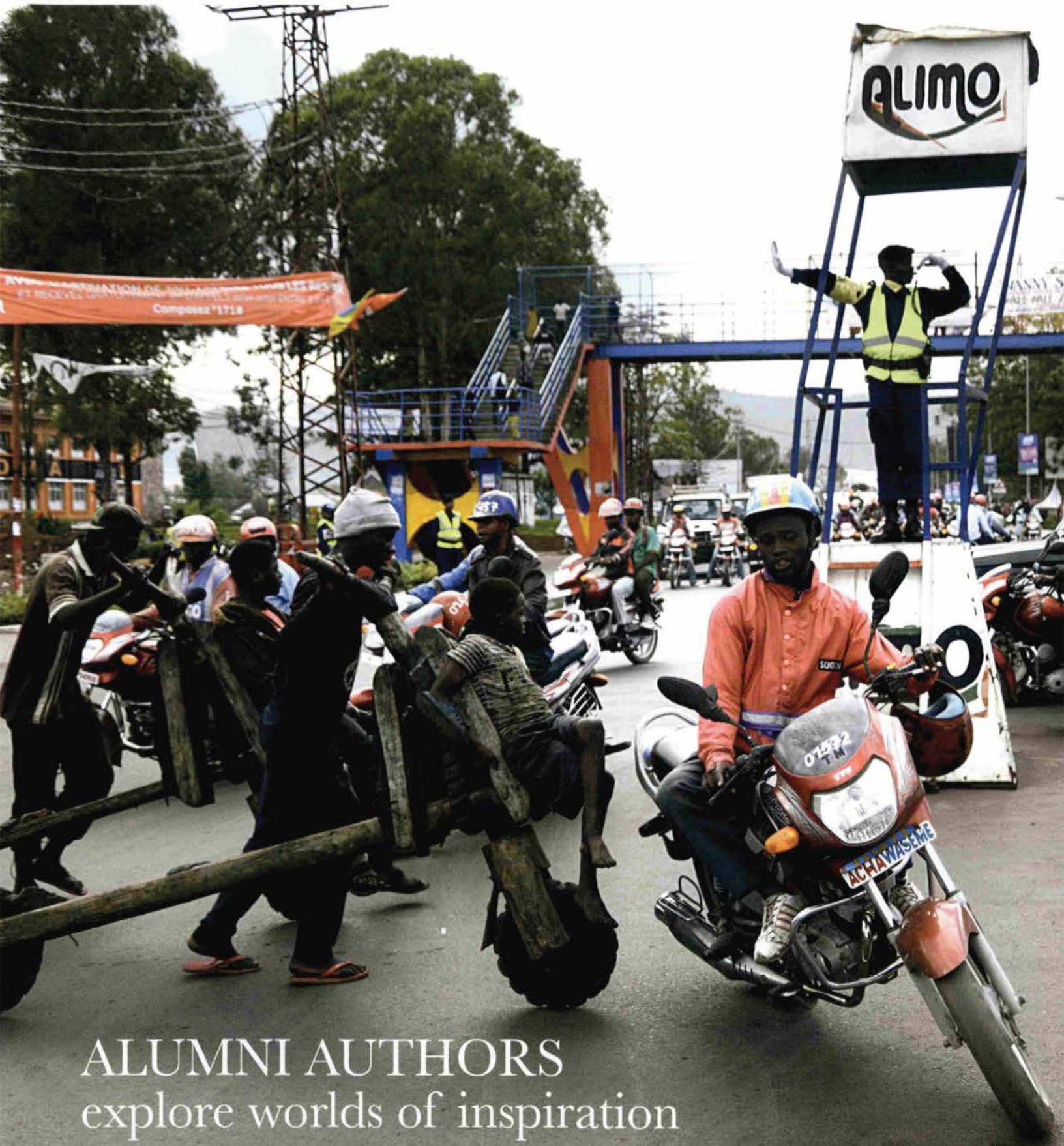


Spring 2017 | Alumni Magazine

Jayhawk Journalist

The William Allen White School of Journalism & Mass Communications at the University of Kansas



ALUMNI AUTHORS
explore worlds of inspiration

Spring 2017

Dean

Ann M. Brill, Ph.D

Editor

Julie Adam

Editing Staff

Erik Nelson

Steve Rottinghaus

Design

Nashia Baker

Garrett Farlow

Photography

Julie Adam

David Guth

Garrett Farlow

Doug Ward

Writers

Nashia Baker

Anissa Fritz

Dayton Hammes

Christian Hardy

Erik Nelson

Printer

James Printing Company

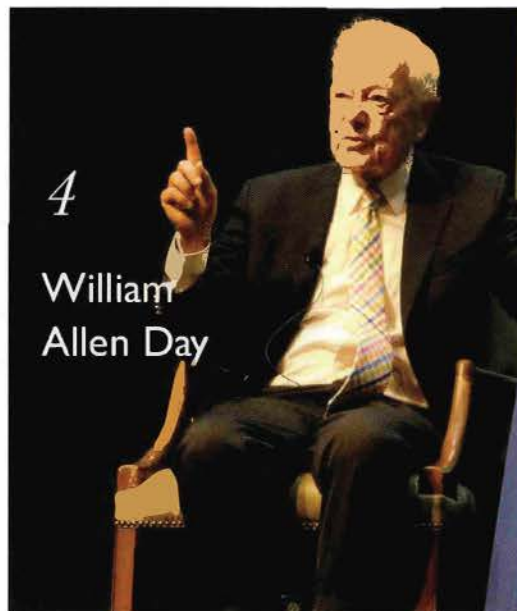
Evan James (MSJ 1978)

William Allen White
School of Journalism &
Mass Communications

Stauffer-Flint Hall
1435 Jayhawk Boulevard
Lawrence, KS 66045
journalism.ku.edu
jschool@ku.edu
785.864.4755

Cover Photo

Street life in Goma
in the Democratic
Republic of the Congo
is the subject of
Gary Smith's new
book "Goma."



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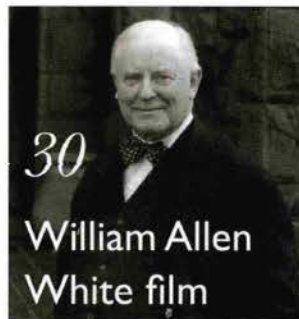
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Sew Many
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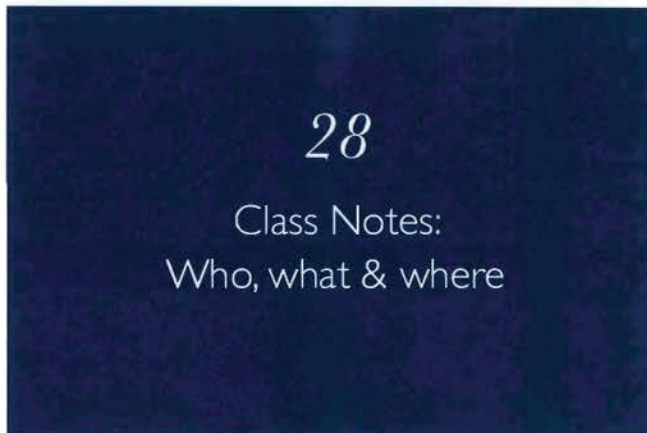
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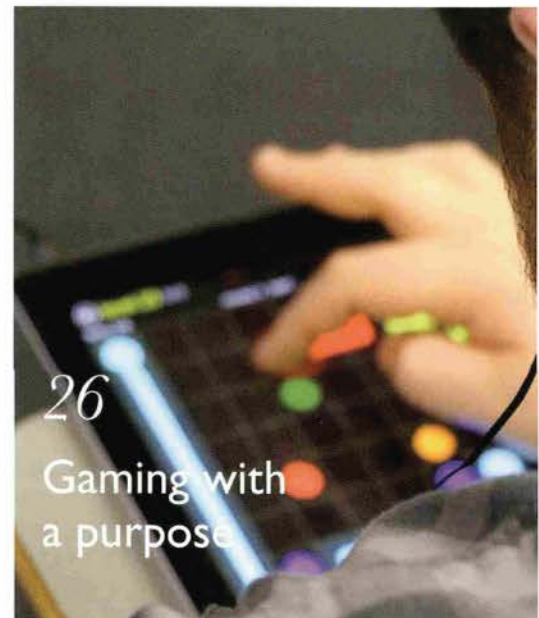
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Who, what & where



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Gaming with
a purpose



The Journalism Student Leadership Board set up a table on Wescoe Beach on April 4 for Hug A Newsperson Day. Board members invited students to take a quiz on fake news and handed out cards with tips on identifying fake news. They also handed out cookies, lollipops and stickers.

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Springtime on Mount Oread always brings changes that we see and sense.

The Chi Omega fountain is again a magnet for picture-taking and spontaneous bathing. Professors are holding classes on the Stauffer-Flint lawn. And the students are looking both relieved and anxious that the academic year is ending. Seniors, in particular, are spending more hours in the Resource Center and professors' offices as they finish projects and realize they need all the advice they can get.

It's a time of transition. I feel pride and sadness when I think of the journalism students who are leaving us, and we think they feel the same way. Each year, KU reports results of a satisfaction survey of the graduating class. Again this year, our graduates rank the highest in terms of satisfaction for their academic experience. We also earned the highest ranking for "I'd do it again!" Those sentiments were noted in our successful reaccreditation process during this academic year.

This year also has seen more than the usual challenges for our students in journalism and mass communications. One example is the emergence of the expression "fake news." I was so proud of our students when they planned a "fake news" event to help other students spot lies, especially on social media sites. Our students gave other KU students a quiz, and those who did well got a cookie; those who didn't got a sucker. And everyone got stickers to remind them to think about what they are reading.

The school also is working with KU Libraries and the Spencer Museum of Art to develop teach-ins, workshops and other events to bring more awareness about the issues of information literacy. Three of our professors are teaching media and information literacy workshops at the Lawrence Public Library. This fall, one of our professors will be teaching a journalism class on information literacy.

When Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little spoke to the Board of Trustees a few weeks ago, she encouraged us to ensure the accuracy and investigative nature of news. Trust in all institutions, she said, is eroding, and it's up to places like KU to help restore public trust through truth-finding and telling.

In closing, I'd like to remind you that the door is always open for you to return to campus. In October, we hope you can come home for our annual J-School Generations event. In spring 2018, various events will celebrate the 150th birthday of William Allen White. Watch our social media and the fall Jayhawk Journalist for more information on those events.

Rock Chalk!

Ann M. Brill
Dean

GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

As J-School graduates, most of us can relate to this experience: you tell people you have a journalism degree, and they immediately assume you are a reporter. And although many of us had plans to become reporters the first day we stepped foot in the J-School, on our last day it turned out that we had decided on one of the many other career options available with our journalism degrees. But for many, even if they weren't reporters, that didn't mean they didn't want to be writers.

In putting together the last few editions of the Jayhawk Journalist, I noticed a theme among the updates for the Class Notes section: many of our alumni had recently written books. So I thought it would be interesting to showcase some of their new books, but I had no idea what a treasure trove it would turn out to be.

One detailed her journey after a horrific injury; one wrote a book about campus safety and college debt; one writes comic books and science fiction. The fiction writers include one who writes Amish romance novels, and other writers draw on their own history and life experiences in their fiction works. And one has published books about his photography from all over the world.

I was quite impressed by these Jayhawk Journalists and the variety of topics that they are writing about. Impressed, but not surprised because I know that a journalism degree can take you anywhere, and if you are an author you can take others there with you. I hope you enjoy the stories behind the stories as much as I did.

Julie Adam
Editor, Jayhawk Journalist

Questions and answers

Bob Schieffer tells journalists on William Allen White Day to keep asking questions and hold the government accountable

Journalist **Bob Schieffer** has simple advice for journalism students and young journalists: Keep asking questions, stay focused, and never assume what the answer to your question will be.

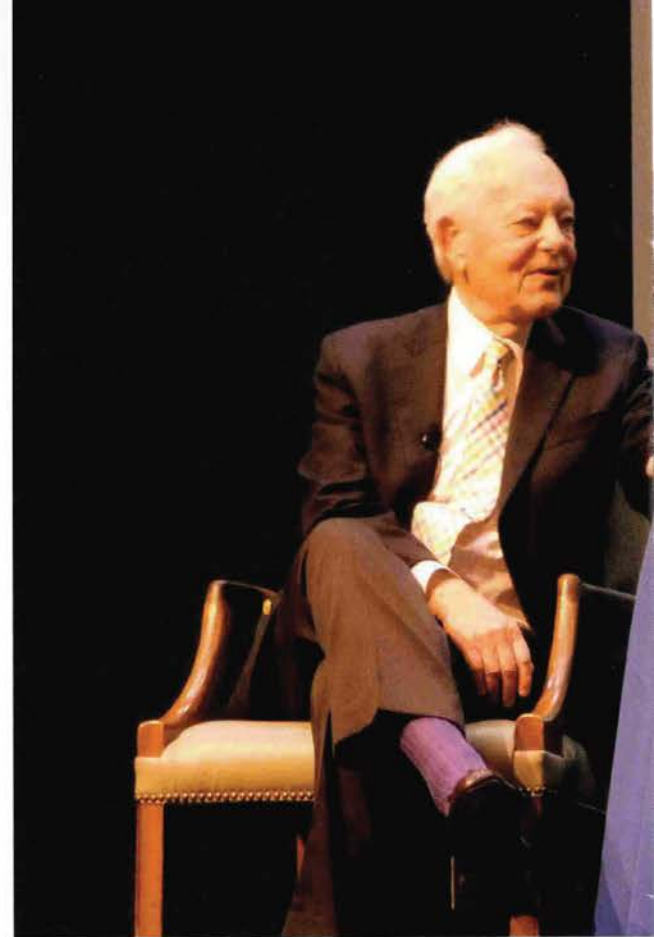
Schieffer, who has worked as a journalist for more than 60 years and many of those years for CBS News, was a special guest for this year's William Allen White Day on April 20. Schieffer traveled to KU to fill in for his friend Charlie Rose, who was the 2017 National Citation recipient but was unable to travel because of his recent heart surgery. The William Allen White Foundation awarded Rose the citation in absentia.

Schieffer had high praise for Rose, whom he called a person of real integrity who has become the one journalist that people want to have interview them.

"Thank you all for picking Charlie," Schieffer said. "You couldn't have made a better choice, and I'm happy to be here to represent him."

In the spirit of the "Charlie Rose" show, J-School junior Jackson Kurtz joined Bob Schieffer on stage for a more informal Q&A discussion instead of a traditional keynote speech.

At 80 years old, Schieffer joked that one of the things that had stuck out about his successful career was that, "I'm still here." On a serious note, Schieffer noted that he was fortunate to have covered big stories such as President Kennedy's assassination, Watergate and the war in Vietnam. He also moderated three presidential debates. However, Schieffer said one of the most fun interviews he has ever done was just a few weeks ago when he interviewed singer-songwriter Willie Nelson.



er Willie Nelson.

Schieffer told the audience that he believes the world is on the cusp of a renaissance in journalism. The technical and digital revolution is having a profound effect on culture, "as profound as the invention of the printing press," he said. "We're getting more information than we've ever had at any time in the history of the world, but are we wiser, or are we just getting so much information that we can't process it?"

Schieffer said the 2016 presidential campaign and election was unlike any he had covered, and he is alarmed about the nature of the messages being disseminated by the current administration in Washing-



TRIBUTE TO GWEN IFILL

Gwen Ifill was the epitome of what the William Allen White Foundation National Citation Award is all about, journalist Judy Woodruff told the audience on William Allen White Day.

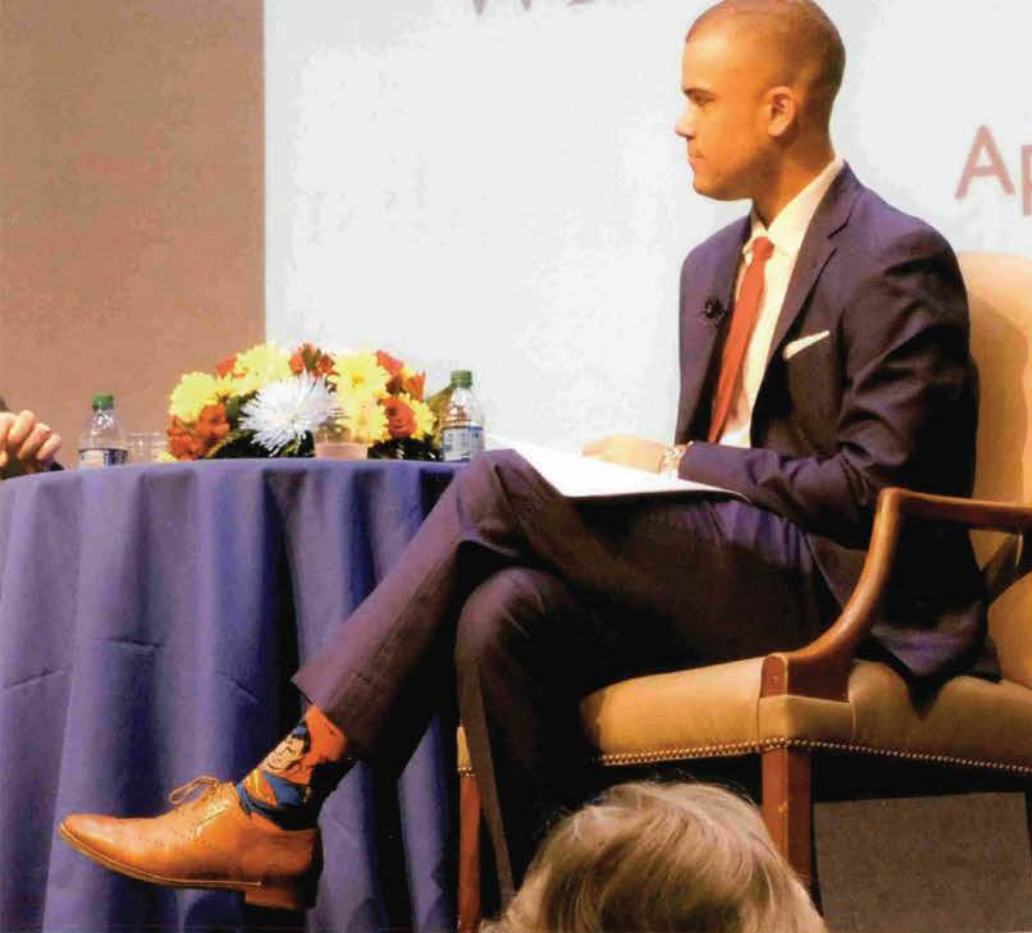
Woodruff, anchor and managing editor of PBS NewsHour, gave a tribute to her friend and colleague, who was the 2016 National Citation recipient. Woodruff said that Ifill was disappointed that she was unable to attend the ceremony last year. She was recovering from a cancer diagnosis but told Woodruff that she intended to visit Lawrence as soon as she could. Ifill died in November 2016.

"I know Gwen is looking down on all of us right now, smiling, and saying, 'I wish I could be here with all of these Jayhawks to say thank you,'" Woodruff said.

Ifill always went out of her way to support other journalists, Woodruff said, especially journalists of color, women and younger journalists.

"She was passionate about reporting," Woodruff said. "She had that curiosity gene that you just heard Bob Schieffer describe that is essential in every journalist. He said Walter Cronkite had it, Bob Schieffer certainly has it, and Gwen Ifill had it."

— Julie Adam



Above: Journalist Bob Schieffer and J-School student Jackson Kurtz participated in a "Charlie Rose" style discussion for the William Allen White Day program. Left: After the discussion, J-School students enjoyed a reception after they were recognized during the annual Scholarships and Awards ceremony.

ton. "What concerns me right now is the credibility of the White House and the credibility of the office of the president," Schieffer said.

That's one reason he urged journalists to stay focused and keep in mind that the difference between a totalitarian society and a democracy is the role of the news media.

"We are there to present an alternative to the government's version of events, and then people can say, 'Well, that's totally wrong or maybe it's half-right or the government's entirely right.' That's fine," Schieffer said. "It's the

role of the government to run the government. It's the role of the press to ask questions about what the government is doing."

His final advice for young journalists was to keep asking those questions. Don't be arrogant. Don't act like the fount of all wisdom or the arbiter of morality.

"We're just simply there to ask the people in power why they do what they do and to give us an explanation so we can explain it to people," he said.

The threads of journalism

Hannah Wise transforms comments and rants about the news into artworks of stitches and fabric

After three days of covering the Dallas protests and fatal police shootings last summer, Hannah Wise, engagement editor at the Dallas Morning News, just needed to unplug.

"When I finally got time off, I didn't want to look at screens. I couldn't get myself to read," Wise said. "I wanted to do something with my hands."

Wise (j'14) realized that she had been so busy with work that she had forgotten to get her friend and co-worker something for her birthday, so she dug out her embroidery hoops, needles and yarn. She and her friend had been laughing about a reader's comment on a recent story, and Wise started stitching.

"So I stitched it up, put some little flowers on it, put it in a frame and gave it to her," Wise said. "And Sew Many Comments was born as just a kind of coping mechanism for myself and my colleagues."

Sew Many Comments is Wise's Instagram account that showcases her journalistic embroidery. Wise takes comments about the news or journalism, stitches them into artwork, and shares them on the account, which has more than 1,200 followers and counting.

Wise creates her designs first in Photoshop,

makes adjustments, and then prints them out and traces the designs onto fabric. Then, she starts stitching. She said she keeps the designs simple so that each piece doesn't take too long — an hour or two. Once she is done stitching, the artwork is already ready for hanging because Wise thinks the little wooden embroidery hoops are a perfect frame.

"The comments can be really funny and really ridiculous but also really true, and so being able to immortalize some of those in fabric is a really fun thing to do," Wise said.

One of Wise's most recent designs says "Journalist: Enemy of the American People," a comment inspired straight from the president of the United States. That design has proven popular, and Wise sold 10 of those on an Etsy page that she created to market her art. She made that design available in a limited quantity, and she sold them for \$25 each, which covers the materials and her time. Other designs have sold for as high as \$50.

Wise is also planning to start selling her patterns on Etsy and to start offering stitch instructional videos.

"For my sanity, I keep it pretty limited," Wise said.



Hannah Wise

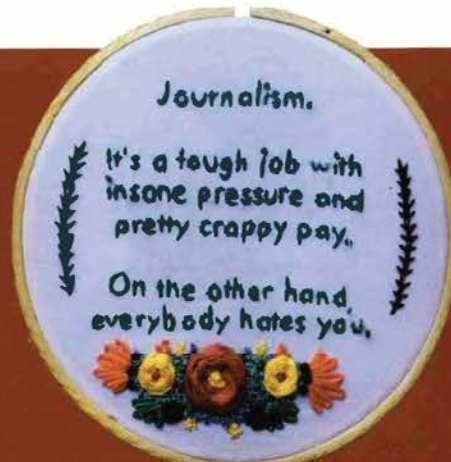
After all, she does have a full-time job and she spent five days at the Poynter Institute in February. Out of 300 applicants, Wise was chosen along with 27 other women to attend the Poynter Leadership Academy, a leadership workshop.

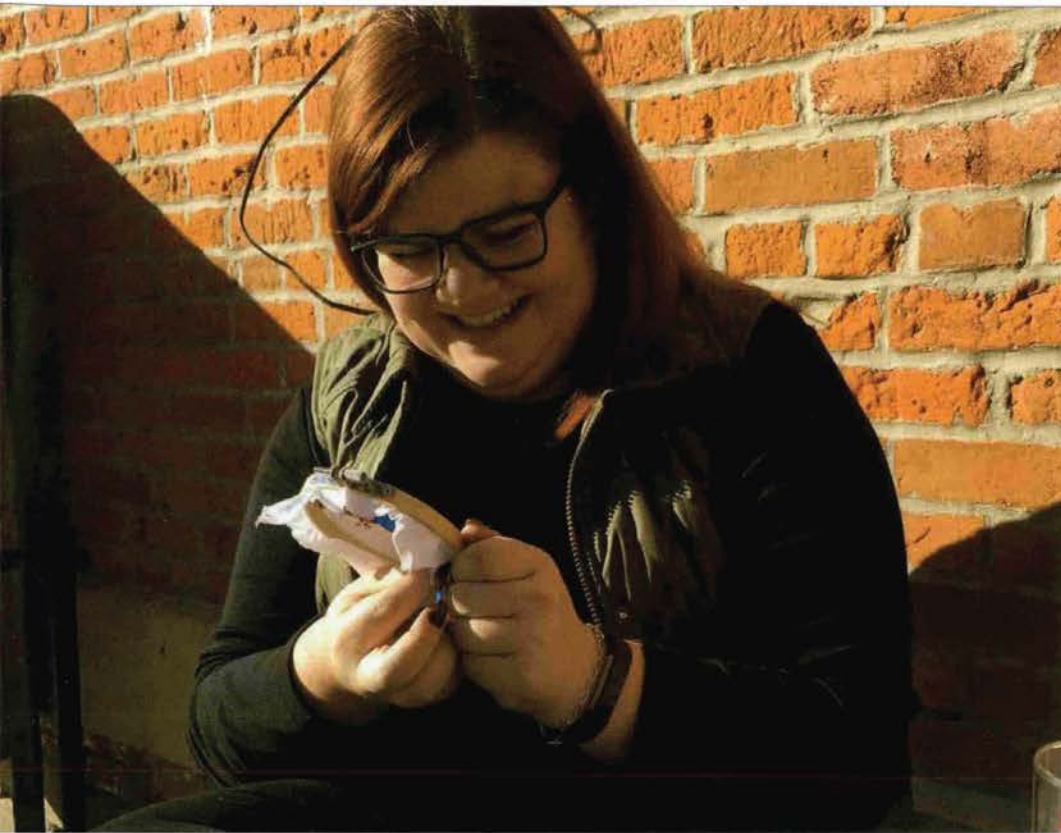
"It really is geared toward helping shape the next cohort of women leaders in digital journalism," Wise said.

Wise shared her stitching skills at another

Sew Many Comments

Hannah Wise's Instagram account, Sew Many Comments, features her journalism-related embroidery.





Hannah Wise says she keeps her pieces simple so that the stitching usually takes only an hour or two.

“The comments can be really funny and really ridiculous but also really true, and so being able to immortalize some of those in fabric is a really fun thing to do.”

recent conference she attended – the Online News Association in Denver for which Wise stitched the logo. Organizers took suggestions about what “un-conference” sessions to offer, and attendees voted on which ones they would like. Wise pitched one on stitching, and it was a winner — 25 conference goers attended and learned how to stitch.

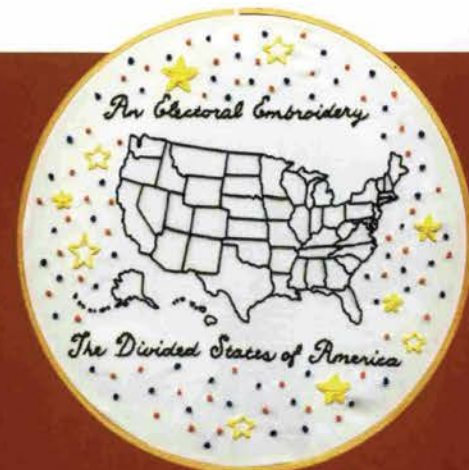
“Now I help people from that stitch things for their newsroom, and they’ll tag me on Instagram and I’ll repost them. It’s really fun,”

Wise said.

Wise even stitched a new logo that accompanied the Dallas Morning News website redesign, but the whole point of her stitching is that it isn’t work — it’s a hobby for her to do something fun and different that she enjoys. She listens to audiobooks or podcasts while she stitches, and she even hosts craft nights with friends and colleagues where they get together and work on their different projects and chat.

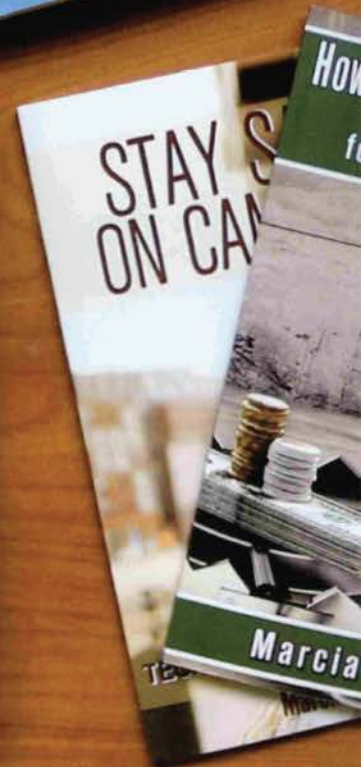
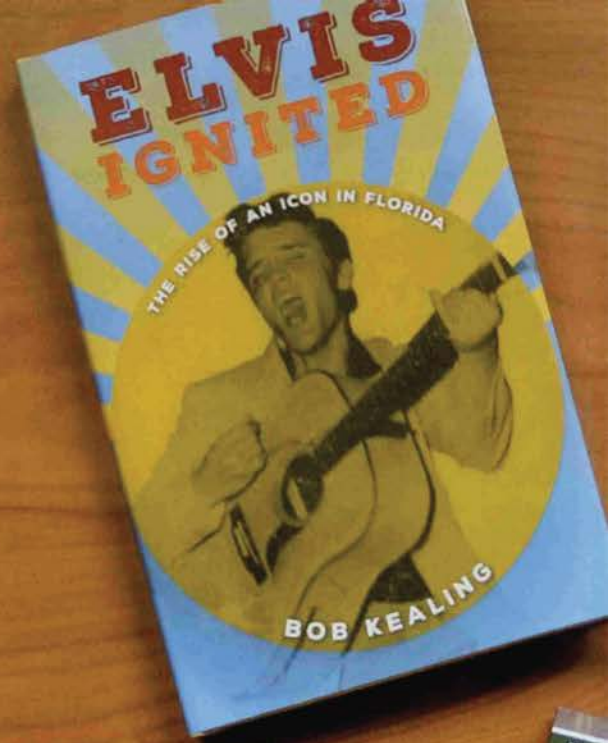
“Journalism is a really tough career to go into,” Wise said. “It’s really demanding, and so I think that having a relief of some sort — my colleague does triathlons and I do sewing and yoga — just being able to practice some care in this way is an important thing for working journalists but also for students to learn how to do.”

— Julie Adam



Jayhawk Journalists have
found space on the bookshelf

Alumni authors



*Each book cover is a doorway.
For both the reader and the writer,
it's an escape out of the world in which they live
or an entryway leading to
a greater understanding of it.*



Because those who have studied journalism care so deeply about words and writing, it makes sense that they feel compelled to write. For some, writing is enjoyable, and for others, it's therapeutic. For many, such as J-School alumnus Michael Merschel, writing a book was a life goal. Merschel said he gave himself a deadline – if he did not write a book by age 45, he'd have to stop calling himself a writer. Now, he can call himself an author.

Enjoy Merschel's story behind his book, and our selection of just a few of the many J-School alumni who have written books recently. Perhaps the authors feel the sense of accomplishment expressed by "Little Women" author Louisa May Alcott: "I want to do something splendid. Something heroic or wonderful that won't be forgotten after I'm dead. I think I shall write books."

Stories, pages 10-19

Persevering through the painful detours

Former Miss Kansas Adrienne Bulinski says attitude guided her through personal and professional highs and lows

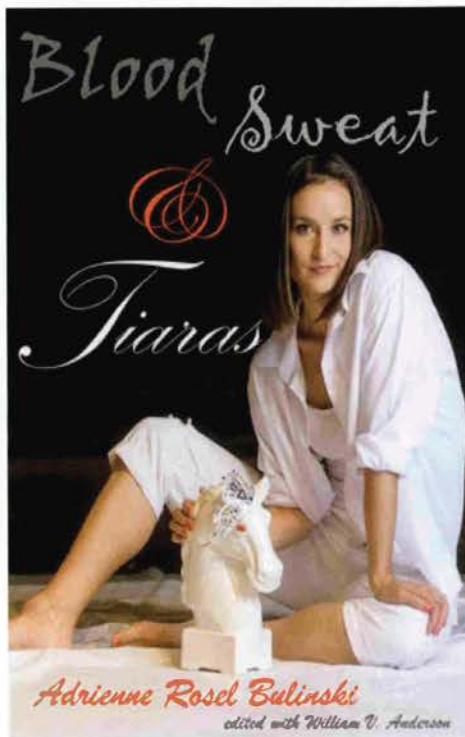
Adrienne Bulinski remembers walking through the halls of Stauffer-Flint Hall the semester she graduated from the J-School. Dean Ann Brill asked her what she was planning to do with her journalism degree. "Nothing," Bulinski replied. She wanted to major in dance, but her dad wanted her to pick a solid degree with skills she could count on, so she split her time between the J-School and the dance and theater department.

Two weeks after graduation, Bulinski landed a job as Miss Kansas, and after that one-year term, she moved to New York to work on her entertainment career. Near the end of a three-month contract on a show in Texas, Bulinski was thrown off a horse and injured her ankle so severely that her foot was nearly severed from her leg.

Doctors removed a measuring cup full of dirt, gravel and manure from her leg. They didn't know for several months whether her foot would have to be amputated. She was 24 years old, and her career and all the plans she had made for her future came to an abrupt halt.

Fast forward 10 years – Bulinski has just published a book about her experience, called "Blood, Sweat and Tiaras." "I sat down to write this book and when people ask me what it's about, the easiest way to summarize it is it's perseverance with attitude," Bulinski said.

She ended up having four surgeries on her ankle. Her pain levels were constantly between a 4 and a 7. Doctors told her she would probably never walk normally again. She eventually had to have her ankle entirely replaced. Her career as an entertainer was over, but the message of the book is the message of how to



"Blood, Sweat & Tiaras" is available on Amazon.

deal with a life-changing event: "Perseverance comes in small steps and you have to conquer each day as it comes, not years at a time," she said.

Bulinski relied on her journalism degree to forge a new career path. The director of the show she had been working on when she was injured told her that whenever she was ready to get back to work, she had a job as marketing director for a new show, "Texas."

Even though Bulinski's only experience with marketing was her senior project at the J-School working on a campaign for Blimpie subs, she took the job.

After a few years working in marketing, Bulinski felt like she could use her story to help



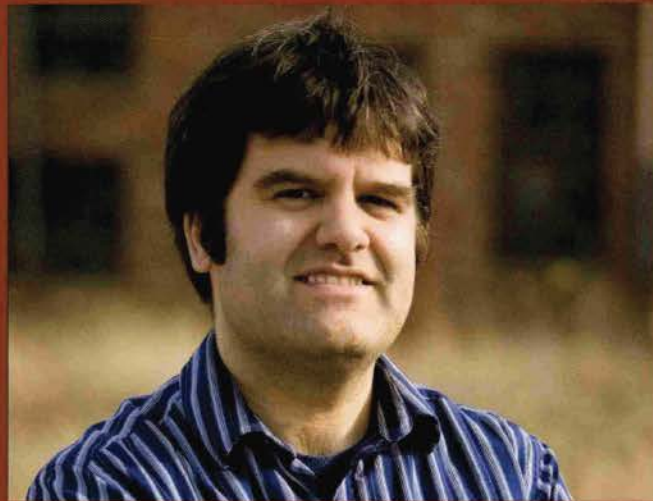
people. She took her experience with journalism, Miss Kansas, and love for the stage and built a bridge between all of that.

"I realized I wanted to get back to what I felt my calling was," Bulinski said. "My life had been so detoured by pain management that I was focused on survival, and once you eliminate pain out of your life, you can look at different opportunities. Speaking and working with audiences always kept coming back to me."

She and her husband own a woodworking shop in the Denver area, and she runs the office.

Bulinski also works as a motivational speak-

FAMILY AND FAITH SPUR LATEST BOOK



A fatal crime spree that involved a family friend inspired Andy Marso to write “The Klinefelter Legacy: A Story of Faith, Family, and Forgiveness.”

But the book's title reveals another inspiration: Marso became interested in the story of how the Klinefelter's family forgave the three men who murdered their loved one.

Brian Klinefelter was killed in the crime spree on Jan. 29, 1996. Klinefelter served as an officer for the St. Cloud Police Department in Marso's hometown of St. Cloud, Minnesota.

“I remembered that event pretty clearly. It was a really big deal in my hometown,” said Marso, a 2004 J-School graduate. “St. Cloud's not particularly big, and to have a police officer killed was really kind of a pivotal thing for the whole community.”

“The more I learned about the story, the more I realized there was a whole lot of positive things that people had worked to bring out of this terrible tragedy.”

Marso said that interviewing the Minnesota subjects while he worked in Kansas was the most difficult part of writing the book.

“I don't know that I would be in a rush to do it again that way,” Marso said.

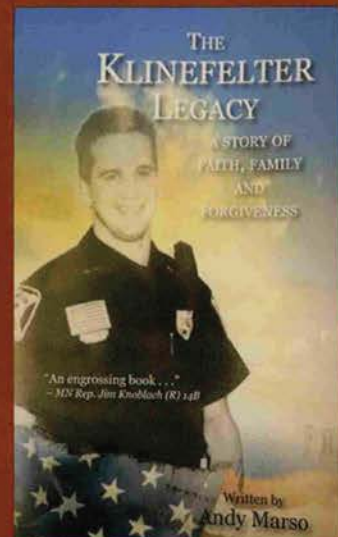
The book, published by North Star Press of St. Cloud, Minnesota, was released in January 2016 to coincide with the 20th anniversary of Klinefelter's death.

This is Marso's second book. His first, “Worth the Pain: How Meningitis Nearly Killed Me — Then Changed My Life for the Better,” chronicles his recovery from a near fatal bout with bacterial meningitis while he was a KU student.

Marso's advice for J-School students is contradictory to what they undoubtedly usually hear: He says not to worry too much about the big picture, such as finding jobs or internships. Rather, they should focus their energy on doing the best journalistic work possible.

— Erik Nelson is a junior from Hopkins, Minnesota, studying news and information.

“The Klinefelter Legacy: A Story of Faith, Family and Forgiveness” is available on Amazon in both a paperback edition and a Kindle edition.



er, talking to audiences from high schoolers to people dealing with major surgeries, and her message on stage and in her book that was published last year is one that can relate to everyone.

“It's really about your attitude,” Bulinski said. “I don't regret anything that happened, and if I had the choice to go back and un-do it, I would not un-do it because it has given me the opportunity to define my character as an individual. So I challenge the reader — what challenges have come into your life and what have you done with those opportunities? Because those challenges are truly opportunities to do something great.”

— Julie Adam

Advocating for safety and savings

Marcia Kelley's books help students and parents navigate the common pitfalls of college campus life



it," Kelley said.

"How to Graduate Debt-Free" is Kelley's second how-to book for college students and parents. Her first book, "Stay Safe on Campus! Tips for Prevention Techniques for Emergencies," addresses issues that parents and students may not think about when searching for the perfect college, including assaults, theft, hazing, drinking, and guns on campus.

Kelley said that families should research campus gun policies and crime statistics to make sure that their children are attending safe campuses. KU will allow concealed handguns by July 1 of this year.

"Some people want their children to carry guns, and if they do that, I definitely would advocate for proper concealed carry training," she said. "If they don't want to carry guns or don't want to be around them, I think the parents of the students need to know that because then they may choose a different school. Maybe that's not something that agrees with their family values."

Kelley graduated from the J-School with a degree in broadcast production. She said the J-School's law of communications class inspired her while she was a student.

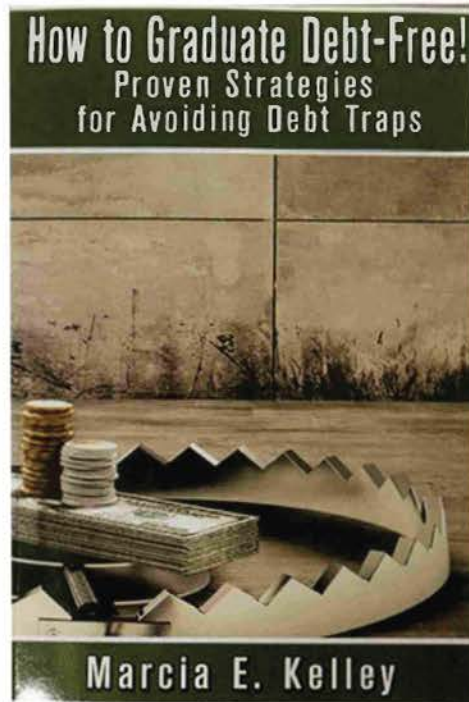
"At that time, that was when Watergate was going on, and we got to take a look at how law can affect communications," she said.

Kelley thinks her books have been successful with the public, especially "How to Graduate Debt-Free."

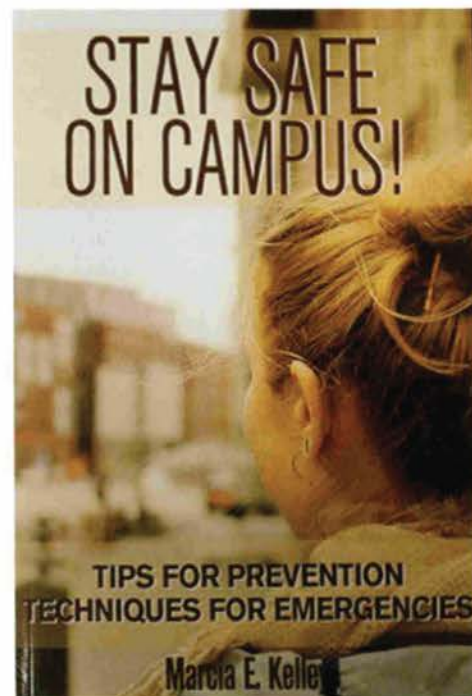
"Whenever I mention to anyone, even people that I don't know, that I've written a book, the first thing they ask me is, 'Well, what are your books about?' When I mention this book in particular, they're always like, 'Oh my goodness! Where can I get that book?'" she said.

"Stay Safe on Campus" was published in 2015, while "How to Graduate Debt-Free" was published last year.

— Erik Nelson is a junior from Hopkins, Minnesota, studying news and information.



Kelley's books are available on Amazon and Barnes&Noble.com.



Marcia Kelley graduated from KU in 1977, and after becoming a mom, she started saving money for her sons' college education. But then, "Life got in the way," Kelley said.

"We ended up using the money we had saved for their college for other life emergencies — medical issues, job loss — things of that nature," she said. "We had to come up with some creative ways to come up with the money because we did not want them to incur a lot of college debt."

Kelley said relatives often asked about her saving strategies, so she decided to share her tips by writing a book, "How to Graduate Debt-Free: Proven Strategies for Avoiding Debt Traps."

"They were like, 'You've done really well with your kids as far as getting them through school without a whole lot of college debt or no debt, and we want to know how you did

Rising star in the Sunshine State

Bob Kealing researches the rise of young Elvis Presley in Florida before the rest of the world met 'The King'

After completing his third book set in the 1950s, "Tupperware Unsealed: Brownie Wise, Earl Tupper, and the Home Party Pioneers," 1987 J-School graduate and award-winning journalist Bob Kealing picked up his laptop, researched Florida's history, and found himself in the '50s once again with the concept for his next book: "Elvis Ignited: The Rise of an Icon in Florida."

"Elvis is universal. And for a lot of people, especially the younger people, a lot of them see him only in his sort of jumpsuit, rhinestone phase where he's almost become sort of a sad caricature," Kealing said. "This is the story of the real Elvis, the young and hungry performer, coming into his own."

Not only was it his breakout state in 1956, but the King played more live shows in Florida than any other state, according to Kealing's research. The book took six years to complete and is filled with stories from various individuals who had opened for Elvis on tour, had romantic relationships with him or had even

played alongside him.

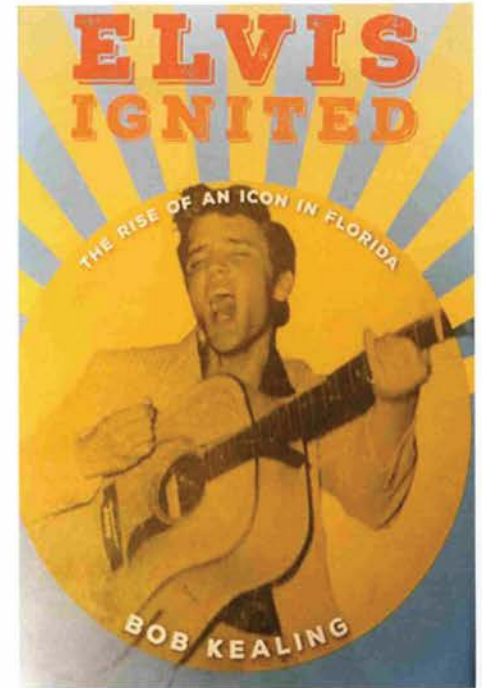
Kealing said he enjoys leveraging his research to make under-recognized or even unrecognized historical landmarks known, such as the Kerouac House, which, thanks to Kealing, is now a national historic landmark.

"It shows that if you harness your research, you can harness history for something new for generations, and it helps tell people's stories," Kealing said.

In addition to writing four books, Kealing has worked for an NBC affiliate in Orlando for the last 25 years. He has won multiple awards, including an Emmy for his coverage of the Orlando nightclub shooting, and has covered iconic cases such as the Casey Anthony trial. Kealing said his time spent as a Jayhawk was the launch pad for his career.

"I may have left the Hill 30 years ago, but it never left me," Kealing said.

— Anissa Fritz is a senior from Dallas studying news and information.



"Elvis Ignited: The Rise of an Icon in Florida" is available on Amazon in both hardcover and Kindle editions.

NOVEL IS A TAKE ON A STRANGE TRIP TO THE BIG APPLE

Donn Hess' main character in his new book doesn't even want the job that he has an interview for in New York; he just showed up for the all-expenses-paid momentary escape from his boring life to the Big Apple. That's where things go awry.

"A God in Middle Management" follows a Midwestern corporate employee, Marty Foster, who has a weird adventure after he interviews with a well-known financial firm that really wants him to take the job. Hess said there was not a deep inspiration for "A God in Middle Management" other than childhood memories of reading Greek mythology.

"[I was] mostly goofing around, and it just kind of came together," Hess said.

Hess' experience in corporate America gives the novel an authentic atmosphere. Hess is currently the senior vice president and director of marketing and communications for the retirement service branch of Lockton, which is "the world's largest privately-owned, independent insurance brokerage firm," according to its website.

As a J-School freshman, Hess thought that he wanted to be a report-

er. Some of his favorite moments as a journalism student came from his reporting and editing classes. The classes were taught by professionals, including a few Pulitzer Prize winners.

"You not only got an education, but you also received a perspective on how to apply it [journalism skills] to the real world," Hess said.

After he had an internship as a reporter, Hess decided that writing for news organizations did not interest him. He decided to switch his major to strategic communication with an emphasis on advertising, and he graduated in 1990.

Hess said that the fast pace of the J-School helped him develop his professional skills and the ability to efficiently finish materials.

"You have to work incredibly quickly to get all of that material distilled," he said.

— Erik Nelson is a junior from Hopkins, Minnesota, studying news and information.

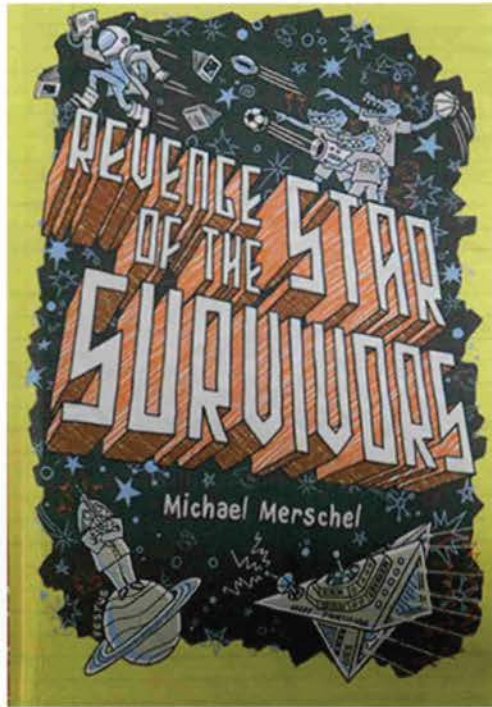
"A God in Middle Management" is available on Barnes&Noble.com and Amazon.

Interpreting reality as sci-fi

Michael Merschel's debut novel is based on his love of science fiction and his experiences in junior high



Michael Merschel



"Revenge of the Star Survivors" is available on Amazon and Barnes&Noble.com.

Science fiction author Gene Wolfe once said, "Reality is a crutch for people who can't handle science fiction." This quote inspired "Revenge of the Star Survivors," written by Michael Merschel, a 1989 J-School graduate.

"I thought, 'Well, that could be kind of fun to explore somebody who sees the world that way,'" Merschel said.

That somebody is Clark Sherman, the main character, who is an eighth-grader at a new school after his father takes a new job. He is bullied, and he describes his experiences at school by filtering them as a space mission.

"I needed to make things extra miserable for Clark so that there would be enough drama in the story," Merschel said. "He likes to suffer in silence, and he's easily intimidated."

The mission is based on Clark's favorite

television show, "Star Survivors." Like Clark, Merschel is a fan of science fiction. He especially loves "Star Trek."

"I watched it as often as it was on. I would see all the movies on the weekend they came out. I cried when Mr. Spock died," he said.

Merschel and his family moved from a suburb of New Orleans to Denver when he was in junior high. The novel, whose target audience is junior high students, is partially based on his experiences as a new student at his Denver-area school.

"For me, it [junior high] felt like the worst experience that anybody could ever go through," Merschel said. "Only when you're 13 can you feel that you have the worst possible life."

At first, Merschel thought that writing fiction based on his memories of junior high

would be a bad idea.

"What a cliché. What a horrible, ridiculous thing to write about," he said.

But about eight years ago, he decided to write a draft. His oldest daughter was about to start junior high. Merschel was nervously standing in the hallway of his daughter's school on orientation night when a group of girls walked down the hallway.

"As they're walking my way, reflexively, I jumped back and I pressed my back against the wall because for a minute, I just wanted to be invisible. I didn't want to be in their way," Merschel said. "It took me a second to take a breath and say, 'Mike, you got out of junior high school 30 years ago. They can't hurt you any more.'"

Merschel said that he put off writing fiction for his whole life. He gave himself a deadline to finish a draft when he would be 45 years old. He was 42 at the time.

"It's either that, or I'm going to stop saying that I'm a writer," Merschel said. "I met my deadline with a couple of hours to spare."

Merschel said the fictional world of his novel now occupies the same part of his brain that holds his real memories of junior high school.

"It's changed the way that I look at fiction because it all feels very, very real to me," he said. "I know almost as much about that world as I do about the real world that I lived in. I can tell the difference, but it makes me realize that there's a very thin line between actual memory and stuff that's completely made up."

— Erik Nelson is a junior from Hopkins, Minnesota, studying news and information.

Author finds Amish inspiration

Kelly Irvin realized her dream of becoming an author with research and writing every chance she got



Kelly Irvin

Journalists' careers are often long and winding roads, but Kelly Irvin (j'81) never expected her path: from being a newspaper reporter to Amish romance novelist.

After working in the newspaper industry for 10 years, Irvin switched careers and started working in public relations in San Antonio, Texas.

Though she loved her PR career, Irvin always had a dream of being an author.

"Throughout my career, what I have always known is that I wanted to write fiction," Irvin said.

Irvin said she came to the realization that it was now or never, so she started writing every chance she got. Whether it was in the morning, at night, before work or after work, she kept writing.

Irvin never planned to write about the Amish, but when she was struggling to get into the Christian book market, her agent

suggested she try writing about them. The opportunity just happened to fall in her lap, but as she learned more about the Amish, she became fascinated by their lifestyle. She ran with the idea and began writing a book series.

"I was hesitant at first, but I did a lot of research and reading," Irvin explained.

Irvin gathered research to use in her novels by traveling to South Texas and Missouri to observe local Amish communities.

"It's really important that if you're going to do something like that, that it's authentic," she said.

The opportunity was challenging, but Irvin said it has improved her writing ability.

"It's not something that I ever expected to do, but it's worked out for me and I've enjoyed it, and I feel blessed to have had the opportunity," she said.

In addition to writing, Irvin uses her experience in the public relations field to market her novels to her specific audience. She relies heavily on social media to reach out to her readers, primarily Christian women ages 25 and up.

Though the Amish aren't her target audience, Irvin has seen different Amish novels for sale in an Amish community in Jamesport, Missouri.

Irvin first book was published in 2012, and since then, she has written more than a dozen novels and novellas. Readers can learn more about her four-book series coming out soon on her Facebook page. Each book will feature one of the four seasons in the year and will explore the lives of four women.

"It follows the lives of a group of widows each coming from a very different generation. It's how they've lived in the community as widows and how that's shaped their lives," Irvin said.

Although Irvin learned a lot of valuable journalism tools and writing techniques

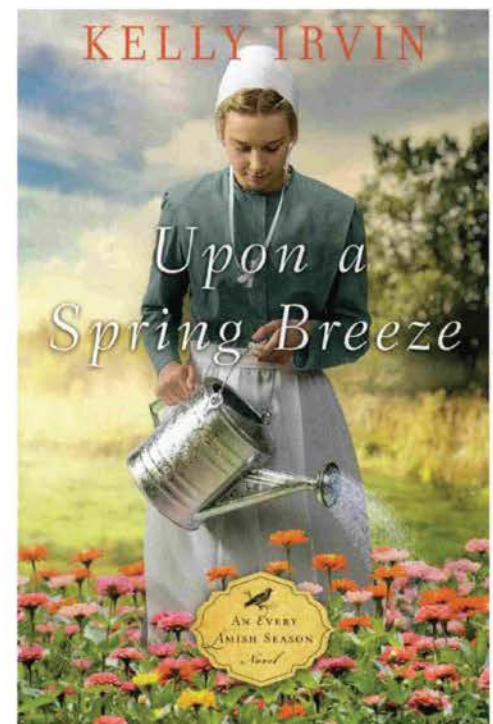
during her time at KU, those were not the most important things she would learn.

"I think the most important thing I learned [at KU] is to keep an open mind and to never stop learning," she said.

Irvin advises aspiring authors to work hard and follow their dreams.

"I would tell them to learn their craft, to spend time publishing their writing, join critique groups, join writing organizations and when you get ready to submit your work, make sure it's your very best work," she said.

— Dayton Hammes is a sophomore from Moberly, Missouri, studying strategic communication



Irvin's newest book, "Upon a Spring Breeze," was released April 11. It is the first book in a four-book series called "Every Amish Season." Irvin's books are available on Amazon.

Photography Pioneer

Street photographer Gary Smith travels to some of the most far-flung places on the globe, discovering danger with every step

Growing up in a farm town in Pennsylvania, Gary Smith found his understanding of the world to be quite small. But he envisioned using his photography to find the largest gathering places around the world.

"I graduated with 159 other white people. I didn't know anybody; all I knew were white country kids," Smith said. "I went out in the world, and I'm not afraid of anyone now. I go to central Africa for three weeks; Goma [a city in the Democratic Republic of the Congo] is the worst place in the world. I embedded myself for three weeks, and nobody does that."

Smith documents that three-week excursion in his latest book, "Goma: The Poetry of Everyday Life on the Streets of the Most Miserable Place on Earth."

The title of the book stems from the history of Goma, a city that Smith described as a place of misery with about 5.4 million deaths from its war in 1994, the largest amount of war deaths since World War II.

Smith's desire to find and capture the story, regardless of the environment, continued since his graduation from the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Com-

munications in 1984 and beyond. He has traveled to more than 75 countries and has photographed everything from the wars in the Middle East to drug cartels in South America.

Smith described his days on the Hill as

"I spent three months down there in El Salvador, scrambling my brain for one and seeing the worst things."

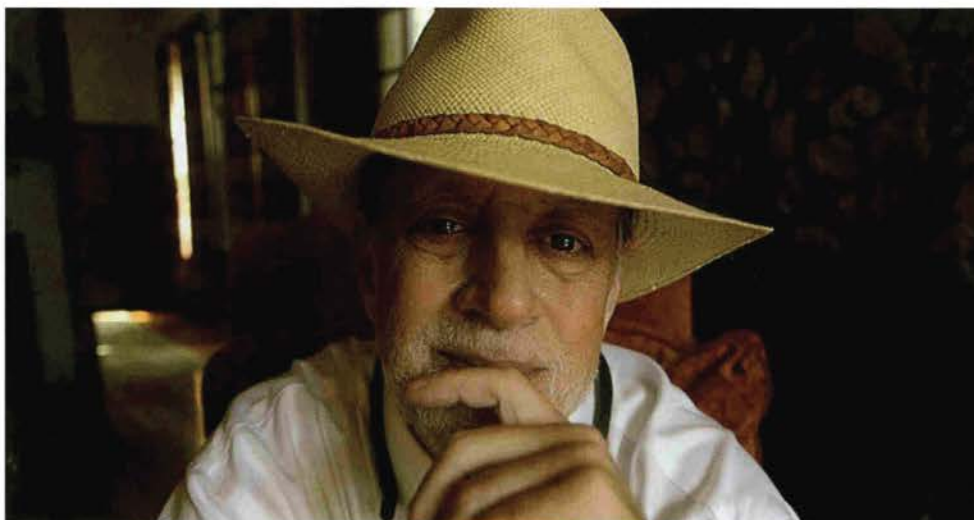
being filled with projects with the University Daily Kansan, mentoring by former J-School educator Rick Musser, and exploring different countries where he found his niche in photographing some of the most dangerous arenas of journalism.

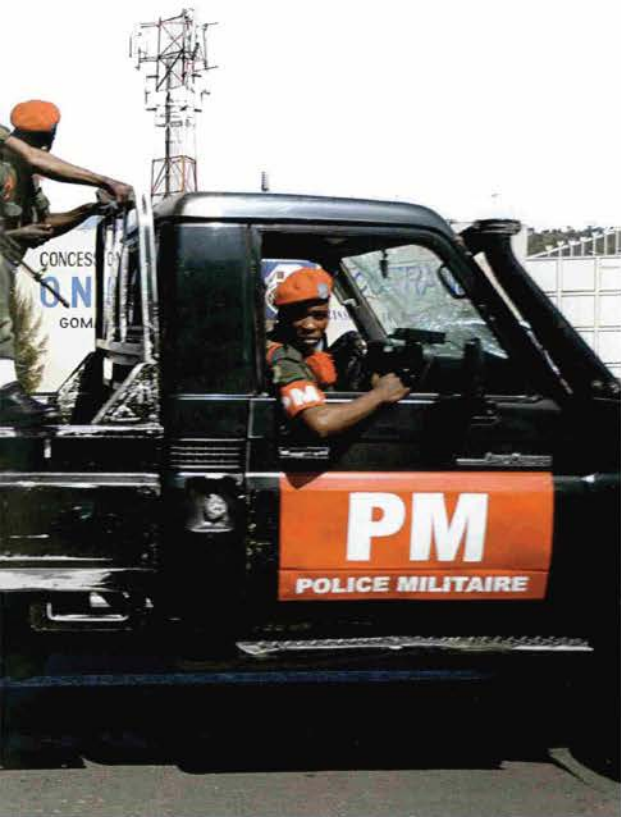
"I used the journalism school to get access



to the wars in El Salvador," Smith said. "Nobody else looked for the school liked this. I spent three months down there in El Salvador, scrambling my brain for one and seeing the worst things a human being could possibly see."

Smith is a pioneer in "street photography,"





and his images document the hustle and bustle in some of the most far-flung places on Earth. Smith's next project will showcase photographs from his more dangerous experiences in his seventh book, "Travel Logging the Dark Side." The book will have about 300 pages of writing and 200 pages of Smith's best photos from his experiences photographing wars, slums and natural disasters.

With all of the traveling and adventures in his career, Smith lives in Lawrence and still finds solace in KU, a place he calls home.

"I think the KU campus – aside from being my backyard – isn't just smart, it's beautiful, too," Smith said. "The greatest honors I've ever received in my life have come from right here at my KU home on the hill, not those I've garnered in those other many far-flung places I've traveled to and worked in."

– Nashia Baker is a senior from Lansing, Kansas, studying news and information.

"Goma: The Poetry of Everyday Life on the Streets of the Most Miserable Place on Earth" is available on Smith's website: www.streetphoto.com.

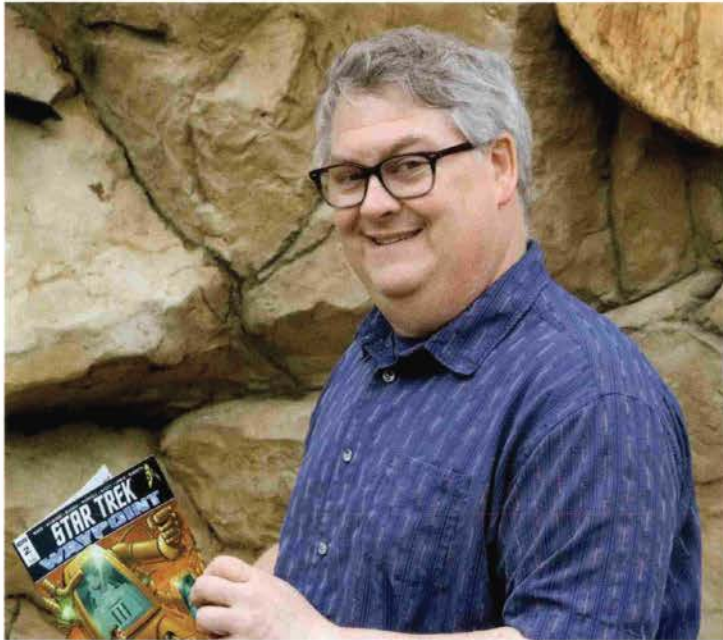
Above left: Military police patrolling the streets are part of everyday life in the city of Goma in the North Kivu Province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Above: Because it is the only paved road in Goma, Boulevard Kanyamuhanga is a bustling marketplace of local trade and movement.

Left: Gary Smith lives in Lawrence but travels all over the world for his street photography.

Introducing 'Star Trek' to the next ge

Kevin Dilmore uses his comic writing passion for his latest issue with the sci-fi book series



Kevin Dilmore

Kevin Dilmore has written or co-written about 30 comic books in the last 15-17 years, but his latest is one of his favorites. Dilmore (j'88) and co-author Dayton Ward released their latest comic, "Star Trek Waypoint #2," for the 50th anniversary of the Star Trek series.

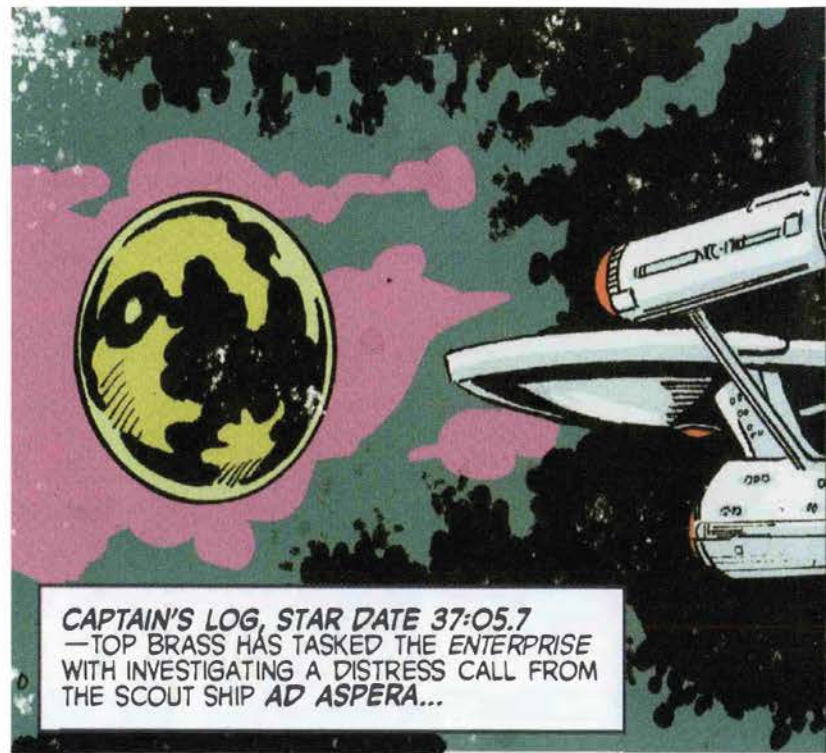
IDW Publishing released this limited-edition comic book in order to celebrate the television show, but according to Dilmore, it is a way to show the comic that he loved growing up to a younger generation getting interested in the series for the first time.

"The stories were pretty hokey.

The original writers for the story weren't working with the decades of content like we are nowadays," Dilmore said. "They just went with what they had and let their imaginations run a little wild. So we wrote a story that kind of falls into that vein and a tip of the hat to the people who were doing it when I was a kid."

"Star Trek Waypoint #2" follows the adventure of Kirk and Spock as they discover dangerous robots on an unidentified planet.

In terms of combining Dilmore's experience in comics with his writing partner, the decision has been beneficial in his journalism career.



Kansans will recognize a familiar reference in the "Star Trek Waypoint #2."

"It's been terrific. I love collaboration for things I really enjoy," Dilmore said. "I am very much an 'all of us is smarter than one of us' kind of person, especially when it comes to creativity."

The overall goal with Dilmore and his work in comics is to combine his passion with a topic that inspires.

"You make time for what really inspires and drives you," Dilmore said. "Sometimes, that inspiration might come between midnight and three in the morning. A deadline drives any project in the sense of it gets completed, but I don't know if I ever had a strict regimen. I never structured myself like that. Like anybody else, I probably had more on my plate than I should've, but we do what we do."

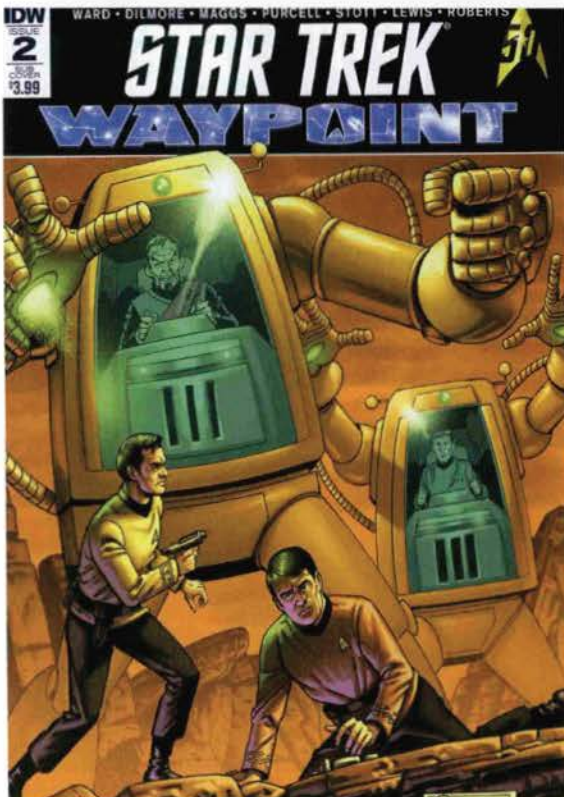
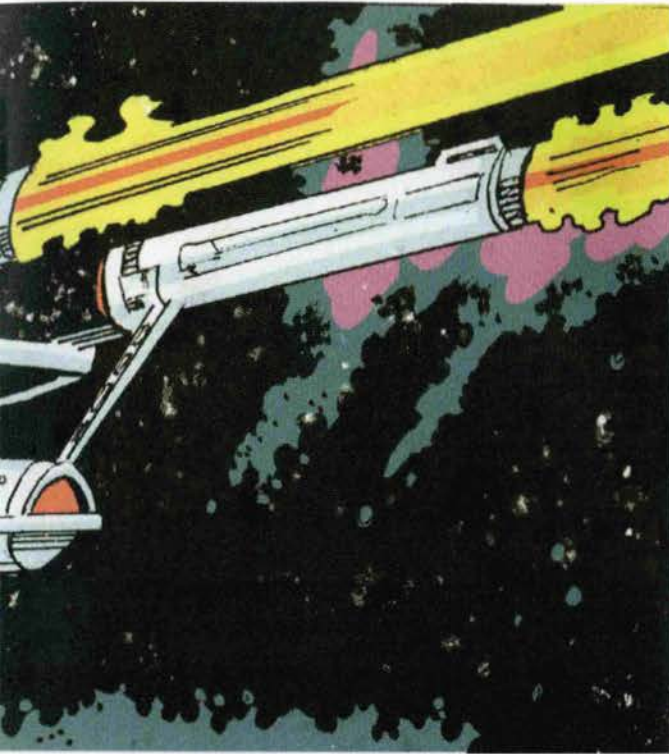
With many projects in the works with comics and Hallmark

for 2017, the next project that he aspires to accomplish is in film.

— Nashia Baker is a senior from Lansing, Kansas, studying news and information.

"You make time for what really inspires and drives you."

EXPLORING BELIEFS AND BEHAVIOR



"Star Trek Waypoint #2" is available on Amazon.

One of the things on Tim Savage's bucket list was to become a published author before he turned 50. Savage, a 1988 J-School graduate, has worked in corporate media and public relations. Last summer, his first novel, "Davey's Savior," was released.

"I really wanted to have a book on the shelf with my name on it and something I could be very proud of," Savage said.

Savage began "Davey's Savior" in 2009. The plot revolves around a father who abducts his 4-year-old son and escapes to a seaside town in California. The novel highlights the spiritual experiences of not only the father and son, but also the townspeople whom they encounter. Savage said that the novel focuses on conflicts between people's beliefs and their actions.

"There's certainly a religious motivation in this book. It's not to dock or criticize religion. It's just to present a contrast in the point of view between people who have a belief that they stick to, no matter what, and people who will do things to make lives of others better," Savage said. "Readers are eventually encouraged to make a judgment about which one of those [points of view] is better by the time they reach the end of the book."

The characters are tested by events that occur, including a scene when a dead whale shark appears on the beach with mysterious wounds. Some believe that the wounds are similar to those on the hands and feet of Jesus.

One of Savage's characters is a person conflicted between his faith and his actions. Anthony owns a coffee shop in Avila Beach and is a pious theist who firmly believes in God and persuades people to view life from his perspective. He says people should be kind to one another, however, Savage said Anthony's beliefs may not translate into action all the time.

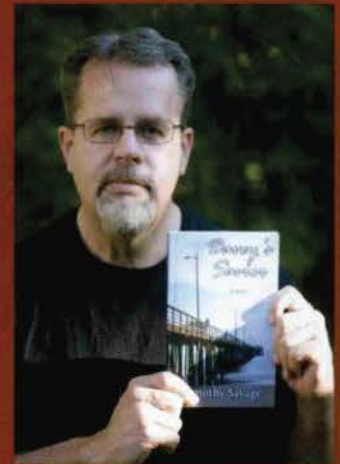
"The first thing he does [after the shark appears on the beach] is raise the price on all his coffee so he can profit from it," Savage said.

As the story unfolds, Savage said readers should learn that people have different interpretations of events that happen in front of them.

"You get to see how it comes out in people's actions as to which stick to their beliefs and which stick to whatever need they're trying to meet in the world," Savage said.

Savage has met readers who come from many different religious and spiritual backgrounds who say that "Davey's Savior" inspired them. He said that the strength of the novel is how there can be various interpretations of it.

"I have had people from the humanist or even atheistic side of it go, 'Wow! This is almost atheist inspirational,'" Savage said. "I've had people from the Christian side or the Jewish faith come forward and say, 'You know, I got a lot out of this. It kind of opens my eyes to a few things I've seen people do and seen people believe.' There's something in there for everybody."



"Davey's Savior" is available on Barnes & Noble.com and Amazon.

— Erik Nelson is a junior from Hopkins, Minnesota, studying news and information.

Politics, policy and the press

Kansas Statehouse is the classroom for students who want first-hand experience covering the government

Professor Scott Reinardy thinks that J635, “Statehouse Reporting,” is unique from other courses in the J-School.

“When you’re early in your curriculum, you work in class. You do some projects ... By the time you get to be a junior or a senior, we want to give you experiences,” Reinardy said. “You are going into it and there are commitments. With those commitments and those responsibilities, that changes the thinking and the curriculum from being, ‘Oh, we’re in a class working on a project’ to ‘This is real life, and there are implications.’”

In Statehouse Reporting, students have the opportunity to cover the Kansas Legislature in Topeka for a semester.

The stories students write are sent to more than 200 Kansas media organizations through a wire service provided by the Kansas Press Association. Some of these or-

ganizations do not have statehouse reporters.

ganizations do not have statehouse reporters.

Reinardy said that students do not write stories that focus on controversial issues like abortion or health care, but he said that other issues that could be considered minor need to be taken seriously.

“We know the Associated Press and the other newspapers cover those issues. We cover other issues that you may not be aware of,” he said.

Matt Ostrowski, senior, said that he decided to take the course to get journalism experience outside of KU and to diversify his portfolio. Ostrowski has covered sports for the University Daily Kansan.

“Politics is something that I’ve never been too well-versed in, so it’s been a good opportunity for me to get to learn a lot of the ins-and-outs of politics and what exactly goes on at the statehouse,” Ostrowski said.

Ostrowski said politicians can be overloaded with in-

formation, so he tries to remind them of bills he wants to talk about.

“They have a lot of bills that are coming in and out of their brains every single day,” he said. Some students do not take the course only for journalism experience. Deanna Ambrose, senior, said that she wants to be involved in public policy after she graduates, and writing about politics has motivated her future.

“I kind of see myself getting fired up about some of the issues that I see legislators talking about,” Ambrose said. “It’s been a great learning opportunity to actually get kind of in the weeds and learn both sides [of an issue]. At the same time, you’re working side by side with professional journalists and learning what they think about these situations.”

It can be difficult for journalists to hide their own political ideology and beliefs, but Ambrose said that is not an issue for her. She tries to focus her work on the legal aspects of issues, like abortion or funding for education.

“I think I’m a pretty diplomatic person already, and I’m pretty used to having to compromise a lot of things,” she said. “I come from a family of eight people, so you usually don’t get exactly what you want.”

Students have said that Reinardy is a tough but straightforward instructor. Ostrowski said that Reinardy makes sure that students learn as much as they can from his courses.

“Sometimes, it’s a little bit of tough love,” Ostrowski said. “I think he just wants the best for them, and I think he realizes that sometimes, we want to take the easy way out. He doesn’t let that happen.”

Ambrose said she has learned through her interactions with legislators how to treat them as humans and to be patient with them.

“I think we are very critical of our legislators, which is OK, but also, we don’t think about them as people necessarily. They have families. They’re shaped by their beliefs and their moral values. That’s how they’re going to approach policy,” she said.

— Erik Nelson is a junior from Hopkins, Minnesota, studying news and information.

“You’re working side by side with professional journalists and learning what they think about these situations.”

Student Spotlight

Jayhawk Journalists bring home national and regional awards and spread out across the globe for internships



J-School graduate students were recognized April 3-7 during Graduate Student Appreciation Week, and the following students won awards: (from left) Matt Tidwell, Monique Luisi, Keri Meinking and Roseann Pluretti with Associate Dean Scott Reinardy. Not pictured: Husain Ebrahim

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate student **Alberto Araujo** was part of a team of journalists that won a Pulitzer Prize for the Panama Papers investigation. A consortium of more than 300 journalists conducted a yearlong investigation that exposed the hidden infrastructure and global scale of offshore tax havens. While working in Ecuador last year, Araujo wrote an article about the Chinese company CWE that was building a hydroelectric plant there and was accused of tax evasion. He also wrote about corruption in the biggest state oil company in Ecuador.



Jammie Johnson (left), graduate advisor and administrative assistant for Graduate Studies, was awarded the university's Outstanding Graduate Support Staff Award on April 20.

Ph.D. candidate **Roseann Pluretti** (on right) was awarded a \$5,000 Summer Research Scholarship. The Office of Graduate Studies awarded only 23 Summer Research Scholarships this year.

Four students placed in the top 20 of the Hearst Journalism Awards Program. **Hank Cavagnaro** and **Emma Hogg** finished 15th and 16th, respectively, in the Television I category of the Hearst Journalism Awards Program. Cavagnaro and Hogg graduated in 2016. Sophomore and University Daily Kansan editor **Lara Korte** placed 16th in the news features category. Korte also was a finalist in this year's Region 7 Mark of Excellence Awards. The winners were announced and all finalists honored at the Society of Professional Journalists' Region 7 Spring Conference on May 5-6 at Kansas State University. Mark of Excellence regional winners go on to compete in the nationwide SPJ student content. **Conner Mitchell**, who will be Kansan editor in Fall 2017, tied for 18th place in the enterprise competition.

Johanna Hecht, a senior studying news and information, has received the KU Campanile Award, which was established by the Class of 2000 and is presented to a graduating senior by the Board of Class Officers in conjunction with the University Awards. The award honors a student's engagement in the classroom and involvement outside of the classroom. Hecht is already working full time for KSNT in Topeka producing multiple shows.

J-School student **Courtland Triplett** was selected as a winner of KU's Phi Beta Kappa First-Year Book Award. The award recognizes three excellent first-year KU students.

J-School student **Garrett Farlow** received a fellowship with the U.S. Department of Defense to study Russian and foreign policy in Narva, Estonia, for seven weeks this summer.

Student Spotlight



Ceci Fyock and Emily Derrick won an American Advertising Federation-Kansas City Chapter (AAF-KC) gold student ADDY award for a radio ad (for Centrum Silver) that they created in JOUR 560 Message Development in Spring 2016.



Alana Flinn interned for ESPN's SportsCenter during the Spring 2017 semester.

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

SPRING 2017

Taylor Austin: KU Athletics
Tyler Baddick: Ink Inc.
Kelsey Baska: CollegeFashionista
Kasey Bryce: Big 6 Media
Taylor Burke: HALO Foundation
Irene Courey: Page Communications
Chloe Cowart: WIBW-TV
Carrie Davis: Blishful Thinking
Emily Derrick: Lawrence Arts Center
Sydney Di Bernardo: New Republic
Dana El-Shoubaki: Design Ranch
Alana Flinn: ESPN SportsCenter
Trae Green: KU Athletics
Dayton Hammes: KU Athletics
Christian Hardy: Fantasy Insiders
Michaeli Hennessy: Kansas State Capitol
Bret Hoff: KU Athletics
Allison Hogan: Blishful Thinking
James Hoyt: Student Press Law Center
Aliyah Jackson: 2Wings Entertainment
Tyler Jones: 1320/101.7 KLWN
Kale Joyce: Area Real Estate Advisers
Marissa Khalil: WIBW-TV, 6News
Allie Leath: SCOOBIE clothing store
Kerry McCullough: Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Cameron McGough: USA Today College
Conner Mitchell: Student Press Law Center
Kat Rhodes: Willow Domestic Violence Center
Rachel Riggs: KU School of Law
Jaden Scott: KU Athletics
Natalie Sitek: 6News
Megan Tiger: International Relations Council

SUMMER 2017

Sarah Baker: Hain Celestial
Taylor Burke: Big Brothers Big Sisters
Gina Carabetta: PR and marketing, Sydney, Australia
Scott Chasen: MLB.com, Minnesota Twins
Claudia Close: Kansas City T-Bones
Allison Crist: ComedyCentral.com
Lauren Davidson: ABC13 Houston
Megan Doolittle: Starlight Theatre
Vanessa Gonzales: Bernstein-Rein
Tanya Grover: Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce
Dayton Hammes: Sporting KC, Kansas City T-Bones
Shane Jackson: MLB.com

Alexandra Jones: Pulte Homes
Lara Korte: Cincinnati Enquirer
Jackson Kurtz: CBS This Morning
Mallory Lakin: Phoenix Children's Hospital Foundation
Ashley Maska: FleishmanHillard
Hanna Melton: VML
Anna Meyer: American Society of Magazine Editors
Dallas Milligan: Datassential and Region Sports Network
Aleah Milliner: Darling Magazine
Shayla Panowicz: International Tennis Hall of Fame
Hannah Rivas: Ernst & Young's Brand, Marketing and Communications Group
Omar Sanchez: San Antonio Express-News
Danielle Sorensen: Kansas City, Missouri, Innovation Center
Hallie Wilson: Kansas City, Missouri, Innovation Center
Austin Wolfe: NDS Marketing Group

FALL 2017

Ashley Hocking, Lawrence Journal-World



Fourteen J-School students attended the Kansas Association of Broadcasters Student Seminar on April 4 and picked up their broadcast awards. Pictured are: (Back row) Griffin Hughes, Nick Couzin, Alex McLoon, Alden German, Shane Martin, Carson Vickroy and Jacob Asherman. (Front row) Alana Flinn, Madison Coker, Devan Burris and Chris Bacon. Not pictured: Associate Professor Max Utsler, Marissa Khalil and Libby McEnulty.

STUDENT MEDIA ORGANIZATION AWARDS

University of Kansas students were named winners in more than a dozen categories from the 2017 Kansas Association of Broadcasters (KAB) Awards.

Entries included work from Spring 2016 and Fall 2016, so some of the winners have already graduated. Awards were presented during the KAB Convention on April 4.

Television awards

Station Promotion Announcement

1st: Griffin Hughes, The Playmakers Promo

Complete Live Newscast

1st: Madison Coker, Alana Flinn, Jacob Asherman, Nick Couzin, KUJH News 12/7/16

2nd: Kayla Schartz, Aungelina Dahm, Travis Calvin, KUJH News 3/4/16

Station Website

1st: Alex McLoon, Alana Flinn, KUJH-TV

Hard News Package

1st: Emma Hogg, Homicide House Fire

Enterprise News Package

1st: Hank Cavagnaro, Bike Safety
2nd: Marissa Khalil, Housing Debt

Complete News Feature

1st: Emma Hogg, Bob Brings Joy

Complete Sports Feature

2nd: Nicole Feyh, The Cole Hayden Story

Sportscast

2nd: Alex McLoon, KUJH Sports 2/29/16

Sports Play-by-Play

HM: Griffin Hughes, Shep Jones, Dallas Milligan, Fulton Caster, KUJH High School Showcase

Radio Awards

Enterprise News Package

1st Place: Sam Davis, Pressure

2nd Place: Jordan Winter, Lucid Dreaming

HM: Flammy Huo, Being Mortal

Complete News Feature

1st: Flammy Huo, Body Worlds

2nd: Chad Onianwa, Media Literacy with Joseph Erba

Sports Play by Play

2nd: Derek Johnson, Nick Lewis, Kansas vs. West Virginia: Big 12 Tournament

Station Website

2nd: Mason Kilpatrick, Erick Oduniyi, Cody Boston, Doug Bybee, KJHK Staff, KJHK.org

University Daily Kansan

The University Daily Kansan won 12 awards in the annual Kansas Collegiate Media contest. Winners were announced April 10. The Kansan was the gold medalist for four-year public university newspapers and the gold

medalist for online overall. The staff also won a second place for its special section A Day in the Life.

Individual awards went to:

Lara Korte, first place in multimedia storytelling for her story "Does protesting work?"

Jon Griffin, first place for ad design

Ryan Wright, first place in feature writing for "Police killing of black student in 1970 reflects today's racial climate"

Roxy Townsend and design staff, first place in page design for the Nov. 9, 2016, issue

Maddy Mikinski, first place in headline writing for "Kansas topography myth falls flat"

Christian Hardy, second place in sports features for "From Kenya to Kansas, Sharon Lokedi keeps running"

Miranda Davis, Kelly Cordingley, Cassidy Ritter and Vicky Diaz-Camacho, second place in news writing for "I did not feel safe"

Roxy Townsend and Lara Korte, third place in infographics for "Path to the Polls"

Candice Tarver and staff (Matt Clough web producer) honorable mention in multimedia storytelling for "50 things you didn't know about Lawrence"

Faculty and Staff Achievements

Highlights of the research and other recent professional activities going on at the J-School.

Associate Professor Yvonne Chen is the newly elected board member of Kansas Action for Children, a nonprofit organization dedicated to shaping policies to improve the well-being of Kansas children. Chen also has been awarded a visiting professor program fellowship from the Advertising Educational Foundation. The VPP is a seven-day fellowship that allows professors and the industry to develop a mutually beneficial relationship and to share research. Chen also received the Keeler Intra-University Professorship, in which she will explore interdisciplinary collaborations with faculty in the Religious Studies Department in spring 2018.

Associate Professor Jerry Crawford has been asked by the American Council on Education (ACE) to be an ACE faculty evaluator. Crawford will work as part of

an accrediting team to provide academic institutions with a basis for recognizing military and corporate educational experiences in terms of civilian academic credit. Crawford also has been nominated to run for the 2017 AEJMC Elected Committee on Professional Freedom & Responsibility and has been elected to a three-year term on the Faculty Senate.

Associate Professor Mugur Geana is the co-investigator (and KU-Lawrence principal investigator) of a multidisciplinary grant award from the Brown Foundation aimed at engaging rural urology clinics in the state of Kansas with recruitment for cancer clinical trials. The \$56,000 award represents the funding for phase two of a three-phase project involving researchers from KU Medical Center and the main KU campus.

Assistant Professor Joseph Erba and Geana have been working with the Health Communication Research Shared Resource Center of the KU Cancer Center and the Midwest Cancer Alliance to produce messaging to boost participation in cancer clinical trials among minority populations that are historically underserved in the fight against cancer. The series of videos, posters, fliers and more will feature patients' own doctors and nurses while addressing the concerns and questions they most often have about such trials.

Associate Professor David Guth's book, "Bridging the Chesapeake - A 'Fool Idea' That Unified Maryland" has been accepted for re-publication by Archway Publishers of Indianapolis, a division of Simon and Schuster.

2017 MEN OF MERIT

The J-School was well represented in this year's KU Men of Merit, selected by the Emily Taylor Center for Women and Gender Equity. Academic advisor **Dan McCarthy**, 2016 graduate **Joshua Robinson** and students **Juan Pablo Marroquin** and **Sam Eastes** were among this year's 16 honorees recognized Feb. 7. According to the Emily Taylor Center, the individuals chosen "redefine masculinity by challenging norms, taking action, and leading by example while making outstanding achievements and contributions to KU and/or the Lawrence community."



Dean Ann Brill with (from left) Joshua Robinson, Dan McCarthy, Sam Eastes and Juan Pablo Marroquin.



Three faculty members received promotions in the spring semester: Barbara Barnett to full professor; Peter Bobkowski to associate professor with tenure; and Tien Lee (not pictured) to full professor.

Associate Professor Carol Holstead judged the General Excellence: Service and Lifestyle category of the National Magazine Awards on Jan. 11-12 at Columbia University in New York.

Professor Pam Fine will serve as academic advisor for KU's Evans Scholars, 11 students from the Chicago area who are receiving full scholarships to KU from the Western Golf Association (WGA).

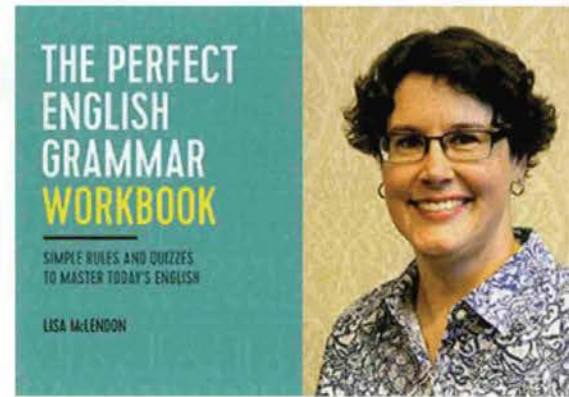
Jammie Johnson, graduate advisor and administrative assistant for Graduate Studies, received the university's Outstanding Graduate Support Staff Award. Johnson also was invited to serve on the 2016-2017 Diversity Leadership Council Workgroup.

Associate Professor Tien Lee was appointed to the editorial board of

Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly, the flagship journal of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Advisor **Dan McCarthy** and recruiter **Vicky Reyes** were selected to participate in the Office of Multicultural Affairs' Social Justice Fellows Program. The program provides intensive direction to faculty and staff to expand their understanding and application of social justice education especially as it relates to a higher education setting.

Lisa McLendon, Bremner Editing Center coordinator, has published a book, "The Perfect English Grammar Workbook." The book uses examples, exercises and lessons that help demystify grammar to help people use it with confidence and accuracy. The book is available for \$13.99 at Barnes & Noble or



on Amazon. McLendon also served as a judge in the American Copy Editors Society headline contest for the category of newspapers 100,000-200,000 circulation.

Assistant Professor Jonathan Peters participated in a one-day conference, "Covering Trump: What Happens When Journalism, Politics and Fake News Collide," which was live-streamed in March from Columbia Journalism School. For the event, Peters wrote a report, "Politics and the Press: Covering the Democrats' Hacked Emails During the 2016 Election: Legal and Ethical Issues" about legal/ethical propriety of covering Democrats' hacked emails.

Associate Professor Hyunjin Seo was named chair of the master's program in East Asian Studies led by the KU Center for East Asian Studies for the 2017-18 academic year. Seo also was selected as a participant in the Center for Civic and Social Responsibility Faculty Seminar in spring 2017. The group explores enhancing students' service learning experiences at KU.

Associate Professor Mike Williams was appointed to a three-year term on the Kansas Memorial Union Board of Directors.

Gaming with a purpose

New class challenges students to discover how to use gamification in media applications beyond entertainment



In February, students in Associate Professor Genelle Belmas' class took part in an experiment to reach a level of concentration called a "flow state," a state of mind where they are productive and content.

The fictitious characters of the Netflix hit "Stranger Things" playing Dungeons and Dragons for hours in the basement was University professor Genelle Belmas' reality growing up. But it wasn't until last fall when Belmas decided to merge her career in academia with her lifelong love of gaming. The result was the creation of JOUR 201: Level Up and Game On!: Gamification in the Professions, the first course of its kind offered to undergraduates at KU.

"Being a gamer used to be kind of a geeky thing. You didn't admit it. But now you've got nerd cred or dork cred if you're a gamer,"

Belmas said. "We were looking for a class that would be different than what was normally offered, that would get people into the classroom and see how cool journalism could be but could appeal to a whole bunch of people."

It did appeal.

The course has 96 students enrolled, ranging from various grade levels and areas of interest.

"We get immersed in games. We are productive in games. We are willing to repeat things in games that we may not be willing to repeat in real life," Belmas said. "Games bring out the best in us. So what is it about games

that make us get that devoted and that much into it? And how can we apply this to other issues problems and duties in other areas of our lives?"

The answer to Belmas' question is the main goal of the course: to create a purpose-driven game through gamification and the application of gaming principles such as rewards, badges and points to areas that these ideas do not naturally appear.

Split into 21 groups of five, each group must turn in a prospective game idea or ideas for Belmas' approval. Once granted, each team will begin market and audience research for their product, form an assessment of their product, and then produce the game itself.

The product can be a card game, board game, online game, or an app for a smartphone.

Due to time restrictions of the semester, Belmas gives extra credit if a game can be play tested, but the final grade is accounted on the basis of the prototype. Belmas hopes to have a software developer present during the last class to not only judge the games but also to possibly make offers on the games that he could potentially see professional businesses benefiting from.

The course also informs on the negative side of gaming such as addiction, racism, sexism and homophobia through the assigned reading, lectures and weekly quizzes.

Belmas said her biggest surprise from teaching the idea of gamification was the wild creativity, genuine care and large hearts of the students.

"One group is training people on the stock market. I said to them, 'How much do you know about this' and they were like, 'We don't know anything, but we're going to learn. We are going to learn so we can teach it because we think this is really important.' Who says,

'We are going to learn more so we can teach?' That's just amazing."

Candice Tarver, a senior in the J-School, is one of the group members creating the stock market app. Tarver said that what drew her to the class was her admiration for Belmas and her interest in video games.

"We are willing to repeat things in games that we may not be willing to repeat in real life."

The class allows students the freedom to develop their ideas, a characteristic that Tarver has enjoyed as Belmas has pioneered the course over the semester.

"It's been really interesting to see how the principles that draw people to games can be

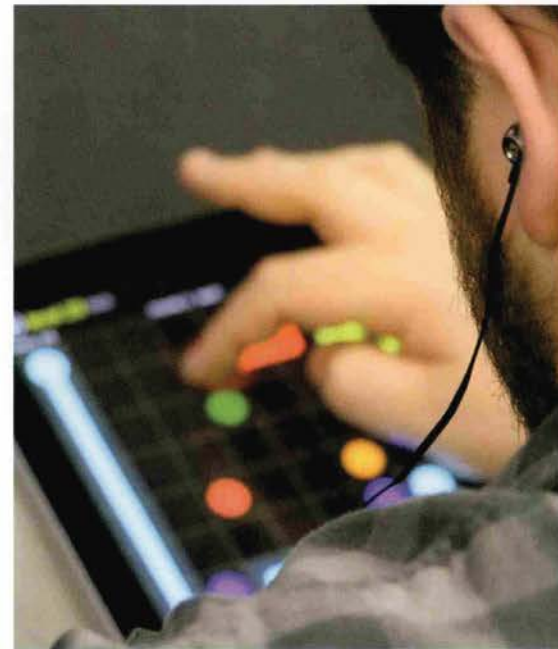
applied to broader social applications, which is really awesome," Tarver said.

Another group is also creating an app that will help children with diabetes learn how to make healthier food choices by having the character go through a grocery store and gaining points based on the nutrition value of the items placed in the cart.

"It's not only the time and energy spent but the actual mindfulness of the students, the idea that we could do something helpful with these projects," Belmas said. "They're games that we hope people will have fun with but also serve a bigger purpose, a purpose beyond mere entertainment. That's what gamification is all about."

If offered again, Belmas envisions the course evolving into a class that creates and produces products geared more specifically for the journalism industry, such as helping people identify what fake news is through the use of the tactics and principles of gamification.

—Anissa Fritz is a senior from Dallas studying news and information.



A student in Associate Professor Genelle Belmas' class played a game during the recent "flow state," lesson.



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1970s

Ken Krehbiel (j'76) is executive director of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Cindy Long (j'76) is media relations manager with Family Features Editorial Syndicate in Mission, Kansas.

Gerald Seib (j'78) is featured in The Wall Street Journal's "The Face of Real News" campaign.

1980s

Mike Jensen (j'89) vice president of marketing and external affairs for Olathe Health, received the Olathe Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year Award. He and his team raised nearly \$4 million for the initial construction of Hospice House in Olathe, Kansas. Jensen also oversees the Olathe Medical Center's Community Health Improvement Plan.

1990s

Stephen Wade (j'90) was appointed president of The Augusta Chronicle and its Chronicle Media portfolio of businesses.

Kelly Duffy (j'91) and **Nicole Vap** (j'91) received awards in the Radio Television Digital News Association regional awards. Duffy is news director at KOAA-TV News 5 in Colorado Springs, which received an award for overall excellence, small market. Vap is a producer for KUSA in Denver, which won 12 awards in the large market regional division, including three that Vap produced.

Ranjit Arab (j'93) has accepted a position as senior acquisitions editor at the University of Iowa Press.

Chad Lawhorn (j'95) received the Clyde M. Reed Jr. Master Editor Award at the Kansas

Press Association Convention. The award recognizes a Kansas editor for a lifetime of achievement that involves commitment to community, the Kansas newspaper industry, and the state.

2000s

Katherine Hollar Barnard (j'03) launched her own legal marketing agency called Firesign, which will help attorneys attract, win and retain business. Barnard, most recently the chief marketing officer at Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP, said she was inspired to launch Firesign to address friction between lawyers and the clients they serve.

Sennett Rockers (j'03, c'03) graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He is a financial services industry consultant for PwC in New York.

Andy Marso (j'04) has joined The Kansas City Star to cover health care. Since August 2014, Marso has covered health care at Kansas News Service, which is part of KCUR and was formerly called Kansas Health Institute News Service.

Haley Harrison (j'06), became anchor of the KMBC 9 News weekdays at 5 p.m. and at 9 p.m. on KCWE.

Jonathan Kealing (j'07, c'07) was named executive editor at PRI.org in January. Kealing has been with PRI since 2011.

Rachel Karwas (j'08) is the assistant director, special events, at the University of Arizona Foundation in Tucson, Arizona, where she plans Board of Trustees meetings and other events.

Steven Levy (j'08) is assistant manager with KC Rising, which works to grow globally competitive sectors and trade, innovation and entrepreneurship, and human capital for the greater Kansas City area. He and his

wife, Liz, have a son, Grant Samuel, who was born in June 2016.

Jessica Sain Baird (j'09) recently became content manager at Central Park Conservancy, which restores, manages and enhances Central Park in New York in partnership with the public.

Kelsey Hayes (j'09, c'09) manages the production desk of POLITICO Europe in Brussels, Belgium.

2010s

Jonathan Shorman (j'12) has joined the Wichita Eagle as its statehouse reporter.

Tejinder Singh Sodhi (j'13) accepted a position to head the Bureau of Republic TV in Jammu, India.

Victoria Baldwin (j'14) is senior strategist with Octagon Sports Marketing in the greater New York area.

Hannah Wise (j'14) is one of 28 women chosen to attend Poynter's Leadership Academy for Women in Digital Media.

Ashley Booker (j'15) is a communication associate at the Kansas Health Foundation. She had been a reporter at The Hutchinson News since June 2015.

Hank Cavagnaro (j'16) did a story a few days before Christmas on 96-year-old World War II veteran Cyrus Porter, who is a big fan of singer Taylor Swift. Cavagnaro's story was shared on social media and made its way to Swift, who surprised Porter at his home the day after Christmas.

Ellen Leinwetter (j'16) has been promoted to the morning anchor for KQZ's "Hometown This Morning" in St. Joseph, Missouri. Leinwetter joined KQTV as a reporter in July 2015. She is the sole weekday anchor for the 5:30, 6 and 6:30 a.m. newscasts before tossing to "Good Morning America."



Left: CJ Jackson (j'04) and Johanna Maska (j'04) were the hosts of a series of discussions in the spring semester titled "President Trump: The First 100 Days" at the Dole Institute of Politics.

Maska is former director of press advance for President Obama and played a key role in his 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns. As the founder of Ad Astra Strategies, Maska is a growth and strategy advisor to early-stage companies.

Jackson is the author of POLITICO's 2016 Blast and teaches a class on covering presidential elections in the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Communications. Jackson spent nearly 10 years with The Associated Press covering Congress, politics and a variety of policy beats.

Photo courtesy of Dole Institute of Politics



Above left: Colleen McCain Nelson (j'97) was inducted into the KU Women's Hall of Fame in April. Nelson is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and former political reporter. She currently is vice president and editorial page editor at the Kansas City Star. Above right: Jim McCrossen (j'84) was awarded the National Scholastic Press Association Pioneer Award at the Journalism Education Association. McCrossen, the longtime teacher and adviser at Blue Valley Northwest High School, was honored for his long tenure of advising and service to the Kansas Scholastic Press Association board and summer workshops, including KU's summer journalism workshop. Right: Former J-School Dean Mike Kautsch was inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame on April 7. Kautsch was at the J-School for 18 years and was dean for 10 years.



Celebrating 150 years



When a young Kevin Willmott was attending elementary school, his teachers used one man to paint a picture of an idealistic, quintessential journalist. That journalist was William Allen White.

Willmott, a film professor at the University of Kansas, alongside producer Scott Richardson, will create a full-length feature film on White to help extend his legacy as his 150th birthday approaches next year.

"When the subject of journalism was brought up, it was all talked about through the history of William Allen White," Willmott said. "He's an amazing guy."

The William Allen White Foundation, in coordination with the KU Endowment Association and the Kansas Newspaper Foundation, is organizing the funding of the film, which has an estimated budget of \$200,000.

Though much of White's life has been preserved and recorded through biographies, along with his countless written works, the film will attempt to present topics that have previously taken a backseat to his journalism

career.

Currently, more than \$110,000 has been raised toward the project's goal.

"We want to help keep his legacy alive or at least help keep it alive for future generations," said Dave Seaton, the chairman of the committee that's been formed to raise funds for the film. "We feel like a movie is one way to do that."

The film is being produced for national distribution and is expected to run for 50 minutes, along with an eight- to 10-minute video to be distributed to schools and colleges. The short version of the film is one way Seaton thinks it can help spread education about White and his legacy.

"His editorial on his daughter Mary's death and his other editorials are taught in many Kansas schools as good examples of writing and journalism," Seaton said.

When Willmott first heard of the film, he was immediately interested, not only because of his history in Kansas — he created "Jayhawkers," a film about Wilt Chamberlain and

Kansas basketball in 2014 — but because of White's fight to push racist organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan out of Kansas.

White's activism as a progressive Republican and his commitment to racial tolerance are parts of White's life the film will center on.

"My father would talk about how, on the Fourth of July, there would be parades and the Klan would proudly march down the street," Willmott said. "The fact that William Allen White was really the person that was responsible for running the entire organization out of the state, that's pretty amazing."

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications has been involved since the idea of a film about White was planted in 2015.

"The School of Journalism and the foundation are really the national seat for keeping alive the William Allen White legacy. They've done more than any institution, to my knowledge, to do that," Seaton said. "They're providing us a list of trustees to send fundraising letters to, they've encouraged our committee, and they've made us a part of the plans for the 150th anniversary."

Though Seaton said the funding is moving onto foundations and corporations with the help of KU Endowment, the project is still asking for donations to produce the film.

"We hope it all comes together," Willmott said. "We're very excited to work on it when the time comes for us to do that."

— Christian Hardy is a senior from Derby, Kansas, studying news and information.

Donations for the film are tax deductible and can be sent to KU Endowment at P.O. Box 928, Lawrence, KS, 66604-0928 with "WA White film" in the memo line.

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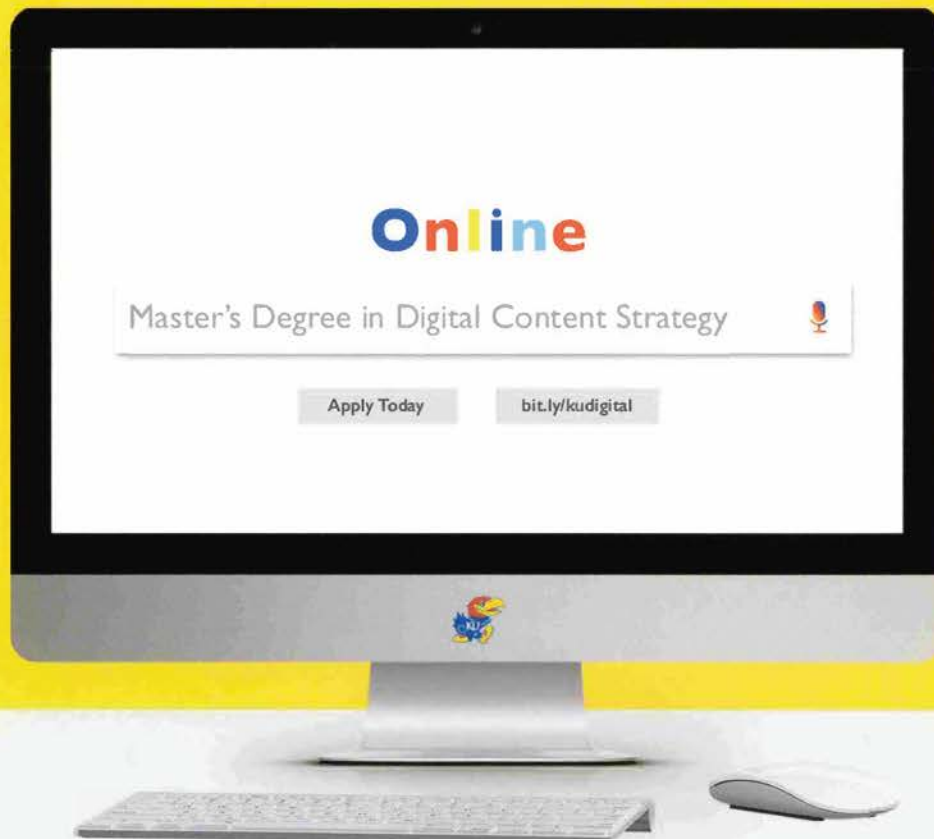
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