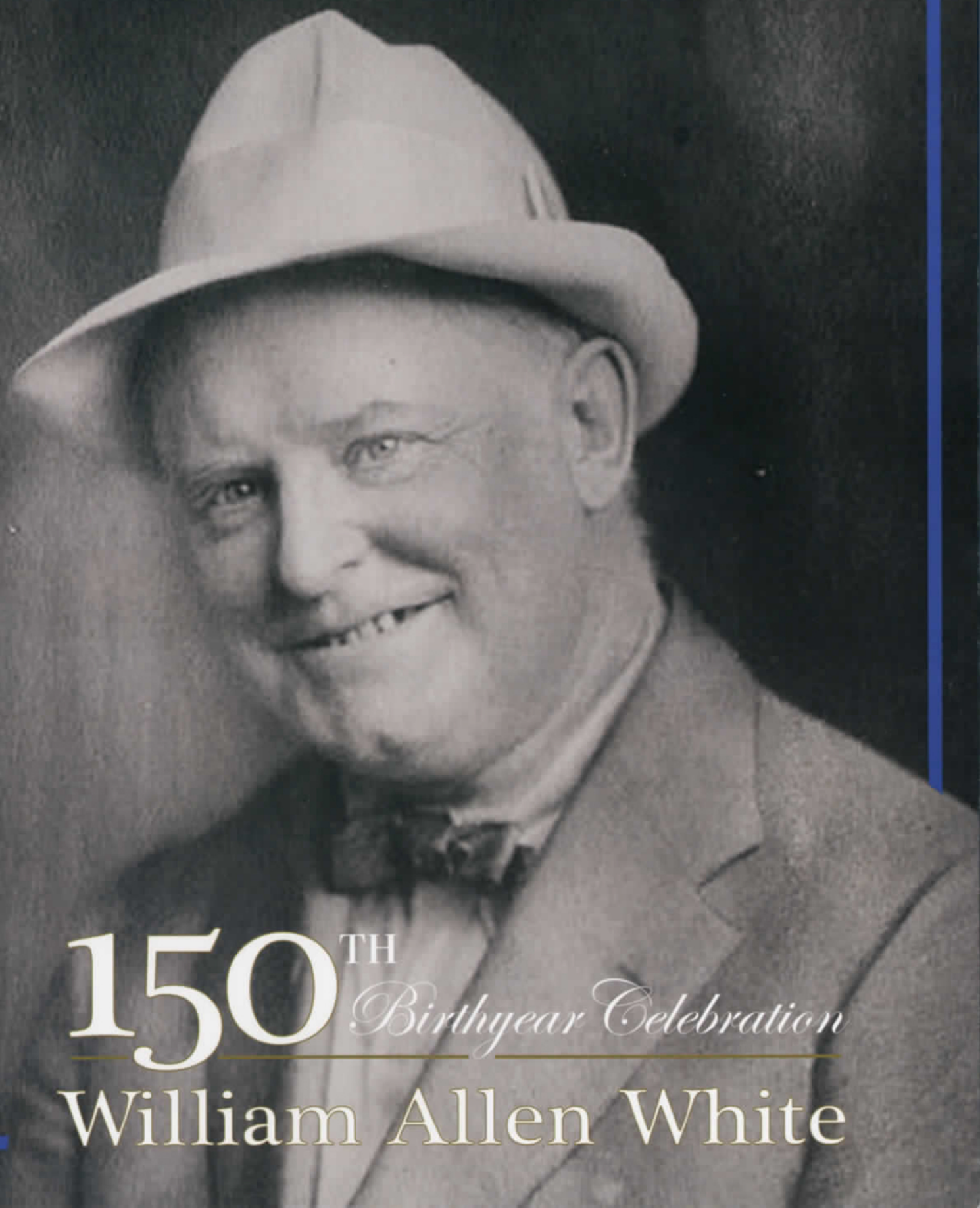


Jayhawk Journalist

Fall 2018 | Alumni Magazine

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



150TH *Birthyear Celebration*

William Allen White

Fall 2018

Dean

Ann M. Brill, Ph.D

Editor

Julie Adam

Editing Staff

Steve Rottinghaus

Design

Christian Toth

Angel Tran

Photography

Julie Adam

Angel Tran

Writers

Christian Hardy

Angel Tran

Julie Adam

Printer

James Printing Company

Evan James (MSJ 1978)

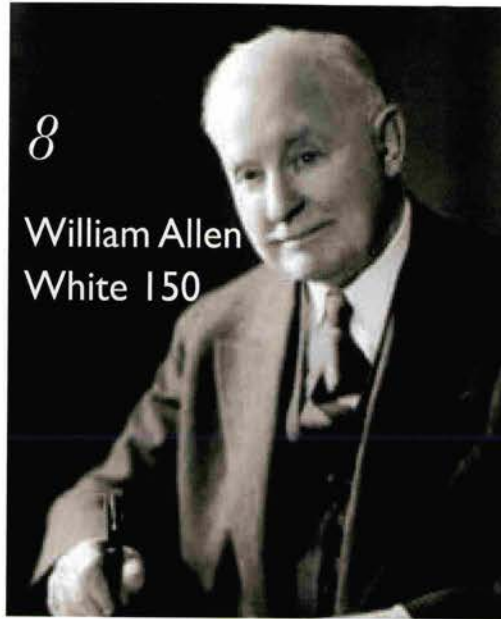
William Allen White
School of Journalism &
Mass Communications
Stauffer-Flint Hall
1435 Jayhawk Boulevard
Lawrence, KS 66045
journalism.ku.edu
jschool@ku.edu
785.864.4755

Cover Photo

William Allen White:

The School of Journalism celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birthyear of William Allen White with several days of events and a documentary earlier this year. Story, Page 8.

See a photo gallery at jayhawkjournalist.com



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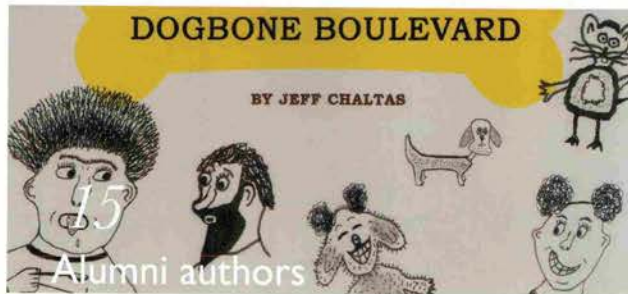
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Building the JBar

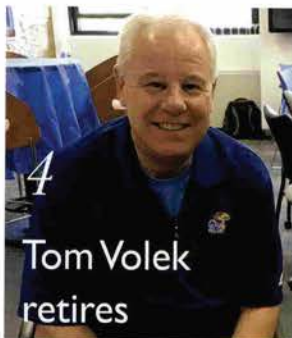


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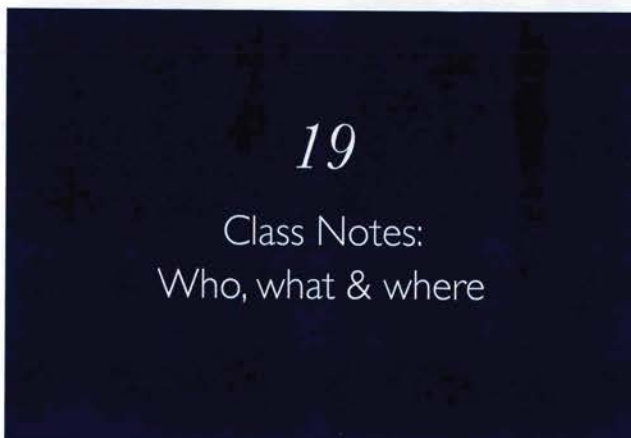
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LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Season's greetings from Mount Oread! It's a wondrous time of year when winter blankets Stauffer-Flint lawn and students trade their flip-flops for tennis shoes.

It's been a special year for us. We are the only named school at the University of Kansas. People are often surprised when I tell them that. The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas is an impressive title. To most of our students and alumni, however, we are simply "The J-School."



From our website: "In 1944, after the death of William Allen White, the world-famous editor of the Emporia Gazette, the Kansas Board of Regents established the William Allen White School of Journalism and Public Information... In 1982, the name of the School was changed to the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications."

Throughout 2018, we honored and celebrated the legacy of Mr. White – Pulitzer-Prize winner, friend to presidents, kings and physicists, and owner of the Emporia Gazette. The occasion was the 150th anniversary of his birth.

In this issue of the Jayhawk Journalist, you will read about the film that the William Allen White Foundation Board of Trustees commissioned in his honor. We had a panel during the April celebrations that brought together five alumni who received the Pulitzer Prize and awarded them our distinguished alumni medals. We hosted former recipients of the William Allen White National Citation, and we recognized current students for their scholarships and awards. We celebrated the 47 years Susanne Shaw gave to the J-School. The hundreds of photographs from those days appear in a collage in this issue, and you can see a photo gallery from the four day-event at jayhawkjournalist.com.

We have such a rich and prestigious legacy. But we're not resting there. In May 2019,



William Allen White

See a photo gallery of all of the William Allen White 150 events at www.jayhawkjournalist.com

75 years after the School opened its doors, we will break ground for a new front door for Stauffer-Flint Hall. Literally! From our special vantage point on Jayhawk Boulevard, we will create a new entry that opens onto a plaza that celebrates who and what we are in the School. It's also a time to again examine what we do here in these halls and ensure our relevancy for another 75 or 150 years, so in partnership with the physical changes, we are studying our curriculum.

I'm sure you've heard that this is also a time of budget cuts. You might wonder how we can put money into a building when we had to cut 6 percent of our budget. You are the answer. Our alumni and other donors continue to provide us with a place to teach and practice the crafts of journalism. The catalyst for this project was the critical need to replace our elevator. Our labs and classrooms must be accessible to all our students. Thanks to generous donors, we can continue to build this School. Over the next year, we will be asking for your support to create a new front door as we continue to welcome students to this uniquely named place.

Best wishes for a peaceful and joyful holiday season and new year.

Ann M. Brill
Dean

GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

If you run an organization's social media account, you know you have to be prepared to handle just about anything. Earlier this year, a commenter posted this on a profile of a student who had changed his major to journalism: "You should have majored in engineering or computer science. Journalism is a dead profession."

Besides being mean, that statement is just not true. No one can deny the financial challenges of news organizations all around the country, but that's only part of the story when you take a look at job prospects for journalism graduates. About 850 students are enrolled in the J-School any given year, and about 70 percent are studying strategic communication. There are a wide variety of jobs open to them when they graduate. And if you assume that our news/info students aren't getting jobs, ask recent graduates at news organizations all over the country. Several had multiple job offers, such as Alana Flinn, who had 13 job offers.

In a 2017 survey, 84 percent reported that they were working full time six months after graduation. Forty-four percent reported earning \$30,000-\$39,000 a year; 31 percent reported earning \$40,000-\$49,000 a year, and 7 percent reported earning more than \$50,000 a year.

Our career and outreach counselor, Steve Rottinghaus, works with students on job searches, resumes and mock interviews. He organizes career fairs and created a jobs and internships page that is the second most visited page on the J-School website.

Reports of the death of journalism have been greatly exaggerated. Our graduates can verify that.

Julie Adam
Editor, Jayhawk Journalist

Tom Volek leaves his mark

Associate dean's legacy includes starting the J-School doctoral program and military and the media courses



Tom Volek retired in May after 28 years teaching in the J-School.

The first time that journalism graduate Scott Parks (j'94) walked into Professor Tom Volek's classroom, he was scared, nervous and excited all at once.

Parks, who is a longtime radio talk show host in the Kansas City market, said his first impression of Volek was that he was short and the second was that Volek told corny jokes. However, Parks would soon realize something else: "This man knew what he was talking about. He knew journalism and I wanted to know what he knew. I soaked up his lessons like a sponge."

His feelings of nervousness and fear soon faded away. Volek's class put him at ease, and

he felt as though he belonged there.

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies Tom Volek came to the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications on Jan. 1, 1990, and the legacy he left behind as a professor, mentor, and friend was that he positively affected his students, his colleagues, and the School of Journalism.

Volek retired from the J-School in the spring of 2018.

More than 28 years ago, Volek was recruited by Associate Professor Max Utsler to teach at the University of Kansas. Volek had just finished his PhD at the University of Minnesota and he and Utsler were acquaint-

ed from their days of working at a TV station at the University of Missouri.

Given his extensive experience with production and directing, Volek could have become a big-time director in a larger city. Instead, he chose to come to KU as a professor because he genuinely enjoyed academics, and the lifestyle appealed to him, Volek said.

Back then, the curriculum was different, but he taught the equivalent of Information Management and Media Writing. He also taught courses on corporate television, broadcasting, history and law. History and law were the two that he enjoyed teaching the most.

J-School Professor Chuck Marsh started teaching at the J-School six months before Volek did.

"He is drop-dead funny. I love listening to his lectures," Marsh said. Marsh was new to academic life, so he says he would sit in the hall and listen to other professors teach. "[Volek's] just in there having the time of his life, and his students are laughing and learning," Marsh said.

Marsh and Volek also have fond memories outside of the J-School. Since Volek worked with the U.S. State Department to teach journalism in other countries, he had the opportunity to travel often. There were multiple occasions where Volek invited Marsh to go out of the country and teach with him. The two have been to places like Kyrgyzstan and Costa Rica.

"He got some fabulous stamps in my passport," Marsh said.

Some would say that two of Volek's biggest contributions to the J-School would be working with the Military in the Media course and the Ph.D. program. Both programs grew thanks to his hard work, dedi-



Tom Volek (left) pictured with Dean Ann Brill at his retirement party in May.

cation and passion. Volek worked with many people to build these programs.

Volek teamed up with Professor Barbara Barnett to create and coordinate the Military in the Media program from 2007 to 2014. The McCormick Foundation gave the School a five-year grant and a simple mandate: make things better between the media and the military.

"The military doesn't always do a very good job of understanding what the media does, and most journalists don't really have an idea of how the military works," Volek said.

Volek had connections with Fort Leavenworth from his own work and programs co-sponsored by the School and the Fort, so those provided a great starting place. Volek and Barnett arranged for a joint class between students from the J-School and the Command and General Staff College. There was also a series of "boot camps" where journalists embedded for a week with soldiers. Journalists learned about the Army and the soldiers learned about journalism. Volek

"The man teaching class that day would become not only a mentor ... but a lifelong friend."

actively participated with the soldiers and journalists on their daily routine.

"The fact is that a group of journalists went out of here knowing more about how the military operated ... we believe the soldiers and the military certainly got something out of it," Volek said. "I think it really increased knowledge and understanding."

As Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, Volek shepherded the first class of doctoral students for the School in 2012. "What it amounts to is that's something you're probably going to do once in your life, and you

don't really know how to do it," Volek said. "It was a big deal." Volek worked across campus and the state to recruit students and seek support for the program. Graduates from the School's doctoral program are now working in journalism programs throughout the country.

"We are grateful for the time he spent here," said Dean Ann M. Brill. "Tom's contributions strengthened the J-School in many important ways."

While he may have left the J-School, his hard work and contributions helped define and shape the school into what it is now. Volek went above and beyond what his job entailed, and he poured his heart and soul into his work and students.

"What I didn't realize on that first day was that the man teaching class that day would become not only a mentor.... but a lifelong friend," Parks said. "Someone, who after 25 years since your graduation, you will consider it an honor to sit across from them as you both dine on biscuits and gravy and laugh about the old days. That's Professor Volek. That's Tom."

— Angel Tran is a senior from Wichita, Kansas, studying news and information.



Volek was all smiles after the dean presented him with a conductor's cap on his last day of teaching in the J-School.

A casual way to learn new skills

The vision for the JBar is to give students a comfortable place to become tech savvy on their schedules

A new hot spot inside Stauffer-Flint Hall is expanding students' technology skills and building their qualifications for a wide range of jobs after graduation.

The JBar was installed Sept. 14-15 inside the Clarkson Gallery and is designed to be an active learning space where journalism students can access technology training, ask questions and watch demonstrations in a low-pressure, open and informal environment that fits their busy schedules.

Heather Lawrenz (j'96), the school's digital media specialist leading the instruction at the JBar, said the Apple Genius Bar and a digital lounge at the University of Southern California Annenberg School of Communications and Journalism were inspirations for the new tech hub, which operates on the idea that people learn more effectively by watching and being able to follow along at their own pace.

"I would say it's not just a piece of furniture," Lawrenz said. "The space, the furniture, is a vehicle for something much larger, which is changing some of the ways we approach technology teaching and changing the way I interact with students."

Lawrence carpenter Craig Daniels worked with Lawrenz to design the bar and hired all local artisans to help him build it. The "bar" is 8 feet long by 4 feet wide and was designed to match the historic architectural design of Stauffer-Flint — but with a modern twist.

"He just really got my vision," Lawrenz said, "to have it look modern, look sleek and cool but also pay homage to the tradition."

The cabinetry is alder wood, and the four corners are a sleeker version of the limestone post rock found around Kansas. The tile front of the bar looks like the stone walls of Stauffer-Flint but in square pieces. A granite countertop picks up the colors and tones of the stone and wood. Bar stools surround



Heather Lawrenz (j'96), J-School digital media specialist, assists students with questions about infographics.

“The space, the furniture, is a vehicle for something much larger, which is changing some of the ways we approach technology and changing the way I interact with students.”

three sides, and a large display screen is affixed to the wall at the end of the bar. Students can plug in their laptops and charge their phones while they follow along with the latest training exercise.

Sheyenne Denton, a sophomore from St. Marys, Kansas, likes the JBar because it has opened up access to technology training. Students can just stop in and ask a question on the way to class, and the learning format has improved her skills.

"It has helped me learn by allowing me to see other people's work and use their amazing ideas and add it into my projects," Denton said. "At the JBar, we all help each other create, so it also gives us the skill of collaboration that you need for a job. I think the JBar will help myself and other students get a job after graduation by giving us skills in Adobe programs that lots of jobs are looking for."

In the first three months of the JBar's ex-



Lawrenz cut the ribbon for the J-School's new tech hub, the JBar, in September with an assist from Anthony Whaley, lab specialist.

istence, there has been a lot of activity, including mini-workshops and Adobe Creative Daily Challenges.

"If Adobe is doing something live, I'll be in there every day, and people can kind of come and go, so it's a good chance to learn the tools but also a quick way to create a project," Lawrenz said.

Lawrenz said that the informal atmosphere appeals to the students and is less intimidating than making an appointment or committing to a workshop.

Students can drop by as their schedule permits or even just soak in some tips on the big screen while they are in the Clarkson Gallery studying.

"I'll do 20- or 30-minute mini-sessions for people who maybe it's hard to fit in a workshop, or it's hard to fit in a team because they work and they are a student and they've got all these other responsibilities," Lawrenz said. "Well, they can stop by for 20 minutes during lunch and over the course of the semester to really get a full view of things."

When there aren't workshops or challenges going on, Lawrenz works on some of her own projects on the big display screen so people can watch how she creates.

"I think in education and training, there's



The cornerstone piece of tile at the JBar is stamped with the JBar's signature logo.

a lot of great conversations that happen in a casual way, that happen in a way that there's not gradebook control, that happen in a way that there's not an assignment attached to it, but there's just natural curiosity," Lawrenz said. "I'm hopeful that the JBar will be the environment to make that happen."

— Julie Adam

DONOR WANTS TO INSURE STUDENTS KEEP UP WITH TECHNOLOGY

The JBar was made possible by a gift from the Kyle Craig Family Future of Journalism Fund. Kyle Craig is a



Kyle Craig

third-generation Jayhawk who graduated in 1969 and worked in advertising and marketing agencies. He handled worldwide marketing for Burger King and KFC and

founded Einstein Bros. Bagels. He now offers leadership training and executive coaching.

Craig said he established the Future of Journalism Fund because he has seen technology evolve rapidly, and he believes it is vital that graduates keep up with and get ahead of those changes in the journalism field.

"I think everything that's going on with the world today — changes in journalism and digital media and social media — journalism as we knew it has clearly changed radically, and it's going to be critical for the William Allen White School to stay ahead of that curve, not even just right at the curve, but you've got to be ahead of it," Craig said. "We've got to be doing things to be very future oriented if we are going to attract the best and brightest students around."

Craig said he wanted to support the JBar because it's a way for the school to be consistently focusing on staying plugged into a technology platform and trends that will affect the future of journalism.

A large mosaic of small photographs forming a portrait of William Allen White. The mosaic is composed of numerous small, square photographs, each depicting a different scene or event. The overall effect is a dense, textured representation of the subject. The number '150' is overlaid in a large, bold, yellow font on the left side of the image.

150

This mosaic of William Allen White is made up of photos from the 150th birthday events at the School of Journalism earlier this year. See a photo gallery at www.jayhawkjournalist.com.

Modern tribute to Sage of Emporia

Highly acclaimed filmmaker and KU professor Kevin Willmott discusses making William Allen White documentary



Kevin Willmott grew up in Junction City, Kansas. And like any kid who grew up in Kansas, he was told all about William Allen White through elementary school.

Willmott always knew White was an important man in Kansas' history. He just didn't know exactly why. In Willmott's new film, "William Allen White: What's the Matter with Kansas," he was able to learn all about the man who is so closely related with where he was raised. The film is edited and co-written by Mark von Schlemmer and co-produced by Scott Richardson.

Kansas and White share a lot of history together, and the film pieces it together. In its 80-minute run time, the film focuses on White's activism from his place as publisher of the Emporia Gazette, becoming a massive influencer from his desk in Kansas.

The film premiered in the midst of the

William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications' week of celebrating White's posthumous 150th birthday.

After the premiere of the documentary, Willmott discussed the creation of the film, how White's legacy can be felt today, and the future screenings for the film.

Q: Why did you decide to make "What's the Matter with Kansas?" the name of the film?

A: We decided on the title because that's the thing he's most known for, the great essay, "What's the Matter with Kansas." And it also is symbolic of a lot of issues that are currently going on. "What's the Matter with Kansas" was his response to populism of the time, to left-wing populism at the time, and currently we have a lot of right-wing populism going on. So, it was just an important theme of his life and what was defining for him.

Q: How else do his ideas relate to now

because that seemed like a theme that came up a lot in the film?

A: I think there are several things. One thing is that there's currently a rise in hate groups and racial division, the alt-right and the Klan and neo-Nazis. Hate crimes are at a high. So, the fact that White took on specifically the Klan in Kansas — they were using a lot of the populist ideas to gain power and gain members really. He took that on because both major parties had gone along with the Klan. A lot of them were members of the Klan. They took their support and moved forward with it.

White really saw that as a huge threat to democracy. When he ran as a third party, which was a really big thing for him, that was a really difficult decision because he was very much a Republican, so when he decided to take that on as a third-party candidate to take on the Klan, I think that has a lot to do with today and what's currently going on.

The other thing that we used in the film was his taking on of demagogues and specifically Dr. John Brinkley. One of White's really big issues was an educated electorate, an educated voting body. He was always concerned, especially during the Depression — when people are having hard times and feeling forgotten to some degree — that's really great fodder for demagogues and for extremists to come in and take those people and manipulate them and use them.

I think the same thing is going on now. With Doc Brinkley, he was against evolution and he had a lot of anti-Semitic positions, but he was also a big radio celebrity, and at that time radio would have been the equivalent of television. He was one of the first radio shows to have live music on. He was huge. So he used his celebrity to gain political power, then used those populist things that can often separate us and those racial divisions, he used those things to gain

power. And White saw that as a threat to democracy as well.

I just didn't know the details of his life until we really got into it. One of the things that really kind of struck me was how relevant and how current and how almost really prophetic he was in kind of taking on the issues he did.

Q: I definitely thought that kept showing up in the film. And I know this may be difficult from a film perspective, but studying him, what kind of standard do you think he set for journalism or even as an editorial writer?

A: Well, that's the thing. White was right there in the middle of defining the values of journalism and the values of free speech and the First Amendment. They were really kind of showing us what the First Amendment meant and what free speech actually meant. Like we mentioned in the film, after World War I, President Wilson punished a lot of anti-war protesters.

He really learned from that, those protesters, that that was really an anti-democratic thing that Wilson was doing. I think that, along with yellow journalism, and all of those things that were happening at the time, they made White understand and fight for the standards of journalism that we now try to hold true to.

In the film, it's laid out that there's just give-me-the-story journalism, there's editorial and opinion journalism, and there's analysis journalism, and all three of them have very clear separation.

And White was one of the people who kind of helped to create that. The fact that those lines are being blurred now is another reason why White's values, concerning values, those are so important to hold onto.

Q: In what ways do you think White personified Kansas? I know your identity with Kansas is very strong, so did you sense how important Kansas was to him?

A: I grew up in Kansas, and as a kid they told us about William Allen White, but they didn't

ABOUT THE FILM

"William Allen White: What's the Matter with Kansas" was funded through the William Allen White Foundation in coordination with KU Endowment and these principal funding partners:

- Dwayne and Velma Wallace Foundation
- William T. Kemper Foundation
- Kansas Newspaper Foundation
- Trusler Foundation
- Kansas Creative Arts Industry Commission
- Kansas Humanities Council
- Emporia Community Foundation

really tell us why he was important. They just told us he was important.

One of the things the film taught me in making it was he was important because — I grew up in a Kansas that was very much a moderate place. There were Republican governors, then Democratic governors, and you could barely tell the difference really, between the two of them. But you could always count on a steady, common-sense approach to government and in the way of life. And that's kind of what William Allen White symbolized in a lot of ways. I think that was the Kansas that he helped create. By ridding the Klan as a major force in Kansas, he made the state a much more moderate place. It didn't become Mississippi and Georgia and Alabama, which it easily could have become. By doing that, he helped to give us as a state a different identity.

Those values and those kind of battles, those kind of fights — we had Bob Dole and Nancy Landon Kassebaum, and we had President [Dwight D. Eisenhower], and all of them — especially compared to now — they were all Republicans, but they were all moderate figures. That's something that we don't have anymore, and that kind of extreme assault on the state is really what White reminds us of — a better time, and that I would argue, we are losing right now.

Q: How do you think he showed that ideas, if they're displayed for people in the right ways, can make legitimate change?

A: It was a combination of two things. It was him speaking out in editorials, but when he found it necessary, he took a public stand, and he worked to fight the destruction of the Klan in Kansas. That's the thing you have to do in democracy. That's something you have to become engaged in, and you have to care enough about the nation and the country and the values of the country to fight it off. That's something you're not seeing right now, especially from the left. One of the reasons they keep losing in Kansas and that things like having handguns on campus and the values that are not part of the tradition of the Kansas that I certainly grew up in. The left is going to have to fight harder.

I would argue that common sense is going to have to fight harder. And that's the example that White gave us: when you see something that's wrong, you have to do something about it. And he did just that.

Q: What was the most gratifying thing for you in doing this film? Or what did you take from it?

A: I really fell in love with William Allen White while working on the film. He reminded me of what I always kind of took for granted about Kansas, that common sense that we've been talking about, and that moderate kind of reality that no longer exists in the state. For me, he was a great reminder that, you have to fight for those values if you believe in them.

Q: What are the plans for other screenings or releases of the film?

A: We are doing a shorter version to supply to schools around the state and around the country maybe. Then we're going to try to enter it into some of the major film festivals, and then it will probably be on PBS, at least it will be on local PBS, within a year or so.

— Christian Hardy is a May 2018 graduate from Derby, Kansas.

KUJH set gets a new look

After working on a set nearly 30 years old, broadcasting students are finally using newer, modern facilities



Students rehearsed their segments on the new KUJH-TV set earlier this semester.

When Chad Curtis interviewed for the position of news director for KU's student-run television station, he immediately noticed that the KUJH-TV set was outdated and in need of a major upgrade.

The set was donated to the university from a Kansas City station, and it was well over 30 years old.

Curtis says it was dark and not visually interesting. There were pictures of day and night shots of the Kansas City skyline that weren't even accurate of what it looks like today. Not to mention that KUJH is in Lawrence, not Kansas City.

Once Curtis was hired, he started brainstorming possibilities for how he could improve the facilities. Initially, he thought about getting a completely new set, which would've been expensive but also the easiest option.

As he continuously studied the old set, he began to see potential in its structure.

"It actually didn't make a lot of sense to rip this thing out and start over," Curtis said.

"Even though the look was very dated, the bones were very strong."

After getting approval for the project, he went straight into planning the logistics of how the set was going to be revamped. However, KUJH newscasts couldn't just stop because of the remodeling.

A major challenge they faced was coordinating when the crews could come in to work on the set and when they were doing newscasts. As a result, this delayed the goal to have the set completed over the winter break before the Spring 2018 semester.

However, the set was about 90 percent completed before the spring semester started. Curtis couldn't wait until the summer to complete it because he wanted the 2018 graduates to use the new set on their resume reels. It was a way to prove "that they're ready to go into the industry and work."

So, they needed to work on the set while still having a newscast on air during the main semesters, which was achieved.

The idea was to give the new set a modern clean look. The banks of monitors allowed for more controlled and smooth transitions from story to story. In addition, building a platform, moving the lights, and installing a state-of-the-art system adds to the contemporary appearance.

In total, the project took nearly a full year to complete. Looking back, Curtis is glad that students have the chance to work on an improved and modern-looking set. He says they love the bold look of it and when anchors are on it, there is the sense of "now" that is important in news.

Curtis decided to stray away from the traditional news sets where anchors sit at a desk. Instead, any anchor can be in any spot during the newscasts without the confines of a desk. In fact, many news stations are abandoning the desk in favor of mobility.

This shows that the KUJH set is looking forward at where the industry is going.

Having an up-to-date set "gives credibility to the stories we're doing today," Curtis said.

Curtis says organizations like KUJH put many KU graduates ahead of the game when news managers are hiring. The look of the newscast is not the most important thing that employers are looking for; however, it most definitely helps students stand out.

The combination of talent, practice, skills and the modern look of the set gives KU J-School graduates the "ultimate full package," Curtis said.

From the start of this project Curtis had one goal in mind that kept him going: "It is very high on my priority list to get everybody to the point where they have what they need at graduation to enter the workplace of journalism."

—Angel Tran is a senior from Wichita, Kansas, studying news and information.

Faculty & Staff Achievements

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



Professor **Chuck Marsh** was chosen as the 2018 Chancellor's Club Career Teaching Award recipient. The award recognizes one faculty member each year for teaching contributions to the university over a period of 20 years or more. The last J-School recipient was Calder Pickett in 1987.

Associate Professor **Jerry Crawford** was elected to the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's Professional Freedom and Responsibility Committee. Crawford also is the new subcommittee chair for the AEJMC Presidential Task Force on Careers, and he was invited to join the AEJMC Advisory Board for the Institute for Diverse Leadership.

Associate Dean **Scott Reinardy** was honored by the South Dakota State University Department of Journalism and Mass Communication as one of its distinguished alumni. Reinardy earned bachelor's degrees in journalism and history from SDSU in 1987.

Assistant Professor **Teri Finneman** has launched a new podcast, Journalism History, on iTunes as part of her work with the AEJMC History Division.

Gayle Vannicola, J-School business manager, this year marked 40 years of service at KU. Vannicola has worked at the J-School for 12 ½ years.

Tom Volek, who retired from the J-School in May as associate dean for undergraduate studies, was awarded the Russian, East European & Eurasian faculty service award on Sept. 7. The award was in appreciation of the contributions he has made to the REES programs and initiatives over the years.

Associate Professor **Mike Williams** was invited to be co-chair of the Kansas Board of Regents Transfer and Articulation Council for next year. He also has been selected to the board of directors for Trips for Kids, an organization that get kids involved with bicycling.

Associate Professor **Mugur Geana** is part of a research team that received an \$88,000 grant from the Brown Performance Group to pilot test a communication and engagement intervention aimed at promoting recruitment of patients from rural clinics into urological cancer clinical trials. The pilot study will be conducted this year in Oklahoma and Louisiana.

TRIP TO RUSSIA

Lisa McLendon, Bremner Editing Center coordinator (right), J-School Associate Professor **Peter Bobkowski** (left), and Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies Director **Vitaly Chernetsky** (center) visited Ekaterinburg, Russia, as part of their Peer-to-Peer grant from the U.S. State Department. They are working with a Russian university to develop materials for journalism students on fact-checking and verification. They also visited several local media outlets and the Yeltsin Center museum.





Assistant Professor Joseph Erba, pictured with Dean Ann Brill, received the Katich Creativity Award in May. The Katich Award goes to a tenure track or tenured faculty member in the school who has demonstrated creativity in teaching, research, service or a combination of these areas. The award is named in honor of John Katich, a former J-School instructor who loved students and inspired them to excel.



Kerry Benson, strategic communication track chair, received the Bengtson Faculty Mentor Award at the J-School Scholarships and Awards ceremony in April. The award was established in 2012 by Mark Mears (above), 1984 J-School graduate, to honor his mentor, Professor Tim Bengtson, who taught in the school for more than 30 years.

Integrated Marketing Communications program director and faculty member **Matt Tidwell** was named to the international executive board of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). Tidwell also received the Arthur Lowell Communicator of the Year award from the Kansas City chapter of the IABC at its annual



KC Quills Awards ceremony in June. Past winners include J-School alumni **Mike Goff** and **Eric Morgenstern** and IMC instructor and doctoral student **Michelle Keller**.

Associate Professor **Genelle Belmas** won first place in the AEJMC Law & Policy Division's teaching award competition.

J-School advisors **Ashley Anguiano Gomez** and **Dan McCarthy** were nominated for KU Advisor of the Year. They

were recognized during a ceremony May 7. Anguiano left the J-School in September to become the recruiting coordinator for the School of Social Welfare.

Pam Fine, the Knight Chair for News, Leadership and Community, received a grant from the Online News Association on a project to pair journalism students with working professionals to build a data-driven, crowdsourced, locally focused model of presenting business news and information that can potentially be used by small news organizations across the country.

Associate Professor **Hyunjin Seo**, Assistant Professor **Joseph Erba**, Associate Professor **Yvonne Chen**, and Assistant Professor **Hyejin Bang** were awarded a one-year Curriculum Innovation Program grant from the KU Center for Teaching Excellence. The team will work on better incorporating social media and other digital media components into strategic communication courses.

Associate Professor **Hyunjin Seo** has been selected as a fellow at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University for 2018-2019. She will continue her research on social media and social change while working with faculty, researchers and other affiliates at different academic units at the university. Seo will be in residence at Harvard during her Spring 2019 sabbatical.

Associate Professor **Max Utsler** is co-chair of the curriculum committee for Dayton Moore's "CYou in the Major Leagues" Foundation. Moore is the general manager of the Kansas City Royals and established the foundation to support youth baseball, education, faith-based organizations and events, and families in crisis. Utsler will be involved in a program for 12-15 Kansas City metro high school juniors that focuses on character-based leadership, mentoring and community service.

New faculty and staff

Chad Curtis, KUJH-TV news director



Curtis is the news director for KUJH-TV, where he works with the broadcast reporting students. His career in journalism includes TV news producing jobs in Las Vegas and Flint, Michigan. Curtis jumped up to the network news level in 1995 when he started working with NBC News Channel, the division of NBC News that works with affiliates across the country. His work at NBC

News Channel took him to the Olympics, Super Bowls, Democratic and Republican National Conventions, and Ground Zero in New York City. Curtis has been a collegiate news director before, with his students consistently winning national awards at college journalism competitions. Curtis holds a master's degree in communications from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

Terri Finneman, assistant professor



Finneman joined the J-School this fall after three years on the faculty at South Dakota State University. She teaches multimedia reporting, social media, diversity and history classes. Her research focuses on gender, journalism history, oral history and ethics. She is the author of *Press Portrayals of Women Politicians, 1870s-2000s*, executive producer of the documentary

Newspaper Pioneers: The Story of the North Dakota Press, and executive producer and co-host of the podcast *Journalism History*. She is vice chair of the AEJMC History Division and is leading an interdisciplinary committee across KU to begin planning events for the 100th anniversary of women having the right to vote. She received her master's degree and Ph.D. from the Missouri School of Journalism.

Rob Karwath, University Daily Kansan general manager and news advisor



Karwath is general manager and news advisor of the *University Daily Kansan* and teaches news courses in the J-School. Before coming to KU, Karwath was a reporter, editor and media business executive. He founded and served as CEO of North Coast Communications, a Minnesota-based strategic communications firm. Karwath began his career as a reporter at the *Chicago Tribune* and

became business editor, political editor, Sunday editor, general manager, product development director and innovation editor. As business editor, he led a team of reporters whose series on the downfall of the Arthur Andersen accounting firm was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. He also was executive editor of the *Duluth News Tribune* and a leader

of the team that directed business of Knight Ridder Inc.'s six regional newspapers and magazines. He helped start the news operation of partner television station KQDS-TV and anchored a portion of the station's nightly broadcast. Karwath is a 1986 graduate of the J-School and was editor of the *Kansan*. He earned an MBA from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business.

Patricia E. (Weems) Gaston, Lacy C. Haynes Professor of Journalism



Gaston comes to KU from *The Washington Post*, where she was an editor who worked on several desks including National, Foreign and Editorial. Before going to the *Post* in 1997, Gaston worked at the *Dallas Morning News*, where she was an assistant foreign editor and was co-editor of the 1994 Pulitzer Prize-winning series on violence against women. She grew up in Kansas City, Kansas, and graduated

with a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Kansas in 1981. She has a master's degree in sports management from *The George Washington University*. In 2013, she was a Leadership Institute Fellow with the Center for American Progress, a progressive public policy program. In her spare time, Gaston has worked as a kitchen, case management and advocacy volunteer at *Miriam's Kitchen* and served on the agency's Volunteer Advocacy Advisory Committee. She twice served two-year terms as the co-chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force of the American Association of University Women.

Maryls Shulda, KU Endowment associate development director

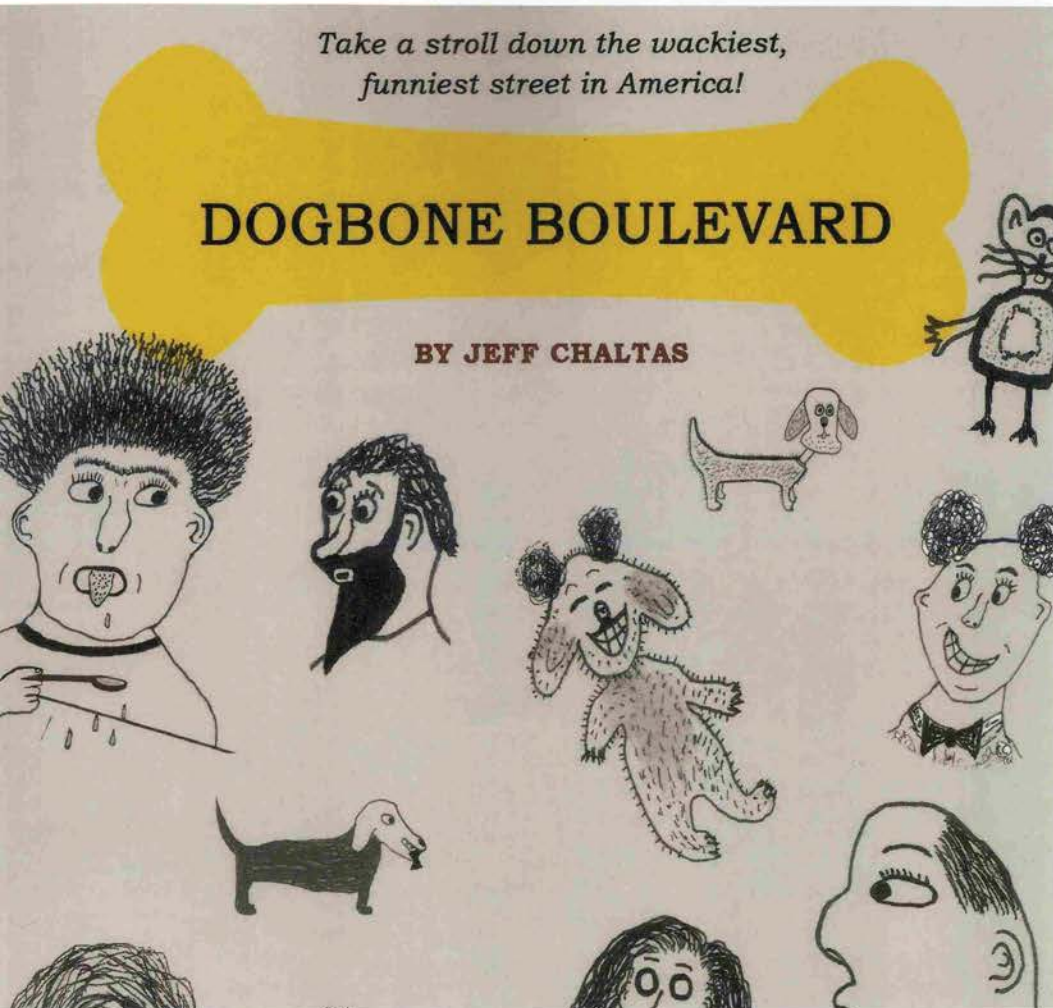


Shulda is the associate development director with KU Endowment Association for the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications. She is a proud 1992 KU graduate. She spent the first 15 years of her career as a juvenile probation officer in Olathe, Kansas. She took a break in 2007 to stay home and raise two children, her favorite job ever. In 2012, she ran

for the Kansas Legislature, which fueled her transition into fundraising. She has worked on both local and national campaigns for the last six years and served as the development coordinator for *American Public Square*, a Kansas City-based nonprofit with a mission to create civil and fact-based dialogue in the community. She has many interests, not the least of which is a deep and abiding love for the University of Kansas. She is thrilled to have the opportunity and privilege of traveling the nation and meeting with KU journalism graduates and helping them navigate their gifts to the university.

For the love of cartoons

Jeff Chaltas' "Dogbone Boulevard," is a collection of his quirky comics



"Dogbone Boulevard" is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

For as long as he can remember, Jeff Chaltas has had an affinity for cartoons. He's especially loved the quick, witty humor and simplicity of one-panel cartoons and had plenty of his own cartoon concepts.

Chaltas, who received his master's degree from the School of Journalism in 1999, started putting pen to paper and fleshing out these ideas decades ago. But there was one problem. A career in corporate communications hadn't helped him learn how to draw.

When he sent his early cartoons to greet-

ing card companies across America, he got one response.

"One company in Maine said, 'These are funny concepts, but you need to work on your drawing,'" Chaltas recalled. "So, I just put it on the back burner for years and years — for decades, even."

It wasn't until he took a six-week class at Johnson County Community College a couple of years ago that he started to find confidence in his drawing. When he did, he started working on a book of his own one-panel



Jeff Chaltas

whimsical cartoons.

The result was "Dogbone Boulevard," a collection of 25 of his comics, with subject matter ranging from the sanitation of public pools and a cat driving a car.

He's always had confidence in his humor and his ability to connect his humor to images. Chaltas once placed in a Kansas City Star caption contest, which only helped his confidence in his humor, but his drawing was still lagging.

It took plenty of practice, and with it came confidence in his cartooning style as well. Eventually, he felt ready to release the cartoons of his playful characters to the public. The rather simple drawings are unique to Chaltas, and so is the humor, which he always seemed to have a knack for.

"It's definitely a weird sense of humor that I have, and I don't shy away from that," Chaltas said. "Hopefully others out there have just as weird a sense of humor and find it funny."

Chaltas self-released the book of cheery one-panel cartoons in November 2017 in paperback and a Kindle version, both of which are for sale on Amazon.

— Christian Hardy is a May 2018 graduate from Derby, Kansas

Student Spotlight

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

FULBRIGHT FINALIST



Garrett Farlow (j'18, c'18) was one of nine KU students who reached the semifinalist stage of the Fulbright competition. Farlow also was awarded KU's Donald K. Alderson Memorial Award. The award is presented to

a graduating senior who has demonstrated loyalty to and interest in the University and who has been an active participant in student activities and services of benefit to other students. Farlow is a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and is attending flight school in Fort Rucker, Alabama.

NATIONAL VOICE



DeAsia Sutgrey was selected as one of the emerging storytellers for Black on Campus, a program sponsored by The Nation in partnership with the Anna Julia Cooper Center at Wake Forest

University. Black on Campus student writers develop professional skills as they document the experiences of black college students and report on issues of national consequence to a black college student audience.

ACES SCHOLARSHIP

Senior **Chandler Boese** received a \$1,500 scholarship from ACES: The Society for Editing. Boese was spring 2018 editor-in-chief of the University Daily Kansan and a consultant for the university's writing center.

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

The School of Journalism Graduate Studies Office hosted a luncheon and awards presentation April 5 for Graduate Student Appreciation Week. Associate Dean Scott Reinardy (left) presented graduate student awards to (from left) **Nyan Lynn**, **Roseann Pluretti**, **John Watson**, **Alberto Araujo** and **Yuchen Liu**.



HOMECOMING AWARD WINNERS



Congratulations to J-School student **Brianna Mears**, who was the recipient of the 2018 Jennifer Alderdice Homecoming Award. In her 13 years at the KU Alumni Association, Alderdice inspired students to become involved and take pride in KU. The award recognizes a student who demonstrates dedication, initiative, motivation, a positive attitude and contributions to KU. (Photo courtesy of 2018 J-School graduate Ashley Hocking)

Jose Montoya, a Los Lunas, New Mexico, senior in journalism and sport management, was selected as a winner of the 28th annual Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership Awards. The winners were announced during halftime of the KU-Oklahoma State Homecoming football game Sept. 29. Montoya is pictured with Matt Smith, KU associate director of bands.



KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS AWARDS

Students won three events in the television category and two events in the radio category at the 2018 Kansas Association of Broadcasters competition in April. Top finishers for KU in TV were:

- Enterprise news package: Grant Stephens
- Complete news feature: Jackson Kurtz
- Station website, KUJH News, Ilana Karp, Alana Flinn and Dan Garrett

Top finishers for KU in radio:

- Complete news feature: Christian Hardy
- Sports play-by-play: Jackson Schneider, Marco Marquez

GREAT PLAINS JOURNALISM AWARDS

KU student media outlets were selected for four honors in the Great Plains Journalism Awards, sponsored by the Tulsa Press Club. Conner Mitchell was named Great Plains Student Editor-in-Chief of the Year, and Darby VanHoutan was named Great Plains Student Writer of the Year. KUJH was named Great Plains Student Broadcast of the Year. Mallory Houser was producer of the broadcast.

The University Daily Kansan was named Great Plains Student Newspaper of the Year.

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS CONTEST

Several students were recognized in the Society of Professional Journalists 2017 Region 7 Mark of Excellence Awards.

Television Feature Reporting

Winner: Jackson Kurtz

Finalist: Grant Stephens

Radio Feature

Winner: Hannah Jerome

Radio In-Depth Reporting

Finalist: Garrett Mould

Television General News Reporting

Finalist: Lauren Davidson

Newspaper General News Reporting (Large) 10,000+ Students

Finalists: Omar Sanchez, Courtney Bierman

Best All-Around Television Newscast

Finalists: Mallory Houser, Courtney Gehrke

Four place in Hearst Awards



Jackson Kurtz



Sean Collins



Darby VanHoutan



Omar Sanchez

Several J-School students placed in this year's national Hearst Journalism Awards Program competition. **Jackson Kurtz** placed in two categories: ninth in TV 1 Features and tied for 13th in TV 2 News; **Sean Collins** placed ninth, and **Darby VanHoutan** placed 18th in the Multimedia News category. **Omar Sanchez** placed 18th in Feature Writing.

COLLEGE MEDIA CONTESTS

The University Daily Kansan won an Online Pacemaker Award for best college media website along with two first-place awards for display and online advertising at the Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Association convention Oct. 25-28 in Louisville. In all, the Kansan and kansan.com picked up 10 awards from the two college media organizations for work over the past 12 months.

From the Associated Collegiate Press:

- Online Pacemaker Award for best college media website
- First place, display advertising, Jacob Hood
- Finalist, Newspaper Pacemaker Award for best print college newspaper

From the College Media Awards

- First place, online advertising, Jacob Hood
- Second place, editorial, Conner Mitchell
- Second place, arts and entertainment story, Omar Sanchez
- Second place, news package, Angie Baldelomar, Chandler Boese, McKenna Harford and Darby VanHoutan
- Third place, news website



Kansan staff members showed off the awards they won at the 2018 Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Association convention Oct. 25-28 in Louisville.



The Royal Dozen

As part of the JOUR 500 Royals Spring Training class, 12 students spent their spring break in Surprise, Arizona, covering the Kansas City Royals. The students, known as the Royal Dozen, conducted 34 sit-down video interviews and shot video of daily workouts and spring training games. Mini-profiles were produced on 34 Royals minor-league players. The group included: Dallas Milligan, Zach Fisher, Nick Couzin, Professor Scott Reinardy, Austin Garcia, Jordan Wolf, Christian Hardy, Jasmyn Wimbish, Wesley Dotson, Claudia Close, Associate Professor Max Utsler, Austin Reed, Sean Collins and Lauren Davidson. Utsler and Reinardy were the instructors for the class.

STRATEGIC CAMPAIGNS TEAMS WIN KC QUILLS AWARDS

Two Strategic Campaigns teams have won awards from the 2018 IABC KC Quills Awards competition. Students worked with Kaleidoscope, a Hallmark-sponsored creativity space in Crown Center in Fall 2017. Their professor was Associate Professor Yvonne Chen.

Where STEAM Lives (at right, top photo)

Team members: Courtney Carpenter, Vanessa Gonzales, Landon J. Munsch, Kyle Sagendorph, Kaleigh Thomas, Brian Trigg and Anna Wonderlich

Category: Communication Management - Government Communication Programs

Color Your Confidence - Kaleidoscope (at right, bottom photo)

Team members: Megan Doolittle, Margaret Huwe, Hanna Melton, Marcea Say, Joshua Suos and Corey Wogalter

Category: Communication Management - Communication Management



Who, What & Where

Find out what your J-School classmates are doing now.

Let us know what you've been up to by emailing your updates to jschool@ku.edu.

1960s

James Merrill (j'68, g'76, PhD'82) is retired president of Applied Marketing Research Inc. He lives in Olathe with Ellen Cohn Merrill, d'76.

Jo Ann Marinelli Weber (j'69) is a sales executive at Reece Nichols Real Estate in Overland Park.

1970s

Joe Vaughan (j'70) is an author and journalist in Prairie Village. He wrote "Colonel Wilkinson's Diary: A Kansas Doctor in World War I France," which was published this year by Mennonite Press.

Jack Nixon (j'72) has been awarded the National Sports Media Association Sportscaster of the Year award for the state of New Mexico. Nixon is the play-by-play announcer for New Mexico State University athletics and is in his 38th season with the Aggies. This is the third time Nixon has earned national sportscaster of the year recognition after earning the same accolade in 1980 and 2013.

Jerome Vokracka (j'73) is regional manager at Akkase, a home health care company in Omaha, Nebraska.

Conrad Bibens (j'77) retired in July 2018 as a business wire and copy editor after 28 years at the Houston Chronicle. He also worked at the St. Joseph News-Press, the Commercial Appeal of Memphis, Tennessee, the Houston Post and the St. Louis Sun.

Gordon Docking (j'77) is a consultant at Gordon Docking Consulting in Overland Park, Kansas.

Bill French (j'77) was elected first vice president of the Tulsa Men's Club, which was established in 1949.

Stephen Paddock (j'78) directs sales for Nokia and lives in Lenexa with his wife, Alison. They have two children, Brandon and Mallory, who live in Los Angeles.

EDITOR AWARD



Ann Gardner (j'75) received the Clyde M. Reed Jr. Master Editor Award from the Kansas Press Association this year. The award recognizes a Kansas editor for a lifetime of achievement that involves commitment to community, the Kansas newspaper industry and the state. Gardner is a former Lawrence Journal-World editorial page editor who lives in Lawrence.

Ron Altman (j'79) retired in December as an account manager at AT&T.

Steve South (j'79) is president and general manager of KSNW-TV in Wichita, where he makes his home with his wife, Linda.

Sarah Thomas (j'79) is living in Leawood, Kansas, where she recently retired after directing communications for the American Academy of Family Physicians.

1980s

Mary Jo Howard Dively (j'80, c'80) is vice president and general counsel at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. In January, she was elected to the board of directors of F.N.B. Corporation and First National Bank of Pennsylvania.

Barbara Kinney (j'80) is a photographer and photo editor at Emerson Collective in Palo Alto, California. She lives in Larkspur.

Jan Anne Dubin (j'81), founder and CEO of Jan Anne Dubin Consulting, was selected by the Chicago Business Journal as one of its 2018 Women of Influence.

Brian Purdy (j'81) is Dallas market president at CBS Radio.

Chris Cobler (j'82) was recently named publisher of the Victoria Advocate in South Texas. He has been the newspaper's editor, a title he retains in his new role, since 2007. The Advocate also was named earlier this year as the Newspaper of the Year by the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors and received the Texas Press Association's Sweepstakes honor.

Janet Murguia (j'82, c'82 l'85) lives in Washington, D.C., where she's president and CEO of UnidosUS. In June, she received an honorary degree from Williams College.

Jerry Green (j'84) is an online community strategist at The Community Roundtable.

Mark Mears (j'84) served as an executive in residence in the School of Journalism. In this role, Mears served as a guest lecturer in several classes and provided career advice. He also played a role in supporting the successful launch of the J-School's alumni mentoring platform (mentoring.ku.edu)

Jeff Taylor (j'84) who is currently the Midwest regional editor for the USA TODAY network and served as the executive editor of The Indianapolis Star for four years starting in July 2012, has been named executive editor for news for USA TODAY.

Cheryl Waldron (j'84, l'88) lives in San

Antonio, where she's a senior attorney editor at Practical Law, a Thomson Reuters company.

Shon Barenklau (j'85) is publisher of the Kearney Hub in Kearney, Nebraska.

Tammy Wiard (j'86) manages retail programs for the National Mango Board in Orlando, Florida. She previously worked for the state's Department of Citrus.

Bob Kealing (j'87) won an Emmy Award in the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Suncoast Chapter contest in the Historical/Cultural category.

Lisa Frerker Austin (j'87) directs communications for Blue Valley Educational Foundation in Overland Park.

Michelle Johnson (j'87) reports on race, identity and culture issues for KCUR in Kansas City.

Jill Jess (j'89) is the public relations manager for Western Governors University in Columbus, Ohio.

K. Scott Matthews (j'89) is vice president of UMB Bank in Kansas City. He lives in Mission Hills.

Gwen McKillip O'Brien (j'89) has been appointed associate director of internal communications for the University of Notre Dame.

R. Scott Seifert (j'89) has been elected president of Hiersche, Hayward, Drakeley & Urbach, P.C., a commercial law firm in Addison, Texas.

Drew Sidener (j'89) is creative services director for CBS4 in Denver, which won two NATAS Heartland Emmy Awards. The station won the prestigious "News Excellence" award, recognizing the most outstanding overall news operation in the region, as well as the Team Coverage award.

Unbroken."

Nicole Vap (j'91), director of investigative journalism for KUSA and TEGNA Inc., was part of an investigative team at KUSA-TV in Denver that won a national Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio Television Digital News Association for large market TV news series for their segment, "Show Us Your Bills." Vap and her colleagues also won a Sigma Delta Chi award for Public Service in Television Journalism (Large-Market Station, 1-50 market) for a series exposing improper billing by medical providers in Colorado.

Sandee Buller Astrachan (j'92) is lead product manager of digital tax at H&R Block in Kansas City.

Jeffrey Hook (j'92) is executive vice president of development and marketing for Hard Rock International. He lives in Lighthouse Point, Florida.

Nancy Leonard (j'92) started a new career as a journalism teacher at Linn-Mar High School in Marion, Iowa. She had been working as a writer/producer and a senior communications associate.

Jeffrey Risley (j'92) is chief strategy officer at Saxum, an integrated marketing communications agency in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

John McNulty (j'93) is executive vice president of marketing at Thin Film Electronics in San Jose, California.

Peter Fulmer (j'94) is a real estate appraiser at Fulmer Appraisal in Oklahoma City.

Jenni Carlson (j'97) has been named an APSE Diversity Fellow for 2018-2019. She is a sports columnist for The Oklahoman in Oklahoma City.

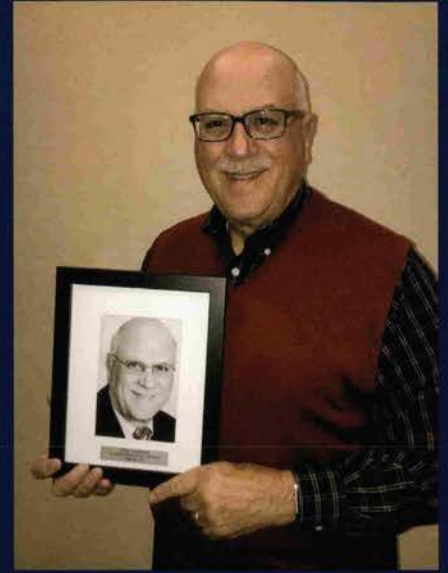
Kristin Crain (j'97, c'97) directs marketing at ZGF Architects in Portland, Oregon. She's also an instructor at the University of Oregon School of Architecture.

Samer Saba (c'97) is assistant manager at Baron MINI in Merriam, Kansas.

Amy Woodling George (j'97) is director of direct marketing strategy for the American Cancer Society in Atlanta.

Grant Moise (j'98) has been named executive vice president, publisher and president of the Dallas Morning News.

Carrie Mulligan (j'98) directs corporate development and events marketing at Standard Beverage Corporation in Lawrence.



Tom Throne (j'72, above) was inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame by the Kansas Press Association earlier this year. Throne has held leadership roles at six different newspapers in three states. He and his wife, Pam, are retired and live in Bentonville, Arkansas.



1990s

Stephen Wade (j'90) has been named publisher of The Topeka Capital-Journal. Wade has most recently served as general manager and president of The Augusta Chronicle.

Sarah Sneed Malone (j'91) manages media accounts at Walz Tetrick Advertising in Mission. She and Deryck (b'91) live in Shawnee.

Cynthia Leitich Smith (j'91) has published a new young adult novel, "Hearts

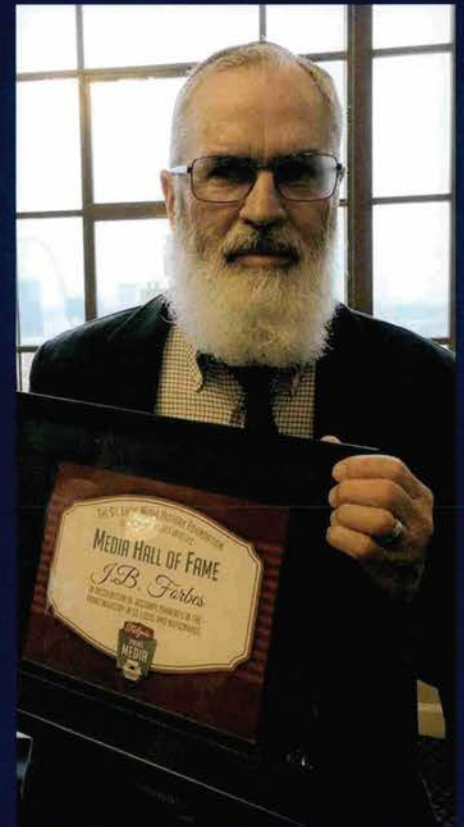
HALL OF FAME HONOREES



Julie Johnson Staples (j'78) was inducted into the KU Women's Hall of Fame in April. Staples (right) is pictured with **Lynette Woodard** (c'81 left), who also was inducted. Staples is executive director of Intersections International in New York City. She recently served as interim senior minister of the 116-year-old Flatbush-Tompkins Congregational Church in Brooklyn, New York. As a KU student, she was the first African-American editor of the University Daily Kansan. She eventually became the White House correspondent for the Baltimore Sun and The New York Times. In 1994, she earned her law degree from Georgetown University and went on to serve as the Justice Department correspondent for ABC News. She later began a career in international investing at Warburg Pincus and became the firm's first African-American partner. Her career shifted again when she returned to graduate school to study theology and became ordained in the Congregational and American Baptist Church. Also inducted was **Lydia Beebe** (j'74, f'77) pictured on the wall, who has a long history as a business leader. She has served on several corporate boards and has been a champion for working women. She received lifetime achievement awards from the Professional Business Women of California and Corporate Secretary magazine and was honored by the state of California as a Civil Rights Hero in 2009.



J.B. Forbes, (j'73, right) and **Rob Rains** (j'78, left) were inducted into the St. Louis Media Hall of Fame earlier this year. Forbes is a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. He was a guest panelist at the "Politics and the Media" panel discussion during the William Allen White birthyear celebration in April. Rains was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 2017 and runs STLsportsPage.com with his wife, Sally, (left) who also was inducted into the St. Louis Media Hall of Fame. Rains has written more than 30 books, most of them about baseball, and he and Sally have co-written numerous books.



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A MEMOIR FROM THE HEARTLAND



Sarah Smarsh (j'03) has been receiving much acclaim for her book, "Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth," a personal story that illuminates the realities and struggles of poor working class families in "flyover" country. Smarsh, a fifth-generation Kansan, tells the stories of her Midwestern rural family, an example of the people and places that have been overlooked in America until pundits and journalists credited the presidency of Donald Trump to this segment of the population. Smarsh was on a book tour most of the fall and has been interviewed by scores of media outlets. "Heartland" also was a finalist in the nonfiction category of the National Book Award. The Kansas Alumni magazine featured Smarsh on its cover in its fall edition: www.rockcha.lk/smarsh

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Carrie Mulligan (j'98) directs corporate development and events marketing at Standard Beverage Corporation in Lawrence.

2000s

Krista Tatschl-Eyler (j'00) played the lead role of Velma Kelly in the musical "Chicago" at the Arts Asylum in Kansas City, Missouri.

Melissa Yeager (j'00) has accepted a position at the Arizona Republic as the consumer travel reporter.

Matt Gardner (j'01) has been promoted to vice president, digital media and emerging technology, for the St. Louis Blues. He previously was senior director, promotions and digital strategy.

Matt Tait (j'01) is sports editor of the Lawrence Journal-World, where he will cover University of Kansas basketball.

Doug Donahoo (j'03) is now public relations manager at The Salvation Army Kansas & Western Missouri. He was previously creative services manager at KCTV-5 in Kansas City.

Sarah Henning (j'03) had a book signing at Raven Book Store in Lawrence, Kansas, for the release of her book, "Sea Witch."

Momo Yamamuro Hirai (j'03) is a TV journalist at NHK, Japan's national public broadcasting organization. She and her husband, Masataka, live in Tokyo with their two children, Mako and Kei.

Todd Smith, M.D., (j'03) published his first book, "Murder, Romance and Two Shootings," with Ninestar Press. He was a St. Louis Suburban Journals reporter shot while covering a Kirkwood City Council meeting when Cookie Thornton shot six people on Feb. 7, 2008, and has included what happened that day in his memoir.

Shahira Bishara Stafford (j'03) lives in Topeka, where she's vice president of government affairs for the Kansas Grain and Feed Association. She previously served as the organization's vice president of communications.

Sean O'Grady (j'04) lives in Denver, where he manages local marketing at Monster Energy.

Amity Dannefer (j'05) manages senior talent at VML in Kansas City.

Monica Delaorra (j'05, g'10) lives in Gainesville, Florida, where she's marketing manager at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy.

Ryan Greene (j'05) directs communications for the Las Vegas Lights Football Club.

Elyse Weidner Bradley (j'07, c'07) is creative director at Pace in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Tracy Perlman (j'07) was part of a team of journalists from WCCO-TV in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that won a 2018 Upper Midwest Emmy Award for Evening Newscast.

Andrew Clark (j'08) is the lead marketing automations developer at General Electric.

Blake Cripps (j'08) lives in Wichita, where he is play-by-play announcer for basketball and baseball at Newman University.

Taylor Cole Miller (j'08) has been appointed academic director of the Peabody Media Center, where he will administer the scholarly initiatives of the center's work. Miller is an assistant professor in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication with joint appointments in the Department of Entertainment & Media Studies and the New Media Institute.

Hanna Soltys (j'08) earned a master's degree in library and information science from Simmons University and is now a reference librarian in Prints & Photographs Division at the Library of Congress.

Rustin Dodd (j'09) covers the Kansas City Royals for The Athletic. He started at The Kansas City Star as the KU beat reporter and most recently was Royals beat writer.

Kristin Hoppa (j'09, c'08) makes her home in Waco, Texas, where she reports on breaking news and public safety at the Tribune-Herald.

Elizabeth Cattell Kanost (j'09, c'09, g'14) manages communications at the Spencer Museum of Art at KU.

B.J. Rains (j'09) was named Idaho Sports Writer of the Year by the National Sports Media Association. He's the Boise State beat writer for the Idaho Press-Tribune.

Caitlin Tew (j'09) directs global brand development at 20th Century Fox. She lives in Agoura Hills, California.

2010s

Caroline Goehausen Curzon (j'10) is an executive assistant at Russell Reynolds Associates. She resides in San Francisco.

Brianne Pfannenstiel (j'11) is now chief politics reporter at the Des Moines Register.

Devinee Fitzgerald (j'12, '17) is an account executive at Yelp in San Francisco.

Shawn Schaller (j'12) is test development specialist for PSI Services, LLC, in Olathe, Kansas.

Meredith Burton (j'13) manages direct marketing at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Kansas City. She lives in Leawood.

Jonathan Cooper (j'13) has accepted a job as weekend anchor/reporter for KOTV-TV in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Kathleen Gier (j'13) directs marketing and communications for Equip-Bid.com Auctions in Kansas City.

Alex Gold (j'13) has accepted a position at SB Nation hosting a show on its national network based in Houston. "The Gold Standard" airs weeknights from 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Gold comes to SB Nation after hosting sports talk shows in Boise, Idaho, and Kansas City, Missouri.

Claire McInerney (j'13) is the education reporter at NPR affiliate 90.5 KUT-FM in Austin, Texas.

Demetria Obilor (j'13) is traffic anchor at WFAA Channel 8 in Dallas.

Luke Ranker (j'13) has accepted a position covering Fort Worth and Tarrant County for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Sarah Stern (j'13, c'13) manages public relations for Netflix's Latin America consumer division.

Whitney Antwine (j'14) has started a new marketing/advertising agency, Wantwine Creative.

Caitlin Doornbos (j'14) is a foreign correspondent for Stars and Stripes. She's currently covering the U.S. Navy in Japan.

Nikki Wentling (j'14) was named to the HillVets 100, a list of top influencers in the veterans community, for her reporting on the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veteran experience. She was honored at a gala at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

In memoriam

Lee Young, who founded the magazine sequence at the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications in the 1960s, died Aug. 30.

Young served as associate dean, acting dean and head of the advertising sequence during his tenure at the school.

"Lee helped build the foundation of the J-School and set it on the path of being one of the top journalism programs in the country," said Dean Ann M. Brill.

Young received a journalism degree from Syracuse University after serving in the Navy in World War II. He worked at several advertising firms in New York and Kansas City and was a co-owner and general manager of a veterinary medicine magazine. At age 38, he enrolled in the J-School's graduate program and began teaching part time at KU. In 1964 when Young joined the J-School, there were a dozen faculty members and 116 undergraduate students. By 1969, he was teaching full time and serving the first of two stints as acting dean. During his career, he taught classes in every sequence and several graduate seminars.

Young turned a single, three-hour magazine class into a nationally recognized magazine program and his magazine class began the school's Jayhawk Journalist publication. As the magazine's advisor, Young taught the students with individualized exercises and collaborative lessons that were engaging and fun. Faculty and students enjoyed his sense of humor and



Lee Young

his commitment to teaching and advising students.

Susanne Shaw, professor emerita at KU who retired in July, worked with Young for more than 15 years in the J-School.

"Lee Young was an outstanding teacher in the School of Journalism and a great mentor for students and younger faculty members," Shaw said. "He served the school in many ways, including as the associate dean and interim dean of the school."

In 1985, Young was named the J-School's first

William Allen White Professor of Journalism. He also was a finalist eight times for the Senior Class H.O.P.E. (Honor for Outstanding Progressive Educator) Award.

Young retired from teaching in December 1989 and in 2015, Diane Gray Quinn, a former student of Young's, established a fund to endow the Lee F. Young Professorship in Journalism at the school.

Quinn, a 1971 graduate, said Young was "a great man" who led her to pursue a career in magazine/publication journalism.

"Lee was fun, intelligent, approachable and very caring about students," Quinn said. "He filled many roles in the journalism school, all done professionally and with good humor. He and John Bremner were classic gentlemen and teachers, and I feel grateful to have been in the school when they were there."

Ed Hundley, a longtime Kansas broadcaster who studied at the KU School of Journalism, died March 28 in Overland Park at age 92. Hundley and his wife, Zora Belle, owned and operated radio stations in Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas. Ed received the Distinguished Service Award from the Kansas Association of Broadcasters, and the couple received the Grover C. Cobb Award from KU in 1985 for excellence in broadcasting and public service. He and his wife recently established the Ed and Zora Belle Hundley Scholarship in the J-School.

GOODBYE TO CREATOR OF SMILING JAYHAWK

Hal Sandy (j'47) died Dec. 9, 2017, at the age of 93. Sandy, who lived in Prairie Village, Kansas, was the creator of the "smiling Jayhawk," the current version of the Kansas Jayhawk. Sandy created the Jayhawk in 1946 when he was a journalism student at KU and the administration wanted to revamp the "fighting Jayhawk." Sandy said he created only one version of the Jayhawk, and it was the only cartoon he ever drew. He founded Hal Sandy Associates as a marketing and advertising agency in 1952.

David Johnston (j'94), KU Alumni Association vice president, recalled meeting Sandy in

2005 when he was director of marketing at KU and sought Sandy's permission to replace the "KU" on the beloved Jayhawk with the new Trajan KU font. "I had grown up a fan of KU and considered the Jayhawk sacred. Hal Sandy was a legend to me," the starstruck Johnston recalled. Sandy was "a kind, generous soul, always smiling," Johnston remembers. "One of the proudest moments of my life came a few days later, sitting in a dark room at a computer, when we carefully placed the new KU logo on the Jayhawk, with his final blessing," Johnston said.



Hal Sandy



David Dary interviewing President Kennedy for CBS News about the Cuban missile crisis.

David Dary, a KU alumnus who taught at the School of Journalism for 20 years, died March 15, 2018. At KU, Dary taught reporting, public relations, broadcast news and history of journalism. He also was director of University Relations from 1973-1976 and publisher of the University Daily Kansan from 1976 to 1978.

Dary earned his bachelor's degree at Kansas State University and his master's degree at KU. Before teaching, he worked in broadcast news and covered the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations for CBS News. He covered the Cuban missile crisis when he was just 28 years old and introduced President Kennedy on CBS for the president's speech to the nation on the crisis.

He went on to work at NBC and returned to Kansas to help build a new NBC television station, KTSB, before joining the faculty at KU.

Dary left KU in 1989 to become director of the H.H. Herbert School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma.

He retired in 2000 to return to writing and published numerous books about the American West. He is in the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame and won several awards for achievement and writing.

Humbled and honored to hear your KU story

When I started as the development director for the School of Journalism in July, I had no idea how quickly I would fall in love with the job. I've always had an almost irrational, passionate love for the University of Kansas, which was forged at the knee of the man who raised me, my Grandpa Stone.

Grandpa grew up during the Depression as the only son in a poor family in Parkerville, Kansas. After serving in the Marine Corps and losing an arm during World War II during the Battle of Okinawa, he saw opportunity in the GI Bill. He always said he joined the Marine Corps because if he had to serve, "I wanted to serve with the best!" He felt the same way about his decision to attend KU.

He earned a bachelor's degree in business in 1950, and the foundation was set for him and my grandmother to raise five girls in a healthy, secure, middle-class home. It was more than a foundation; the University of Kansas was part of the fabric of his life.

It was no surprise to anyone when I enrolled at KU in Fall 1987. I was a Class 1A high school all-league basketball junkie, and when Danny and the Miracles shocked the college basketball world, the celebration that occurred on campus felt like being baptized in a sea of crimson and blue. I was hooked for life.

KU provided opportunities for me in the same way it had my grandfather. My degree in sociology and crime and delinquency led me to a fulfilling first career as a juvenile probation officer, and ultimately, back to KU as a development director. I also met my husband, Brian (c'91), here and my lifelong best friend as well. Like it had for Grandpa Stone, KU became a part of my story.

In the early 2000s, my grandpa handed me a tattered, three-ring binder. I had been pleading with him to tell me his story. I was desperate to hear his tales from the war, as he had been silent on the subject most of his life. Within this notebook were handwritten pages of English composition assignments he had completed while a student at KU. More than a few were about his time in the Marine Corps.

You see, KU didn't just provide the educational foundation of a career for my grandpa. It gave him an outlet, an opportunity to tell



Marlys Shulda

a story and to work through some of the experiences he had been through. I find myself wondering how many other veterans used their time at KU to process and heal through the written word.

We all have a story, and the best part of being the development director for the J-School is the opportunity to hear the stories of other KU alumni. Within those stories I have the unique and humble privilege of hearing what matters to our alumni and then helping guide their precious gifts to support those things that tug at their hearts. This is where philanthropic giving is the most beautiful.

There are myriad ways to support the School of Journalism and Mass Communications: Endowing a scholarship for a small-town Kansas student interested in broadcast media, funding a professorship for an expert in the field or gifting outright support so the dean can fill in gaps during budget cuts.

There is a recurring theme I hear each time I meet a J-School alumnus: the lessons they learned at KU and the ultimate foundation of all things related to journalism and mass communications are all based upon telling a story.

KU Endowment provides roughly 80 percent of funding for the University of Kansas. The stories of our graduates are the beating heart of the philanthropy behind that support. I look forward to hearing those stories and to creating more with you. Rock Chalk!

— Marlys Shulda is development director for the School of Journalism through KU Endowment

For information on outright, deferred and life income gifts as well as scholarship support opportunities, please contact Marlys Shulda at mshulda@kuendowment.org or 785-832-7352.

A centennial celebration

Family creates a scholarship to honor matriarch who graduated from KU in 1918 with a journalism degree

One hundred years after Jessie-Lea Messick Williams graduated from KU with a journalism degree, members of her family traveled to Mount Oread to remember their matriarch with a centennial event and to present a scholarship in her name.

As the 100th anniversary approached, Williams' granddaughter Sally Gaskill and several family members pondered ways to honor their grandmother. Gaskill contacted the J-School with the idea for the Jessie-Lea Messick Williams Centennial Celebration Scholarship and event. About 20 family members traveled to KU from Indiana, California, Texas, Missouri, Wisconsin and Washington, D.C., for the event on March 27 at the Oread Hotel in Lawrence.

In her remarks at the event, Gaskill noted that her grandmother graduated from college during a time when women did not even have the right to vote.

"The world was a different place 100 years ago," Gaskill said. "It's hard to image the role of women then."

Despite the limited opportunities women had, Williams used her education to benefit many people's lives, from hospitalized veterans to young women hoping to go to college and to write, and of course to her family.

At KU, Williams was a member of Theta Sigma Phi, the honorary journalism sorority and chaired the organization's first national convention. In 1961, she reprised her 1918 role and chaired the Theta Sigma Phi national convention at KU. During World War I, Williams served as a Red Cross volunteer. She also served as president and later chairman of the board of the Farmers State Bank of Bogue, Kansas.

In the early 1950s, the national Theta Sigma Phi organization adopted the Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project, in which members volunteered to teach veterans in local hospitals how to write about their experiences.



Family members of Jessie-Lea Messick Williams posed for a photo with scholarship recipient Juliana Garcia.



The keynote speaker was J-School alumna Colleen McCain Nelson (j'97), McClatchy opinion editor and Kansas City Star editorial page editor, who spoke about women in journalism.

Williams played a vital role in the production and distribution of *Veterans Voices*, the national magazine that published the hospitalized veterans' writings.

The keynote speaker at the event, Colleen McCain Nelson, McClatchy Opinion editor and editorial page editor at the Kansas City Star, said she has always "looked up to the women who put all kinds of cracks in the glass ceilings of newsrooms. Jessie-Lea belongs on a long list of women journalists who forged a path for those of us who followed in their footsteps."

— Julie Adam



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Juliana Garcia is the first recipient of the Jessie-Lea Messick Williams Centennial Celebration Scholarship. Garcia, a senior from Kansas City, Kansas, is studying news and information with a minor in Latin American Studies. Garcia arrived at KU as an undecided, first-generation student who wanted to be a voice for underrepresented communities. After graduation in May 2019, Garcia hopes to become a reporter and would like to delve deeper into investigative journalism.

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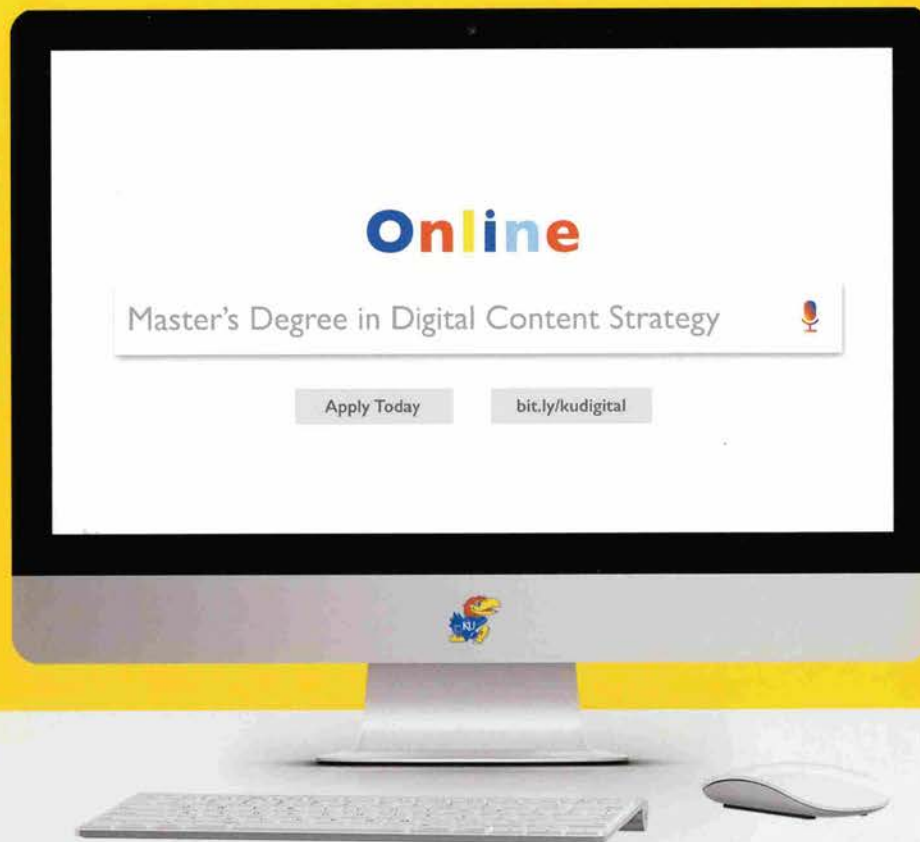
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