives of the A.Q. Miller School. They help with a variety of activities both on and off campus for the JMC school and Kansas State University. Ambassadors are called to be a professional, enthusiastic liaisons between future students, alumni, current students and faculty.

New ambassadors include: sophomores Daniela Martinez-Serrano, Gardner; Jessica Hermesche, Goff; Anna Shippy, Hays; Lindsay McNary, Sabetha; Morgan Huelsman, Whichita. Juniors Sydney Pugh, Olathe, Hayley Lollar, De Soto; Marissa Haake, Olathe; Taylor Russo, Overland Park; Marin Willis, Spring Hill; Zaldy Doyungan, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Returning ambassadors include: Cameron Banning, Madison Debes, Kaitlyn Dewell, Jena Sauber, Justin Smith and Kaitlin West.

M

Many Kansas State University students, 20 in total, were award winners the 2014 Kansas Association of Broadcasters student competition for radio and television programming. Students were recognized for their work with the Wildcat 91.9 KSDB-FM, student radio station, and the Wildcat Watch, student production group.

K-State student winners include:

- James Roberts, first place in complete taped newscast, “Manhattan Tonight”;
- Sarah Laffere, first place in complete sports feature, “Patrick Sweeney-Mileage”;
- Ben Detrixhe, first place in research paper.

Dillon Hayes, first place in complete taped newscast, “Manhattan Tonight”;
- Bill Gurney, honorable mention in entertainment program, first place in complete news feature, “Wildcat Cycles” and second place in complete news feature, “Stealth”;
- Patrick Riggins, first place in promotion event/activity, “Painting Pumpkins.”

Gardner Jordan, first place in complete sports feature, “Patrick Sweeney-Mileage”;
- Clay Pitsenbarger, first place in complete sports feature, “Patrick Sweeney-Mileage.”

Jared Clark, second place in 60-second commercial public service announcement, “RAIN Dot ORG,” and first place in complete live newscast, “Wildcat 91.9” news; Emily Deshazer, second place in complete news feature, “Stealth”; Sean Frye, first place in complete sports feature, “Patrick Sweeney-Mileage”; and Tracey Sealy, first place in complete taped newscast, “Manhattan Tonight.”


Anthony Williams, second place in 30-second commercial public service announcement or donor announcement, “The Pill promo”;


Alex Achten, honorable mention in entertainment program; Tanner Barth, first place in sports play-by-play; John Forsee, first place in sports play by play and honorable mention in entertainment program; Caleb Jones, first place in personality air check; Ben Oas, honorable mention in stations promotion announcement; Rebekah Chmura, second place in station website, “KAB”; Greg Janssen, second place in complete news feature, “Stealth”; and Katie Liebham, second place in complete news feature, “Stealth.”

By Austin Nichols

C

Computer policies, starting Fall 2014, will require students in the A.Q. Miller School to provide their own laptop and will be expected to bring their laptops to class. Universities all over the country are adopting similar computer policies. The Technology Committee researched those policies before forming one of their own.

According to research conducted by the school, 99 percent of students already have laptops. For those without laptops, the school will have a small number of laptops available for rent.

No particular brand of computer is essential, however, the laptop must have the ability to operate Adobe Creative Suite software.
Marlene Franke, administrative officer for the A.Q. Miller School, was presented the K-State Classified Employee of the Year Award, April 30 in the 37th annual recognition ceremony. The award is given out annually to an outstanding staff member on K-State’s campus. Even though Franke has served the A.Q. Miller School since 1992, this was the first time she had been recognized for her efforts.

Director of the A.Q. Miller School Birgit Wassmuth said when she found out Franke had yet to receive such an award, she took it on as a personal goal to shed light on Franke’s dedication to the school.

“I thought, we need to work on this,” she said. “She deserves to be recognized.”

Wassmuth said Franke is deserving of the award for multiple reasons, one of the greatest being her continued commitment to the journalism school.

“She is, in my opinion, such a well-rounded person that has longevity with our school, which I think is a real value,” she said. “She oftentimes is the glue that holds it all together. There’s been changes in administration and there’s been changes in leadership, and she’s been the constant. That’s just very important to have continuity here.”

Wassmuth, who was hired as the school’s director in the past year, said during her first months at K-State, Franke was her go-to person when it came to questions about the program.

“I heavily depend on her still,” Wassmuth said. “She either has the answer right there, or she knows somebody who does. She has great institutional memory and is very helpful for anyone who is coming in new.”

Franke’s position includes numerous duties, from bookkeeping and finances, to maintaining records, paying bills, working with other departments on campus, supervising staff and students, and overseeing human resources issues for the school.

“I just like the diversity of the job,” Franke said. “I do a little bit of everything. It’s interesting because you just never know what your day is going to look like.”

Franke said when she found out she was going to receive the award, her reaction was both surprised and humbled.

“It’s nice to be recognized for what you do, even though that’s not why you do it,” she said. “It’s nice to know that people think that well of me. Even though I’m sure there are many other people that deserve it just as much as I, for the faculty to nominate me and go to all that work is very much appreciated.”

Members of the faculty and the administration surprised Franke with a luncheon in her honor.

“It’s hard to surprise her about anything,” Steve Smethers, associate director, said. “She’s the go-to person for all events and is aware of everything going on in the school. Organizing a secret event in her honor was definitely a best-kept secret.”

Franke added one of her favorite parts of her job is interacting with faculty, staff, and students and helping them in any way possible.

“I like to be able to help people and try to get things worked out when they come up,” she said. “I’ve said when I retire, I’m just going to go work at a front desk somewhere where I can just kind of take care of people’s problems.”

More than anything, Wassmuth said she’s excited Franke has finally been recognized for her work ethic and genuine dedication to K-State.

“I’m glad she was selected,” Wassmuth said. “She is such an incredible role model in doing this job as efficiently and effectively as she has in the past years. I’m very, very happy for her.”

By Kaitlyn Dewell

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Marlene Franke receives Arts and Sciences Classified Employee of the Year Award

By Kaitlyn Dewell

Marlene and Jim Franke enjoy the surprise luncheon the A.Q. Miller School to celebrate Marlene being named the Arts and Sciences Classified Employee of the Year. Faculty and staff provided a potluck lunch, flowers and a cake for the party. Photo by Gloria Freeland
The Staff of Update

Front row Lindsey Staab (copy editor), Jacinda Dent (editor in chief), Shelby Brunk (design editor)
Second row Kelsie Johnson, Marcella Brooks (photo editor), Madison Parr, Linda Puntney (adviser),
Kaitlyn Dewell, Shengyi Wang Third row Randall Hellmer, Austin Nichols, Rachel Flattery,
Maria Betzold (managing editor)