



J-Links

Spring 2009

The University of Kansas William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications



J-School wins national Hearst Foundation journalism writing awards competition three years in a row

For the third consecutive year, the KU School of Journalism has won the annual Intercollegiate Writing Competition of the nationally prestigious William Randolph Hearst Writing Foundation Awards competition.



"The KU School of Journalism continues to foster and support excellence in writing," Journalism Dean Ann Brill said. "This win validates what we are doing here to give students the tools they will need to be successful communicators in a very complex media environment. KU is indeed 'a great place to be a champion.' We are proud of the students and faculty whose hard work and talent brought this championship home to KU for the third year in a row."

Often called "The Pulitzers of College Journalism," the Hearst program holds an annual, yearlong competition in writing. The journalism school that accumulates the most points earned by its students in each category of the six writing contests, titled the Intercollegiate Writing Competition, is designated the winner.

"It was a very big year for *University Daily Kansan* reporters, topped off by finishing one-two in the most prestigious category, In-Depth Writing," Journalism Professor Ted Frederickson said. "Our basketball team won the Big 12 and made it to the Sweet 16, but two KU reporters who covered them finished higher—first and fifth nationally in the Sports Writing competition. Another *Kansan* sports reporter, Thor Nystrom, visited a darker topic in 'To Hell and Back,' which won the *Rolling Stone* magazine writing competition and then finished second in the Hearst Feature category."

KU finished ahead of the University of Missouri, Northwestern University, Arizona State University and the University of Kentucky, who rounded out the top five.

"It has been very competitive between KU and the three schools who have been right behind us the last three years, namely Missouri, Northwestern and Arizona State," Frederickson said. "They are very strong journalism programs, and it is an honor to finish ahead of them for three straight years."

(First in Hearst – continued on page 2)

Top: Several J-School graduates working for the Associated Press pose with AP president Tom Curley at William Allen White Day.

Bottom: Students from KU and other area universities participated in a video teleconference with students in Baghdad as part of the KU/Fort Leavenworth collaboration. More details on both stories inside.

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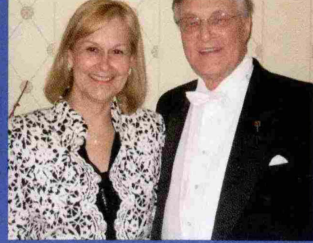
Letter from the Dean

As I write this column for *J-Links*, we are winding down yet another semester on Mount Oread. As the academic year comes to a close, it's a good time to reflect on what we've done and what yet needs to be done here at the J-School.

This has been a year of challenges. We all know about the effect of the economic crisis – jobs lost, budget cuts at businesses and every level of government, and a stock market that postpones retirements and dries up endowment funds. Yet, I am reassured by what I see around me every day – the educated, smart and eager young people who are waiting to make their marks in the world of journalism. That world also has changed this year. Every day we hear about media transitions, some positive but mostly negative. Our students are young and they are eager to hear from those of us who are more "mature" about how to survive in this environment.



(Dean's letter – continued on page 2)



At left, the J-School threw a party to honor newly-tenured faculty members Barbara Barnett and Tien Lee. At right, Dean Brill is pictured with Joe Lastelic, 1952 graduate and retired Washington Bureau Chief for The Kansas City Star, at the annual Gridiron Dinner in Washington, D.C.; with Tracee Hamilton and Pat Gaston of The Washington Post.

(Dean's letter – continued from page 1)

We've already seen some indication of their abilities. These students continued the tradition of winning the Hearst Intercollegiate Writing Competition; six of them – the most of any journalism school in the country – were named among the nation's top 100 student journalists by UWIRE; and the strategic campaigns classes once again impressed their professional clients. We know these students will have the kind of success that our alumni have achieved, such as those working in the Associated Press or in the White House or helping rebuild communities. All those examples appear in this issue of *J-Links*.

Today's graduates face different challenges, but they also are leaving a legacy of success for future generations of Jayhawk Journalists.

Leaving a legacy became personal for me this year. In February, my husband died. Larry and I often talked about our role in making this world a better place. As a social worker, he saw people's needs and the impact a helping hand could make. In thinking about how he would want to be remembered, I knew it would have to be in a way that would help others. Family, friends, colleagues and even students agreed as they helped establish an award in his memory. And, I was so touched and proud at our Awards and Scholarships Ceremony in April that we awarded the first annual Ann M. Brill and Larry J. Schmitz Service Journalism Award to a student who is using her journalism skills to help build a stronger community. I could not be more proud of Larry and the student who was chosen to reflect his belief in helping others.

So, as I reflect over this academic year, I know that no matter what life or the stock market throws our way, our legacy as a great School of Journalism is intact. I often quote William Allen White's words, "In education we are striving not to teach youth to make a living, but to make a life." I believe he would agree that's exactly what we are doing here at KU.

Ann M. Brill

(First in Hearst – continued from page 1)

"What impresses me most about their stories is how different they all are from each other," Frederickson said. "Matt Erickson won first in the In-Depth category with traditional depth reporting on the recording industry's crackdown on college music downloading. Megan Hirt took second with a compelling narrative about students with alcohol problems. Mark Dent took third in Profile Writing with his profile of June Henley, onetime KU football star and now a prison inmate, whose life fell apart when his football career ended. Jeff Deters placed eighth with his story about Julian Wright, a 20-year-old millionaire by virtue of his lavish NBA contract."

KU journalism students have won a total of \$10,600 in the contests this year, with the J-School receiving matching funds, plus an additional \$10,000 for finishing first in the Intercollegiate Writing Competition. Three KU journalism students, Matt Erickson, Rustin Dodd and Mark Dent, will travel to San Francisco in June to compete in the national writing championships.

The Hearst Awards Program consists of six monthly writing, three photojournalism and four broadcast news competitions and one multimedia competition, with championship finals in all divisions except multimedia. The program awards up to \$550,000 in scholarships and grants annually. Publisher William Randolph Hearst established the William Randolph Hearst Foundation and The Hearst Foundation, Inc. in the 1940s, before his death in 1951. Since then, the foundations have awarded more than \$500 million in grants and programs.

Hearst winners from KU (links to their winning stories are online at www.journalism.ku.edu):

Matt Erickson, senior from Olathe, Kan., won first in In-Depth Writing, and received \$2,000 for "Facing the music: File-sharing lawsuits, delay by University prove costly for 13 students."

Megan Hirt, 2008 alumna from Topeka, Kan., won second in In-Depth Writing, and received \$1,500 for "A Sobering Struggle."

Rustin Dodd, senior from Overland Park, Kan., won first in Sports Writing, and received \$2,000 for "For the Love of the Game."

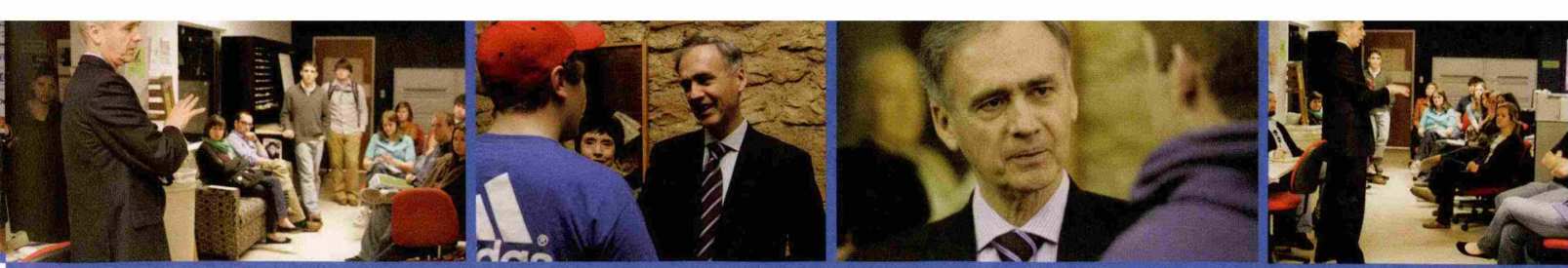
Mark Dent, senior from Overland Park, Kan., won fifth in Sports Writing, and received \$600 for "Athletes with Children."

Thor Nystrom, 2008 alumnus from Baxter, Minn., won second in Feature Writing, and received \$1,500 for "To Hell and Back."

Mark Dent, senior from Overland Park, Kan., won third in Personality/Profile Writing, and received \$1,000 for "Nowhere to run."

Jeff Deters, 2008 alumnus from Centralia, Kan., won eighth in Personality/Profile Writing, and received \$500 for "Living the Wright Life."

(First in Hearst – continued on page 3)



Tom Curley, president of the AP and recipient of the 2009 William Allen White Foundation national citation, speaks to students. (Photos courtesy of the AP.)

(First in Hearst – continued from page 2)

Patrick Luiz Sullivan de Oliveira, senior from Belo Horizonte, Brazil, won eighth in Editorial Writing, and received \$500 for “Why maintaining the T is moral issue.”

Four other KU students earned points in the writing competitions but did not place in the top ten in their categories. Their points contributed to KU winning first in the Intercollegiate Writing Competition. They were: **Alexandra Garry**, Spot News Writing; **Jesse Trimble**, Spot News Writing; **Lauren Keith**, Editorial Writing; and **Sasha Roe**, Feature Writing.

Jon Goering, senior from Hesston, Kan., took third place in the Photojournalism competition, and received a \$1,000 award. **Chance Dibben**, **Julianne Kueffer** and **Tyler Waugh** also earned points in the Photojournalism competition, but did not place in the top ten.

Wendy McCart earned points in Broadcast News, but did not place in the top ten.

OTHER NOTABLE STUDENT AWARDS THIS SEMESTER:

UWIRE 100: Six KU J-School students were chosen as this year’s UWIRE 100, considered the best and brightest student journalists in the nation. KU had the most honorees of any school. They were selected from a pool of more than 825 nominations submitted by professionals, professors and peers from more than 135 schools. J-School students included: **Francesca Chambers**, **Courtney Condron**, **Rustin Dodd**, **Matt Erickson**, **Megan Hirt** and **Ryan McGeeney**.

The Society of Professional Journalists recognized six J-School students and recent graduates with nine 2008 Society of Professional Journalists Region 7 Mark of Excellence awards. This year, collegiate journalists submitted more than 3,700 entries in 39 categories across SPJ’s 12 regions. First place regional winners advanced to the national round of judging and winners will be announced in mid-May. First-place winners at the J-School included **Brenna Hawley**, **Wendy McCart**, **Thor Nystrom** and **Alex Parker**. The SPJ awards honor outstanding work in print, broadcast and online collegiate journalism produced in 2008. Most of KU’s student work appeared in *The University Daily Kansan* newspaper, online at Kansan.com and on KJH-TV. For a complete listing of the awards and winners, visit www.journalism.ku.edu.

The College Newspaper Business & Advertising Managers recognized *The University Daily Kansan* with five awards this year: Best Sales Representative - **Laura Vest** (Second year in a row); Best of Category - Best In-house Online Ad (The Guide); 2nd place - Best Sales Incentive; 3rd place - Best Special Section (National Championship Wrap-up); and 3rd place - Best Retail Online Ad (Hobbes).

The Kansas Association of Broadcasters presented multiple television and radio awards to J-School students for their work on KJH-TV and KJHK-FM radio. For a complete listing of the awards and winners, visit www.journalism.ku.edu. □

Corrie’s Corner: News from Corrie Moore KU Endowment Association Journalism Development Director

A focus on planned giving in economic uncertainty

Many alumni have asked me in recent months about the difficulty of raising private support in these stressful economic times. It’s hard for many of us to imagine making major contributions to charitable organizations given the uncertainty of job security and instability of the stock market. Unfortunately, this comes at a time when state budget cuts have reached an all time high and private support is more important than ever.



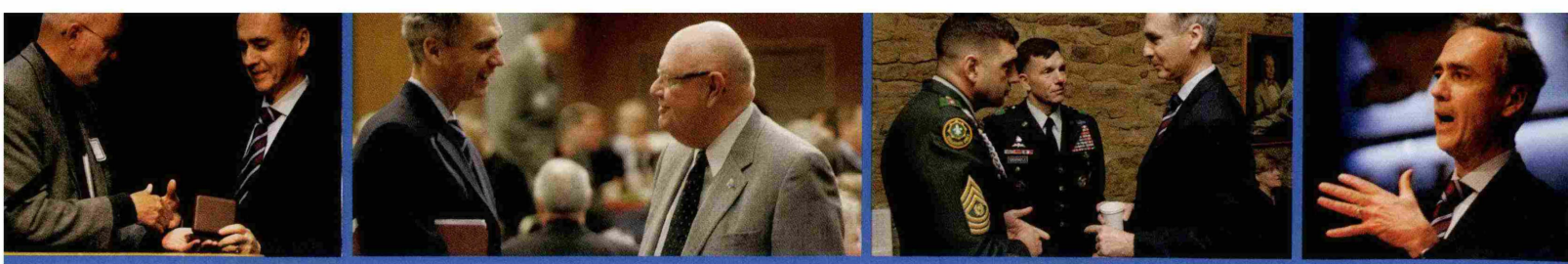
In the difficult times ahead, we’ll continue to build and strengthen relationships with our alumni as we present them with different giving opportunities. We plan to focus much of our fundraising efforts on deferred gifts, which include documenting estate plans. These gifts are vital to our success. In 2008, we received a deferred gift from the Wooldridge Estate valued at more the \$2 million. This gift was documented almost 20 years ago but will provide scholarship support for students today as they struggle with rising tuition costs in an unstable economy.

In the coming months we’ll work with donors on estate gifts that will help support students and faculty in the years to come. I hope you’ll strongly consider KU and the J-School as you make your charitable plans for the future. Whether it’s an outright or deferred gift, it all helps secure and strengthen our future.

For more information about planned giving, please visit the KU Endowment Association Web site at www.kuendowment.org/giftplanning, or contact me with any questions at 785-832-7352 or cmoore@kuendowment.org.

Thank you for your passion and support!

Rock Chalk!
Corrie Moore (J’98)



Photos from 2009 William Allen White Day. (Photos courtesy of the AP)

KU School of Journalism well-represented in the Associated Press

By Sonya English, student communication assistant

The Associated Press is the oldest and largest news organization in the world, with journalists in more than 240 news bureaus serving 121 countries. Among them are more than 20 KU J-School graduates working as reporters, photographers, bureau chiefs and executives.

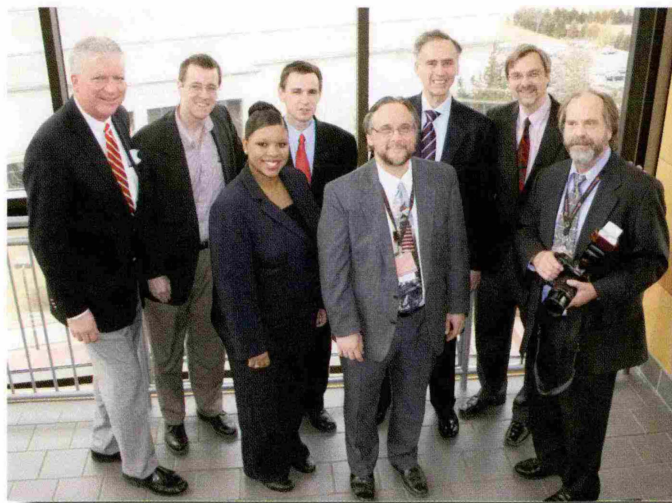
"They're a very proud mafia," Tom Curley, president and chief executive officer of the AP, said. "They're very passionate about KU and their experience."

The J-School honored Curley with this year's William Allen White Foundation national citation on Feb. 6. Curley is the 12th person to head the AP since its founding in 1846 and has faced the challenge of adapting to a rapidly changing environment for news access.

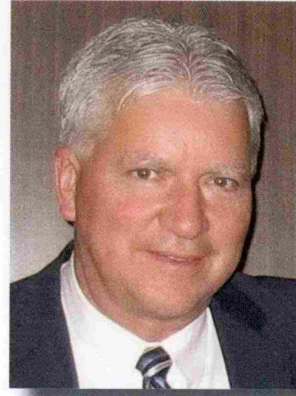
"The demand for news is growing, not shrinking," Curley said. "This is no time to jump out the window. This is the time to figure out how to make the transition to digital."

During his visit to KU, Curley spoke with J-School students and faculty about his past and his predictions for the future of journalism. When Curley accepted his award, he spoke about journalists' right to access government information and the importance of "speaking truth to power." A transcript of the speech can be found at www.journalism.ku.edu.

John Milburn, 1990 grad, returned for William Allen White Day. He wandered the halls with John Hanna, Topeka correspondent for the AP and 1987 grad, "remembering old war stories" about the J-School and *The University Daily Kansan*. Now Milburn writes about government and military affairs for the AP in Topeka. To read a profile about Milburn, see the Spring 2008 *J-Links*.



Several J-School grads working for the Associated Press pose with AP president Tom Curley at William Allen White Day. From left, Paul Stevens, Chris Clark, Kia Breaux, John Milburn, John Hanna, Tom Curley, Randy Picht and Orlin Wagner.



Paul Stevens



Tom Slaughter

Several graduates working for the AP have been with the company since the 1970s. Paul Stevens, who is now the vice president for the Central region of the U.S., joined as a sports writer in 1973, after earning his master's from KU.

Tom Slaughter, 1971 graduate, has been with the AP since he dropped out of grad school to become a reporter in 1973.

"I got the interview and never looked back," he said.

Slaughter is now the vice president of the New York bureau and he helped develop AP Digital in 1999. Some of his training in the J-School came from *The Kansan*. He said the 1970s was an interesting time to be a student journalist.

"Some of the smartest people I know in the business happen to be people who were either professors in the School or people I went to school with," Slaughter said.

Stevens said one of the best parts of his job was working with KU grads. After working in New Mexico and Indianapolis, he said he was glad to be back in a position to mentor some of them.

"I've been lucky enough to hire a lot of people from Kansas over the years and help in their development in the AP," he said. "Now they're literally all over the globe working for us."

One of his former hires, Sally Buzbee, is in Cairo working as the Mideast regional editor, in charge of all the Mideast bureaus of the AP. She graduated from KU in 1988 and said the mentoring she received from faculty such as Rick Musser, Ted Frederickson and Susanne Shaw was one of the most important parts of her KU experience.



Sally and John Buzbee, with daughters Meg and Emma. Photo originally appeared in the Fall 2004 issue of *J-Links*, in which Sally was profiled.

(KU and the AP – continued on page 5)



Photos from the William Allen White Foundation trustee dinner Feb. 5.

(KU and the AP – continued from page 4)

“I was pretty shy and unsure of my ability to compete in a field like journalism when I got to KU, and they toughened me a little,” Buzbee said.

She has reported from the front lines of the Los Angeles riots, the Iraq war and the recent Gaza war. To read more about Buzbee and her husband, John, see the Fall 2004 *J-Links*.

Hal Ritter and Henry “C.J.” Jackson joined the AP more recently, in 2006. Jackson graduated from KU in 2004 and after a year at *The Kansas City Star*, started with the AP’s bureau in Des Moines, Iowa. He said he was amazed by the speed of his colleagues.

“They could do things in half the time I could, or at least it felt that way,” Jackson said.

Now he works as a newsman in Washington, D.C. He said that working with profes-



C.J. Jackson in Washington, D.C.

sionals teaching in the J-School and being editor-in-chief of *The Kansan* put him ahead of the curve.

“I’m a big believer in *The Kansan’s* student-run model,” he said. “It leads to mistakes but also fosters growth and leadership at an early age.”

Ritter, though new to the AP, was already a veteran of journalism when he signed on as a consultant. In fact, after his 28-



John Milburn, at right, interviews a soldier during his June 2007 embed at Fort Riley with a military transition team preparing for a 12-month deployment to Iraq. Photo originally appeared in the Spring 2008 issue of *J-Links*, in which John was profiled.

Journalism Job Listing Service



The Journalism Career Center provides an online listing of jobs in the journalism field that require at least two years of experience. The job listings and descriptions are posted on the J-School’s Web site, www.journalism.ku.edu, under the “Alumni & Friends” tab. This service is for jobs that require two-four, three-five, five-seven and 10 or more years of experience. We hear about such positions on a regular basis and immediately post the jobs online. If you know of relevant job openings that should be listed, e-mail Patty Noland, career development coordinator, at pnoland@ku.edu.

year career in newspapers, he’d thought he was retired. But after he enjoyed his five months as a consultant, he accepted a permanent position. Now he’s business editor of the AP and working on what he called the biggest story of his career and of our time: the meltdown of the financial markets and the global recession.

“Covering the global economic downturn has been both satisfying and frustrating, but always exciting,” he said.

He too served as editor-in-chief of *The Kansan* during his time at KU.

“Working on *The Kansan* was as real as the ‘real world,’” Ritter said. “I can’t imagine being prepared better for my first job.”

Jackson and Ritter aren’t the only graduates who have taken their learning experiences in the J-School to the AP. On the day he accepted his William Allen White Foundation national citation, Tom Curley said he’d noticed J-School grads are confident about their skill set and training.

“The White school is as good as we’ve got,” Curley said in his speech.

For more profiles on J-School grads working for the AP, check out Julie Jacobsen’s story in the Spring 2005 *J-Links* and Traci Carl’s in the Summer/Fall 2006 issue. This April, Carl was named editor of the West region of the U.S., a desk that will open in June. She was the AP’s bureau chief for Mexico and Central America.

There are many more KU J-School grads who work for the AP, or have worked for the organization in the past. For a complete list, see www.journalism.ku.edu. □



Traci Carl



KU J-School students and officers at Fort Leavenworth, who are enrolled in the Media and the Military class, practice their reporting skills in downtown Lawrence.

J-School's media and the military program continues to bridge the communication gap

For the second year in a row, the Journalism School has offered *Media and the Military*, a special topics course conducted in collaboration with the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) at the U.S. Combined Arms Center (CAC) at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The course aims to bridge the gap between the media and the military, and is part of a larger grant project provided by the McCormick Foundation.

This spring's class enrolled seven KU students and seven officers from CGSC. KU students worked as "teachers" for officers, helping them learn interviewing skills and reporting techniques. KU students traveled to Fort Leavenworth several times during the semester, and the officers come to KU for classes as well. This year Natia Kaladze, dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at The University of Georgia in Tbilisi, Georgia, visited the class and worked with officers.

KU students conducted mock news conferences with officers and helped them report and write stories after a trip to downtown Lawrence. Officers interviewed KU students and wrote short profiles. KU students spent time reading historic and contemporary works of journalists who have covered the military and discussing issues such as the tensions between patriotism and journalism, effects of post-traumatic stress disorder on soldiers and families, benefits and disadvantages of embedding and roles of women and minorities in the military. Students also wrote their own news stories and commentaries.

"This class gives KU students a unique opportunity to hone their reporting and writing skills and to help the officers learn about journalistic writing," Barbara Barnett, the J-School professor who coordinates the class, said. "This class gives students a chance to learn what soldiers do and gives officers a chance to learn how journalists work. Both groups learn the pressures their different jobs entail."



"Iraq: What Next"—Bill Lacy moderates a video teleconference discussion with officials in Iraq. Students from KU and area universities talk with Baghdad students.

KU students said they have learned skills they'll take with them as they leave college for their jobs, and the class has helped them move beyond stereotypes.

"This has been a great experience for me because I am a (strategic communication) student, and it has opened the door for me to be more interested in news," student Xavier Loya said. "I believe that this class has really opened up my eyes in a new view toward the military. With the experience that I have had with family members in the Marines, I would have never imagined how much education is emphasized in the military."

KU student Meg Bowden said, "The part of class that I most enjoyed was the afternoon when the officers came to Lawrence and our class helped them find news stories. It was interesting getting to know people who are studying the same things we are, but are in a completely different place in their lives."

In addition to the classroom experience, the McCormick grant also funds an annual "military 101 boot camp" for national journalists. This year's workshop will be in September.

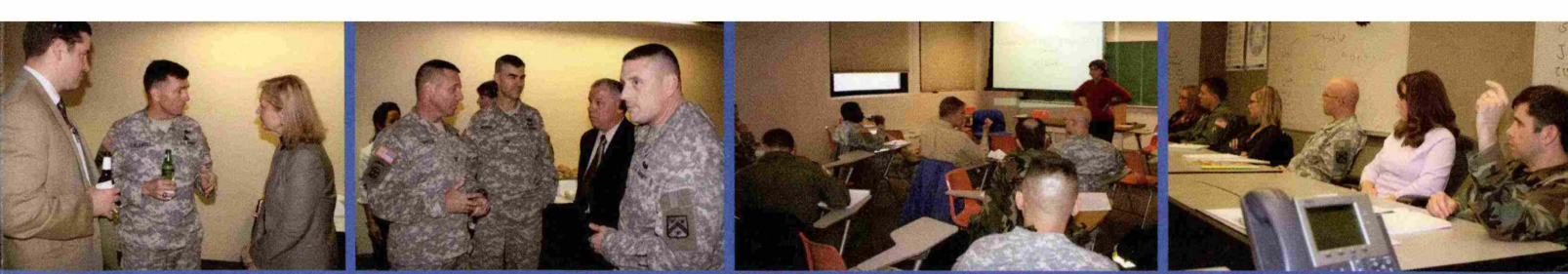
Another product of the KU/Fort Leavenworth connection was the "Iraq: What Next" video teleconference with Baghdad on April 5. This collaborative effort between the J-School, the Dole Institute of Politics and Fort Leavenworth reinforced existing relationships, while building new ones. The two-part event highlighted the progress in Iraq since the troop surge, while providing a candid examination of some of the challenges facing Iraq as the American military draws down.

In the first part of the event, students from KU and other area universities spoke to students in Iraq. It was moderated by the Dole Institute's Jonathan Earle. The second portion was a public Q&A with American and Iraqi Army members and spokespersons from the State Department and Iraqi government. Bill Lacy, Dole Institute director, moderated it.

"This event really emphasized the positive relationship between KU's Journalism School and the Combined Arms Center," said Lt. Col. Shawn Stroud, former strategic communication chief at CAC. "These types of events bring together groups that don't always spend enough time experiencing each others' culture. We hope to continue building this relationship." □



Several of the J-School students enrolled in this semester's *Media and the Military* class pose outside the Fort Leavenworth lamp statue.



Photos from a Media and the Military class reception at Fort Leavenworth, and students at work in the classroom at KU and Fort Leavenworth.

KU writers hit home runs as MLB.com interns

By Sonya English, student communication assistant

Months after graduating from KU, C.J. Moore sat in the press box at the World Series covering the Colorado Rockies, as he'd done all season. For these games, the press box was packed—reporters from all over the world crowded around him.

"The press box was full just like a zoo," Moore said. "It was crazy to be there."

Moore was selected by Major League Baseball in 2007 to report for its Web site, MLB.com. He followed the team throughout the historic season that led to its first World Series.

Since the internship program began three years ago, J-School students have won ten of a possible 90 internships. Rustin Dodd, Overland Park, Kan., senior, Robert "B.J." Rains, St. Louis, Mo., senior and Jesse Temple, Iowa City, Iowa, graduate student, will intern this summer.

Prof. Max Utsler teaches sports writing and said "intern" may be a misleading title for the students. "These interns function just like regular, full-time coverage people," he said. "It's into the fire right away."

Bill Hill leads the recruitment and selection process and said the interns are beat reporters, writing game stories, previews, features and notebooks. The program receives about 400 applications for 30 slots—one in each of the 30 Major League clubs. For the past two years, Hill has interviewed at KU.

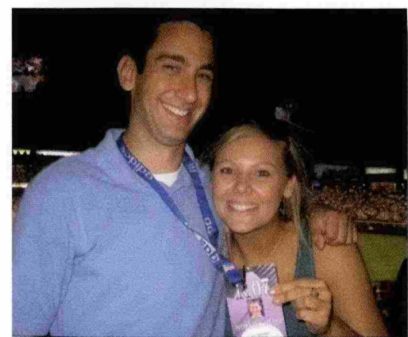
"When I meet students on campus, and I've met many of the faculty, it's very clear that they're getting a lot of hands-on instruction and guidance that I'm not sure students get at all journalism schools," Hill said.

Previous experience, with the school newspaper or in other internships, is the most important thing to Hill. But Utsler said that writing for MLB.com posed a challenge that students don't face at *The Kansan*.

"You're not writing for the general public," Utsler said. "MLB.com users are the most avid fans of the game. They're watching the game; you have to give them something more."

The relationship Moore had developed with pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez during the season helped him do just that. Chatting before a game, Jimenez mentioned that he would be available to pitch out of the bullpen that night—news that wasn't being reported.

"At an event like the World Series, with so many reporters around and with not as much access as during the season, it's tough to report any sort of news that no one else has," Moore said. "So I was pretty proud that I found that nugget."



Moore with friend Shannon Rutledge, 2008 KU grad, at a Colorado Rockies baseball game.

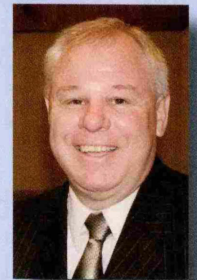
He said that after writing on deadline at the World Series, he felt better prepared when he was covering a big event.

"I feel like it is probably the top internship you can get as a college sports writer," Moore said. □

Tom Volek takes on new role

By Sonya English

Professor Tom Volek is a busy man this semester, teaching two classes and working on the media and military program with Fort Leavenworth, while settling in to his newest role in the J-School: associate dean for graduate studies and faculty development. In this position, which he accepted in January, Volek supports faculty in creative research and teaching and organizes the annual reviews of tenure-track faculty. He answers questions here about his new role in the J-School.



How do you balance your responsibilities?

"It's a busy job, but I can help out the School and that's OK, too. There's a lot of administration that people don't see and that's what goes with the job."

What are your plans for the future of the graduate program?

"The nature of journalism is changing. The nature of teaching journalism will change, because it has to. Our curriculum embraced a converged approach about ten years ago. There are some schools now that are just now saying, 'Oh, now I'm converged'... With new media, the new technological platforms—we're clearly going to have to embrace those. In the next year or two we're going to examine the graduate program and make sure that we're still on the cutting edge."

How does the new title affect your role in the J-School?

"I'm a more senior faculty member now. From my point of view it's an opportunity to serve in a senior position with the School administration. I serve at Dean Ann Brill's pleasure. But the bottom line is for the next six or seven years, frankly, it would be a good way to finish my career here."

Do you plan to finish your career in this role?

"On Christmas day I had every intention of ending being interim graduate director in May and do my thing. Now, I plan on doing this until I retire, but we'll see what happens. There's a certain satisfaction out of making things happen and being able to solve problems, solve issues, support the faculty, help out the faculty—I enjoy that, and we'll see what the future brings." □



ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Where are they now?



2008

Anna Bassham works in marketing social media for Virtual Inventories, Inc., Lenexa, Kan.

Joseph Erba, MSJ, has been accepted into the Univ. of North Carolina's mass communication Ph.D. program.

Amanda Hallier is the public relations manager for Spofford, a children's non-profit organization, Kansas City.

Adam Hurly is a production intern with Pixar, working with the story team behind "Toy Story 3," handling daily reels and storyboards, and acting as liaison between animators, directors and producers.

Caroline Legler is a marketing and communications associate at Allen, Gibbs and Houlik.

Megan Lewis works as a corporate communications consultant at ONEOK Inc., Tulsa, Okla.

Taylor Miller is a graphic designer and copywriter for Ogden Publishing, Topeka.

Lauren Moore is an assistant account manager at VML, Inc., Kansas City.

Stephanie Quante works as an account coordinator at Moroch. She lives in Waterloo, Ill.

Sarah Skelnik was accepted into Southern Methodist University's new graduate program in advertising, which caters to those interested in social media outlets, social responsibility and new technologies designed to reach a global marketplace.

Diane Smith is an editor for CVS/Caremark, Chicago.

Meghan Sullivan is an account coordinator in the interactive department at Gragg Advertising, Kansas City, Mo.

Alex Villamar is a senior project manager, account services, for Two West, Inc., Kansas City.

2007

Karen Bentley is a research analyst for the Polling Co., Washington, D.C.

Heather Brummitt, MSJ, works for KVOA-TV, in Tucson, Ariz., as the 6 p.m. producer. She was a producer at Lawrence's 6 News.

Heidi Fedak, MSJ, is a corporate communications manager at Gulfstream Aerospace in Georgia. She joined the company as corporate communications officer in January 2008 and was promoted in November.

Teresa Meagher works as a development operations analyst at Perceptive Software, Shawnee, Kan.

Photos from Prof. Crystal Lumpkins' panel, "Faith and the Press," in her Religion and the Media course. Panelists included journalists and religion experts.

Andrew Sherwood works in communications for the Monogram Club with Notre Dame athletics.

Julie Tomlinson is an assistant account executive for Hoffman York Advertising, Chicago.

Liz Voelker is a project coordinator for PlattForm Advertising, Lenexa, Kan.

Laura Watkins is a marketing/communications associate with the Breast Cancer Network of Strength, Chicago.

2006

Kristy Croom, MSJ and BS 2004, was promoted to senior communications manager for Rasmussen College. She is responsible for the advertising and public relations strategy for the college on a national level.

Bryan Farley is an account executive with Meredith KC (KCTV and KSMO). Previously he was an account executive at a local advertising agency.

Tim Hall is the morning anchor/ACC reporter in Raleigh, N.C., working for 99.9 The Fan, now the ESPN affiliate. He localizes "Mike and Mike" in the morning, and writes live blogs at ACC hoops games for www.wralsportsfan.com.

Lara Kindle is a marketing coordinator for Management Dynamics, Rockville, Md.

Derek Klaus was promoted to communications

manager at the Kansas City Convention & Visitors Association. He generates media coverage for Kansas City and oversees publications.

Marissa Rosenblum and **Nathan Vernon**, 2005, have joined forces to create a theater production company in New York City called Mass Street Productions (www.massstreetproductions.com). They are associate producing their first commercial Off-Broadway musical called "ROOMS: A Rock Romance," which opened March 16 for an open-ended run.

Amanda Kim Stairrett was recently promoted to military editor at *The Killeen Daily Herald* in Fort Hood, Texas. This includes serving as editor of the weekly military edition. She has been covering Fort Hood and the military at the paper for two-and-a-half years and was named 2008 Class AA Star Reporter of the Year by the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors.

2005

Lisa Coble-Krings, MSJ, is the communications editor for the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library.

Jennifer Ferns was promoted to district manager with Event Images & Entertainment, Inc., an exclusive agency for Brown-Forman Beverages. She oversees Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri.

(News & Notes – continued on page 10)



ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Bobbi Bowman, diversity and membership director for the American Society of Newspaper Editors, talks with the J-School's multicultural scholars.

Working for the White House: Yes she can!

By Sonya English, student communication assistant

President Barack Obama ran his campaign on the promise that he would lead the country in a new direction. Throughout it all, Johanna Maska, a 2004 J-School grad, has worked to stay two steps ahead of him.

As a special assistant and press lead at the White House, Maska is on President Obama's advance team, coordinating press logistics for events for the President.

In countries all over the world, she'll travel ahead of him and ensure that arrangements are set before Air Force One even lands. But before she earned her place in the White House she was working to help Barack Obama earn his.

"I left my husband and cats at home for a year basically. It was very hard," Maska said.

During the campaign, Maska rushed from state to state with her colleagues arranging for the then-presidential candidate to speak to the locals and to the media. She made sure the press knew everything he planned to do—from speaking at a town hall meeting to shooting a basketball—and had access to cover it.

"It was the opportunity of a lifetime," Maska said. "We are all very balanced people so, you know, to leave our family and friends for that long it was a sacrifice, but it was a sacrifice that was completely worth it."

Maska began working in politics right away after graduating from KU. Her first job out of school was as the assistant to the press secretary for the then-governor of Kansas, Kathleen Sebelius.

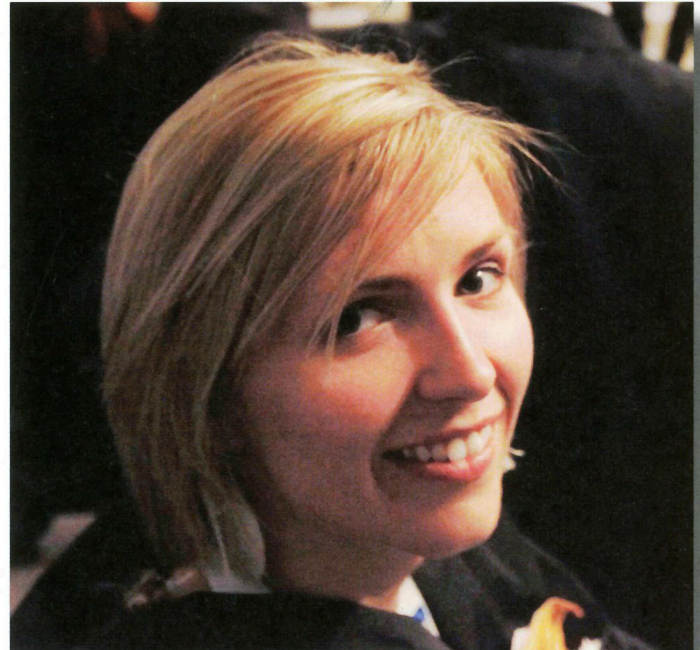
While at KU, Maska was a dual major in journalism and history. She was involved in student government and helped organize a march on Washington for Choice USA, a national pro-choice organization. At that time, she was unsure of what the future had in store for her.

"I just knew I was interested in both politics and journalism," Maska said.

After growing up in the small manufacturing town of Galesburg, Ill., Maska came to KU determined to succeed.

"I hadn't had an elite educational background; I didn't have the stellar ACT score or anything like that," she said.

She earned straight As in her first semester, said she "strong-armed" her way into the Honors Program her second semester and graduated with honors. She worked as legislative director for Student Senate, later joining *The University Daily Kansan* staff as a reporter, campus editor and then opinion editor. She said she loved her teachers in the J-School.



"I look up to the folks who are at the J-School a lot," Maska said.

And Patty Noland, career development coordinator for the School of Journalism, said she was impressed with Maska from the beginning. Through Maska's visits to the Journalism Career Center, Noland knew her to be enthusiastic and have a good sense of humor. She said Maska had a passion for politics and talked about Barack Obama long before most people knew who he was.

"It doesn't surprise me that she's doing it," Noland said. "I think they're lucky to have her because she's an incredible young woman."

Maska credits KU as a whole for where she is today.

"It's a fierce professional world and KU supplied me with the confidence to go out and do everything I could," she said.

Larry Baden, former J-School teacher, joked that he took credit only for pushing her from journalism toward politics. He held her to what could seem like an impossibly high standard because, he told her, "It's my personality, and you deserve it."

"She and I had some good battles," Baden said. "She can be stubborn, which is probably why she's so good. She doesn't let things stop her."

And she's shown no signs of stopping now, either. After putting two years into one of the most successful political campaigns in history, she's waiting to see what President Obama's first term has in store.

"Now that we're in the position we're in and it all worked out, it's a phenomenal opportunity," she said. "I can't imagine what the next four years hold." □



Students at work in the classroom.

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

(News & Notes – continued from page 8)

Ben Gibler is a sales representative at Allen Press, Lawrence.

Kyle Rohde works as an account executive for ER Marketing, Kansas City.

Jay Senter, MSJ, and his wife, Julia, joined the Peace Corps, and are stationed in Panama. Read about their experiences on their blog: panablog.typepad.com

2004

Samantha Bartelloni works on accounts for the Goodby Silverstein & Partners agency, San Francisco.

Henry “C.J.” Jackson transferred with the Associated Press to Washington, D.C. He is a regional reporter in the D.C. bureau covering Midwestern issues and several states’ congressional delegations.

Blair Lawrence works as an account executive for Trozzolo Communications Group in Kansas City.

Ashley Marriott earned her master’s degree in higher education administration from The University of Texas this May. Previously, she worked for three years as an admissions and scholarships counselor at KU.

Emily Meinyk coordinates marketing for Polsinelli Shalton Flanigan Suelthaus, Kansas City.

Melissa Nagy is a producer at Goodby Silverstein & Partners, San Francisco.

2003

Kelsea Black Hare is a technology teacher with USD 259, Wichita, Kan.

Sarah (Patch) Kleinmann is a media account manager for Plattform Advertising.

Megan Knop is co-owner of Soiree Event Designs.

Ian J. Schuster has been an account executive at B96 WBBM-FM Chicago for the last six months. Previously he was in sales for five years in the staffing industry.

2002

Peter Goss practices law for Wendt Goss, Kansas City.

Joanna Miller is the internal communications manager for U.S. Bank’s Intranet Web site, USB Today. Previously, she was a reporter with Southwest Newspapers.

Molly Whitehair is a senior recruiter at Countrywide. She lives in Plano, Texas.

2001

Chris Borniger is completing his second year of law school at The University of Texas at Austin. Previously, he was a copy editor for five years at *The Dallas Morning News*. In 2005, he won the Texas Daily Newspaper Association’s award given to the state’s best newspaper copy editor.

Katherine (Jaeger) Golub will earn her master’s in Education this June from DePaul University, Chicago.

Rachel Fox is senior communications manager for the Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee.

Johanna S. Larsson is an attorney for Armstrong Teasdale, LLP, St. Louis. She obtained her J.D. from Saint Louis University School of Law in 2006. She is a member of the International Practice Group where she focuses her practice in international trade with an emphasis on customs and compliance and international business, commercial, and financial cross-border transactions. She also is a member of the Business Litigation Practice Group where she handles anti-trust related matters, securities regulations and derivatives actions. She recently wrote an article for the American Bar Association. She is a former KU varsity soccer player.

1999

Scott Patterson, MSJ and BS 1988, works as a communications consultant for Fidelity Investments.

Ronnie Wachter created a volunteer staff of high school writers, photographers, Web designers and videographers for *Teen Times*, for the suburban Chicago newspaper group Pioneer Press. He also started his own photography company, Uncaged Photography. (uncagedphoto@gmail.com)

1998

Melvin Dunston Jr. directs sales for Residence Inn Marriott, Duluth, Ga.

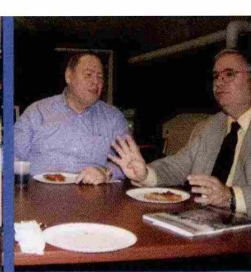
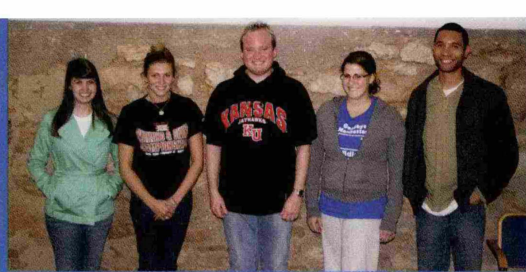
Tony Johnson was promoted from marketing communications coordinator to multimedia manager and Webmaster at Smith & Loveless. His duties include creating content for the company’s new Web site, tracking traffic and determining best practices for targeting their audience and having them interact with their site. He also works on the corporate newsletter, event planning, video production, etc. Previously, he worked for the J-School as an information specialist.

1997

Jeremy Bowman sells advertising within the Sports Illustrated franchise, including the magazine, Web site and other ancillary properties.

Amber (Hurn) Dennett is CEO and co-founder of DivasDoingBusiness.com, a networking community for women entrepreneurs. Members can access extensive resources, promote their businesses, establish themselves as experts in their field by posting articles/blogs, solicit and provide feedback, and network with other women business owners. For more information and to join, visit www.divasdoingbusiness.com or contact Dennett at: amber@divasdoingbusiness.com

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Photos of Journalism Student Ambassadors at work and at a reception to welcome these student volunteers.

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

(News & Notes—continued from page 10)

Brock Kappelmann, sportscaster for KSCB AM-FM in Liberal, Kan., received the 2009 KAB Hod Humiston Sports Award for outstanding contributions to sports broadcasting. He received his award at the KAB Sports Seminar on May 6 in Kansas City. Kappelmann has been the radio voice of the Liberal area's local sports since 1998, announcing Liberal High School football and basketball. He has announced Seward County basketball and baseball since 2001 and Liberal Bee Jay baseball since 1998. Kappelmann was named the 2002 Interscholastic Athletic Administrator Kansas Sportscaster of the Year. He has won eight Kansas Association of Broadcasters awards with numerous second and third places.

1996

Robert Allen, MSJ, has been promoted to senior managing editor at WebMD.

Alan Stearns works for Lockton Companies.

1995

Marc Levitz finished his debut documentary film, "Feast of the Assumption: The Otero Family Murders." The film tells the story of Charlie Otero, the oldest, surviving member of a family murdered by Dennis Rader (BTK) in 1974. The film was sponsored by the International Documentary

Association and has been recognized as the definitive film on the BTK investigation. On February 25, 2008, the film premiered in Wichita, Kan., and raised \$4,000 for the BTK Victims' Family Trust, with funds going directly to the victims' families. For more, visit: www.feastdocumentary.com.

Traci Carl, the AP's bureau chief for Mexico and Central America, is the new West editor based in Phoenix. The West desk will open in June as the last of four regional, multi-format editing operations for state and global content produced by AP's domestic bureaus. Carl joined the AP in 1995 as a legislative relief reporter in Topeka, Kan. She went on to work at the Kansas City and Wichita bureaus before transferring to the International Desk in New York in 1998. She moved to Mexico City with the AP in June 2000, a few weeks before President Vicente Fox's historic election ended 71 years of rule by the Institutional Revolutionary Party. She was promoted to news editor for Mexico and Central America in 2003, and then bureau chief in 2005. During her nine years in Mexico City, she has reported from across Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as from Iraq. Before coming to the AP, she was an intern for *The Idaho Statesman*.

1994

Stacy Kunstel is currently listed on the mastheads of

more than 10 magazines as a contributing editor, including *Traditional Home*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Renovation Style*, and *Country Living*. She is the homes editor for *New England Home* magazine. She appears on *New England Dream Home* monthly on New England Cable News. She produced the cover stories for the February issue of *Country Living*, the March issue of *Country Home*, and the spring and summer issues of *Beautiful Homes*.

1993

Lathi deSilva is vice president/director of brand reputation for Sullivan Higdon & Sink, Wichita, Kan.

1992

Louis Lopez was recently appointed deputy chief in the Employment Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

1991

Anne (Hastings) Pedersen is a financial advisor for Edward Jones, Lee's Summit, Mo.

Melanie Botts Viola is a special writer for *The Wall Street Journal*.

Christy Wulf is director of alumni relations and the annual fund at Colorado State University-Pueblo.

1990

Cynthia (Leitich) Smith published her latest novel,

"ETERNAL," which was released by Candlewick Press in February 2009.

1989

Susan Gage was promoted to managing editor for online and community news at *The Oregonian* in November 2008. She had been a team leader at the paper since January 2006. From January 2004 to December 2005 she was a lecturer in journalism at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Prior to that she worked at *The Oregonian*, holding various positions, including deputy sports editor.

Daniel Taylor is agency manager for Country Financial in Henderson, Nev.

1988

Michelle (Paradis) Kodner is a corporate training consultant and curriculum designer who creates training manuals for The OASIS Institute in Clayton, Mo. She was formerly a Training Specialist and Bank Officer for First Banks in Clayton, Mo. She spends her free time presenting humane education programs for children on behalf of The Animal Protective Association of Missouri, a local animal shelter. She is also the creator and editor of www.midcenturymodernstlouis.com, a Web site celebrating midcentury modern architecture in St. Louis.

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Photos from this year's Journalism Career Fair.

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

There's no place like home: J-School grads help rebuild a community, post-Katrina

By Sonya English, student communication assistant

In St. Bernard Parish, La., not one of its 27,000 homes was spared by Hurricane Katrina four years ago. Two J-School grads are helping people return with the St. Bernard Project. The grassroots nonprofit organization rebuilds homes for former residents of the tight-knit, working-class community.

About 11,000 volunteers have helped the program build more than 200 homes to date. Ashley Sloan, 2005 graduate, works as the human resource manager and as AmeriCorps program manager. She recruits volunteers who may have worked with the SBP to join AmeriCorps.

"St. Bernard Project created a model that allows volunteers to have a great experience that in turn produces positive word-of-mouth advertising," Sloan said.

Gretchen Wieland, 2008 graduate, highlighted the SBP, among other volunteer groups in New Orleans, in a documentary for her own nonprofit, "Project: Katrina Hope," last spring.

"I was in awe of how effective it was and I wanted to get involved," Wieland said.

Homeowners can apply to the project if they cannot afford to have their homes rebuilt by contractors. Supervised volunteers rebuild the house on its original foundation. Senior citizens, people with disabilities and families with children are prioritized.

According to FEMA flood maps, the area was not at risk of flooding. Nearly 75 percent of the 25,000 homeowners didn't have adequate insurance when the storm hit.

"I'm here because there's a lot of work that needs to be done," Wieland said. "The people here are so inspired and driven. I've never been a part of an organization where everyone is exactly on the same page of wanting to move families back home."

Now Wieland is the face and voice for the project, acting as liaison between the media and people involved in the project.

And in its three years of operation, they've had a lot of coverage. In November, co-founder Liz McCartney was voted CNN's "Hero of the Year" and won \$125,000 to support the program. In March, "Anderson Cooper 360°" filmed an episode live from a build site. *The Washington Post*, NPR, MTV and VH1 are among the many outlets that have covered the project.

Wieland said that her emphasis on television news in the J-School makes her well-suited for her job.

"Especially with television interviews, I know what kind of sources they're looking for," Wieland said.

Sloan has seen the project grow exponentially since she came to it through AmeriCorps in 2007, from building two homes at a time then to more than 30 now. Using volunteer labor, skilled supervision and affordable building supplies, each home costs between \$12,000 and \$15,000 and takes 12 weeks to build.

When Sloan is recruiting for AmeriCorps, she said her studies have helped her understand which points are important to convey.

At KU, she also worked as head of publicity for alternative spring breaks, served on three alternative break trips, and spent a year in AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps. In that program, she spent two months serving at Habitat for Humanity before her senior year. She came to AmeriCorps and the SBP from a job in copy writing.

"I reevaluated my career choice and decided to dedicate myself to something I was proud of," Sloan said. "I loved the agency I was working for, it just wasn't fulfilling to me."

And now she and Wieland are working in a community where they are proud to work. Wieland said it felt like the Midwest, just with more shrimp and crawfish.

"Everyone knows everyone else and everyone waves at you," Wieland said. "Homeowners are so thankful for the work that volunteers are doing so they often get free meals or get to hear stories from homeowners."

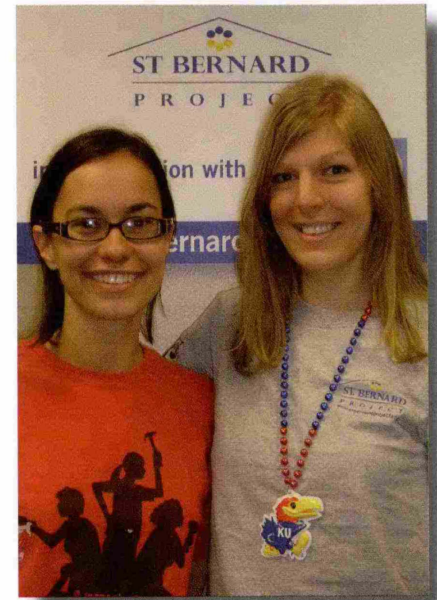
Sloan described that on any given block there is a resident whose aunt, uncle or grandparent is their neighbor.

"Where I grew up, I kind of measured my success on how far away I could get from my parents," Sloan said. "The people here are really engaged in their extended family's life."

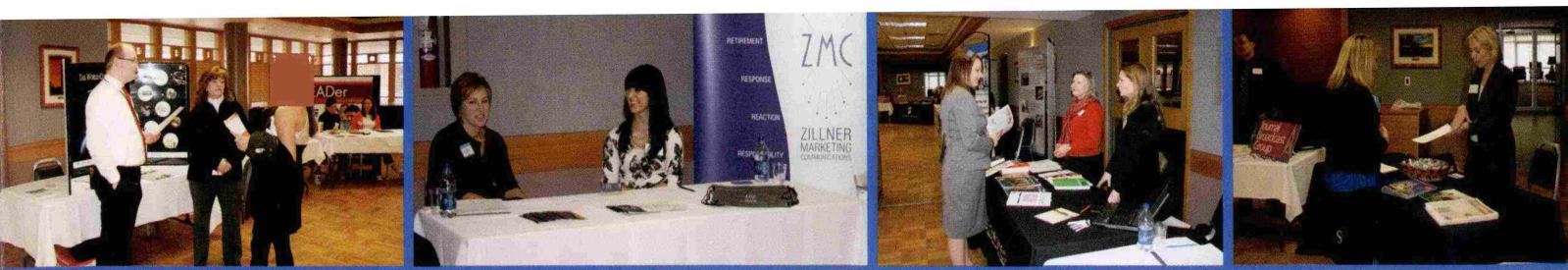
And though about 50 percent of the population of St. Bernard Parish has returned, more than 1,500 families still live in FEMA trailers or other temporary housing. In New Orleans, that number is close to 15,000. The SBP is in the process of expanding into the city and eventually out to other areas in need of disaster relief under the same name.

"We've really created a brand with it," Wieland said. "We are not stopping anytime soon."

More information on the St. Bernard Project is online at www.stbernardproject.org. □



Ashley Sloan and Gretchen Wieland



Photos from this year's Journalism Career Fair.

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

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1987

Beth Lillie Proctor is an accountant for the Perfect Wedding Guide. She lives in Overland Park, Kan.

1986

John Lechliter works for the CDC in Cincinnati. He is a supervisory writer/editor working with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

David O'Brien, who covers the Braves for *The Atlanta Daily Constitution*, recently was elected president of the Baseball Writers Association of America. In September, Atlanta's alternative weekly newspaper, *Creative Loafing*, named him Best Columnist for his Braves blog.

Melissa (Bell) Winter teaches yoga in Colorado Springs where she lives with her husband Adam Winter (KU business grad May 1986) and their three children.

1984

Susan (Fotovich) McCabe is celebrating her 20th anniversary as an independent public relations professional for marketing firms and small, privately-held companies. She also is a contributing writer to several Midwest business magazines and agribusiness publications. Her specialties include agribusiness, aviation, biosciences, animal health and commercial development.

1983

Andrea Warren, MSJ, is a children's book author. She has just published her latest book, "Under Siege! Three Children at the Civil War Battle for Vicksburg." Warren's books include "Orphan Train Rider: One Boy's True Story," "Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps," and others. She is the recipient of several major honors, including the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, the Robert Sibert Honor Book Award and the William Allen White Book Award. More information at www.andreawarren.com.

1982

Scott Faust is the executive director for strategic communications for California State University, Monterey Bay, Calif. (scott_faust@csumb.edu)

1981

Michelle Brown Robnett practices estate planning and probate law with Christin, Mugg, Adkins & Associates, Edmond, Okla.

1980

Ken Davis is a freelance writer for NBCsports.com and has written a book, "The University of Kansas Basketball Vault: The History of the Jayhawks." The book chronicles the more-than-century-long history of the KU basketball program. Formerly he was a sports writer for *The Hartford Courant*.

Barbara Kinney is senior photo editor for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Evie Lazzarino is associate dean for communications at USC Marshall School of Business in Los Angeles. She is the daughter of **Diane Lazzarino**, MSJ 1969, who taught at the J-School for 37 years.

Julia (Hutchison) Martin lives in Barcelona, Spain, where she teaches English as a foreign language and directs marketing and business development for English Metas, a school that provides language training for current and future business professionals.

1979

LaDonna (Hale) Curzon is executive producer and host of Sarah Palin Radio, part of the wsRadio Network.

1978

Britt Nichols opened his third winery, Vin Vivante, in Wamego, Kan., where in addition to rural economic development activism, he continues to practice law and politics.

1977

Alison Gwinn is now executive editor of *O* magazine in New York. She formerly was executive editor of *Women's Health*.

Corky (Charles) Trewin recently finished his 30th consecutive season as the team photographer of the Seattle Seahawks and is

"looking forward to 20 more." He doubled as the Seattle Sounders FC team photographer in March. During the 1980s he was the team photographer for the Seahawks ('79-present), Seattle Mariners ('80-'90), Seattle Supersonics ('84-'89) and Tacoma Stars of Major League Indoor Soccer ('83-'86).

Arthur Weiss is the chief compliance and ethics officer for TAMKO Building Products, Joplin, Mo.

1976

Mike Goff is vice president, corporate brand management, for Sprint Nextel, Overland Park, Kan.

Robert Musburger, MA, retired in 2003 as professor emeritus from the University of Houston School of Communication to consult and continue writing text books. Of the 20 years he worked there, six were spent as the director of the School. Focal Press has published 14 combined domestic and international editions of his media production books. He has started work on the fifth edition of "Single Camera Video Production." He taught at UMKC until 1980, when he left for Florida State University to earn a Ph.D.

1975

Jan (Seymour) Jenkins owns Jenkins Marketing and Public Relations, Dublin, Ohio.

(News & Notes—continued on page 14)



Photos from this year's Journalism Career Fair.

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

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Steven Rapp directs the Nellis field office for Boeing in Las Vegas.

1974

Lydia Beebe recently was named to the KU Endowment Board of Trustees. She is a corporate secretary and chief governance officer at Chevron, San Ramon, Calif.

Dave Burpee, MSJ, retired in 2009 after a 33-year career in a variety of public affairs positions. His Army career, which began in 1965, included combat in Vietnam with a Ranger unit and concluded in 1993 as a Colonel, where he was in charge of the Pentagon pressroom and was the senior uniformed spokesman for the Secretary of Defense. Before that, he was the top public affairs officer for the Supreme Allied Commander Europe/NATO during the Gulf War, and leading up to that duty had been posted since 1976 to public affairs assignments around the world. After military retirement, he worked for six years as a vice president and senior vice president in two non-profit organizations. In 2000, he rejoined the federal government as the director of public affairs for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, which is a member of the National Intelligence Community and responsible for the nation's imagery, imagery intelligence

and maps/charts for the U.S. military. He continues to consult government and non-profit organizations.

1973

Brian A. Bracco has been promoted to vice president, news at Hearst-Argyle Television. In his role, he assists and supervises news management of the company's station group. Previously, he was one of two group news executives for Hearst Argyle Television. He joined The Hearst Corporation in 1987 as news director of KMBC-TV, Kansas City. From 1987 to 2000, he guided KMBC-TV from the number three position to first in news ratings. For more than a decade KMBC-TV maintained the number one position. The station is the recipient of numerous Emmy, SPJ and three National Murrow awards. The station was honored with Murrow awards for Best Newscast and Continuing Coverage. Before joining KMBC-TV, Bracco held positions as news director, assistant news director, managing editor, producer, anchor and reporter. He has worked in the Wichita, Kan., Columbus, Ohio, and the Birmingham, Ala., markets. Bracco is a past chairman of the ABC news advisory board. He is a member of the Radio Television News Directors' Association. He is a participant of the Hearst Management Institute.

Kathy Saunders is vice president and general manager of KDFW FOX-4

and KDFI 27 in Dallas. She also is the chairman of the AT&T Cotton Bowl this year and next. She is the first female chairman of the Cotton Bowl's 73 years history.

1972

Melissa Berg Harmon does freelance writing and editing in Overland Park, Kan. She also is a former managing editor of *The Kansas City Star*.

Bruce Efron is a lead agent at a business division call center for UPS. He also works part-time in hospitality at the New Theatre Restaurant and does an occasional Saturday morning "Oldies" show at KOFO 1220 Country in Ottawa, Kan. Previously he worked in radio for 31 years, the last 15 at WDAF 61 Country in Kansas City. (bruceefron@yahoo.com)

Jeffrey Nauser, MSJ, earned an additional master's degree in early childhood education from City University of New York and is now an academic intervention reading teacher for grades K-3 at a school serving the public housing projects in Queens, N.Y. Previously he spent more than 30 years in advertising. (nyaloha@aol.com)

Sandra Smith, 1970 BS, 1972 MS, was recently appointed to a full-time faculty position at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. She continues to maintain a consulting practice, working with various organizations

in the areas of corporate communications and public relations throughout the U.S.

1971

David Anderson serves as the principal at DCA Management Consulting, Atlanta.

1970

Chip Rouse owns his own communications management consulting business, CFR Strategic Communications LLC, and is a consulting partner with Global Prairie Integrated Marketing Communications in Kansas City. Rouse retired at the end of 2007 as vice president of U.S. Communications and corporate philanthropy for the global pharmaceutical company sanofi-aventis, after 27 years with the company.

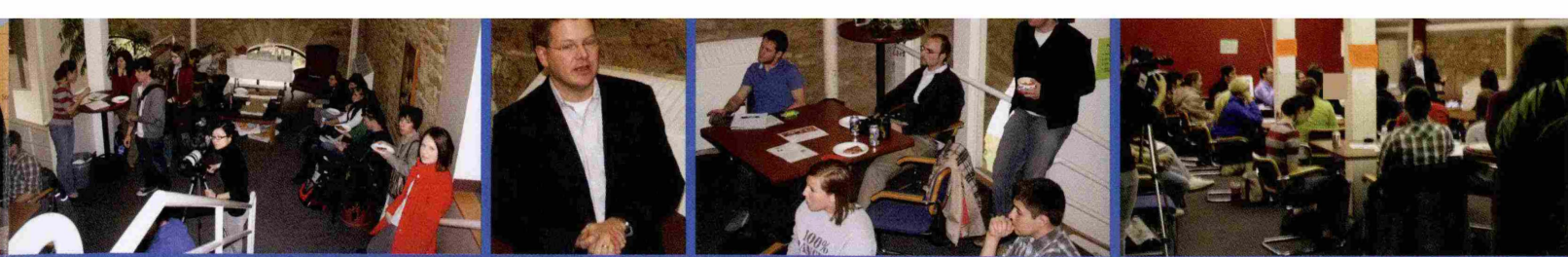
1969

John Krueger, MSJ, retired in 2006 after working for 36 years in education. During his career in education he taught journalism and English, served as an assistant principal and as a principal in a junior high school, and he also was a senior high school principal in both the Shawnee Mission, Kan., and North Kansas City, Mo., school districts.

1968

Bob Dotson won a Gracie Award for his *Today Show* series on NBC, "American Story." He won for a piece that aired Nov. 11, 2008, "At

(News & Notes—continued on page 15)



Students listen to Sam Feist, CNN's political director and senior executive producer of political programming.

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

(News & Notes—continued from page 14)

Arlington, soldiers' mothers are united in grief." The Gracie Awards are sponsored by American Women in Radio and Television, which serves as a voice and resource for women in the media. The Gracies strive to encourage the realistic and faceted portrayal of women in entertainment, commercials, news, features and other programs.

Fred Fichman is executive director, Houston MediaSource.

Will Hardesty was appointed as the judge in the Erie Municipal Court, presiding judge in the Dacono Municipal Court and associate judge in the Frederick Municipal Court. He now serves in eight municipal courts in the Denver area.

1966

J.R. Fowler spent 20 years in the Air Force after earning his journalism degree. In that time he acquired a master's in public administration. He served his last assignment in Los Angeles as liaison for the motion picture and TV industry working on "Top Gun," "Running Man" and "The Right Stuff." As soon as he retired, he and his wife moved to the Monterey Peninsula in California where he began work for the Carmel Bach Festival. He later moved to Rhode Island, where he recently earned his nursing degree from the URI College of Nursing, at the age of 64.

Fred Frailey retired as editor of *Kiplinger's* magazine. He joined *Kiplinger's* in 1987 and was editor for eight years. The author of several books on investing, he recruited to *Kiplinger's* several high-profile columnists, including Wharton School finance professor Jeremy Siegel and James K. Glassman of the American Enterprise Institute. He also led the integration of *Kiplinger's* Web content and print in personal finance. Previously he was assistant managing editor at *U.S. News and World Report*.

1965

Stephen Williams does family therapy with K/S Consultants in Berwyn, Pa.

1955

Rich Clarkson recently finished a book for the KU Alumni Association, "The Champions, Kansas Basketball at the Pinnacle." It covers in print and photos KU's three national basketball championships. Clarkson was the editor, and the project manager was **Chris Steppig**, who graduated from KU three years ago with a communications degree, and just three hours short of a journalism degree too. Among the essays Clarkson commissioned for the book was one written by **Mark Dent**, a current J-School student.

1949

Bill Nelligan retired in 1992 as CEO of the American

In Memory: Larry J. Schmitz

Lawrence "Larry" Joseph Schmitz, husband of Journalism Dean Ann Brill, passed away Feb. 12. Known as "Mr. Dean" at the J-School, he will be deeply missed.



Larry was one of the world's longest surviving recipients of a lung transplant, receiving his "second wind" May 16, 1993. He enjoyed every breath he took and encouraged others to recycle themselves as organ donors. He married Ann M. Brill on Dec. 31, 1993.

One of his great joys in life was his faith. Larry spent 30 years as a Franciscan Capuchin brother of the Detroit Province. As a Capuchin, Larry worked on Native American reservations in Montana as a drug and alcohol counselor, where he was adopted as a member of the Northern Cheyenne family known as American Horse.

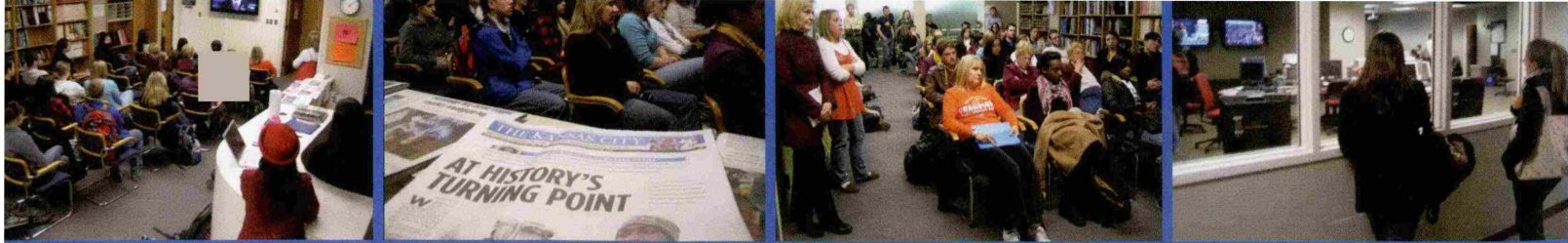
He also worked with various agencies in Missouri as part of the national flood relief efforts in the early and mid-1990s. He later worked as a drug and alcohol counselor for Phoenix Programs in Columbia, Mo. In Lawrence, he was employed by Heartland Regional Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counseling services. Larry earned a degree in human services from Montana State University in Billings, and a master's degree in social work from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Larry loved KU athletics except when the Tigers were playing the Jayhawks, and he had the opportunity to annoy everyone around him with his enthusiastic support of Mizzou. He also had a deep love of the outdoors, which was evident to all who ventured into his backyard, with its many trees, flowers, grapevines and raised gardens. He said the best part of retirement was completing his certification as a Master Gardener and calling friends to meet for coffee.

Memorials may be made to the KU Endowment Association for the Ann M. Brill and Larry J. Schmitz Service Journalism Award. This year Brenna Daldorph, Lawrence junior, was the first recipient of the award. □

College of Cardiology. He spent most of his career as CEO of several national medical societies. After he retired he helped four cardiology societies

with their startups and is currently working half-time for a cardiology imaging society out of his home office in Rockville, Md. □



Students gather in the J-School Jan. 20 to watch President Barack Obama's inauguration.

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Editor

Jennifer Kinnard, Communications Coordinator
jkinnard@ku.edu, 785-864-7644

Student Communication Assistant

Sonya English, junior, Overland Park, Kan.

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For more information

200 Stauffer-Flint Hall, 1435 Jayhawk Blvd., Lawrence, KS
 66045-7575 • jschool@ku.edu • 785-864-4755

www.journalism.ku.edu



The University of Kansas William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications
 200 Stauffer-Flint Hall, 1435 Jayhawk Blvd.
 Lawrence, Kansas 66045

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