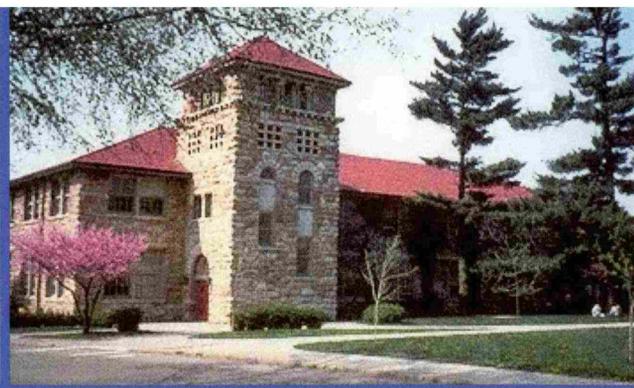




# J-Links

Summer 2008

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



Photos from the School of Journalism graduate recognition ceremony, May 17, at The Lied Center.

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## New faces in the J-School

The School of Journalism is pleased to welcome three new faculty members, two new staff members and one visiting professor to the Jayhawk Journalist flock this year.

**Pamela B. Fine** is the new Knight Chair in News, Leadership and Community. Fine had been the managing editor of *The Indianapolis Star* since 2004. She has held leadership positions at *The Minneapolis Star Tribune* and *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and in the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the Associated Press Managing Editors. She has been a Pulitzer Prize juror four times. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism, with a minor in English, from the University of Florida. She is working toward her master's degree in media management. The Knight Chair professorship, which is endowed by The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, is committed to promoting the study and advancement of journalism and journalism education. Fine will teach classes at KU and develop initiatives to help facilitate improved journalism in service to communities and citizens.

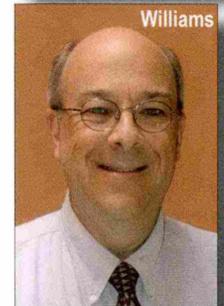
**Michael I. Williams** is a new associate professor in News and Information. Williams will oversee the Stauffer Multimedia Newsroom and will serve as the News and Information track chair. He was an associate professor at the University of Maryland before deciding to return to KU. He has two journalism degrees from the KU School of Journalism, and taught visual communication and photojournalism at KU from 1988 to 1994. Since then he has been an associate professor at the University of North Carolina, Ohio University and Maryland. He was director of Internet publishing for a Wisconsin publishing company and has held various positions on newspapers in Mississippi, New Mexico and Oregon.

**Scott Reinardy** is a new assistant professor in News and Information. He was an assistant professor at Ball State University, where he had taught since 2005. He was the news editorial sequence director there. Earlier he taught at the University of Missouri, where he earned his master's and Ph.D. degrees. He was a sports editor for newspapers in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Minnesota and South Dakota before entering graduate school. Reinardy is co-author, with Wayne Wanta, of a new book, "The Essentials of Sports Reporting and Writing."

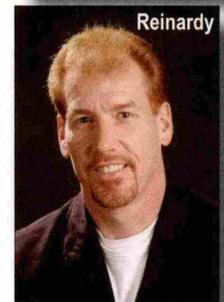
(New faces – continued on page 2)



Fine



Williams



Reinardy

## Letter from the Dean

As I write this, we are just starting another school year. It's amazing how easily the new students, new faculty and new staff get into the rhythm of KU. I only saw one student on the first day of classes with a look of panic on her face. "Looking for Wescoe," I asked. She nodded and I pointed. Then, we both smiled.

That centuries-old tradition of starting school is a good reflection of what's happening this year in the School of Journalism. While we have traditions to honor and some things are business as usual, we also are starting this year with some changes in mind. We plan to look at the curriculum to measure it against the high standards we have set for ourselves.

(Dean's letter – continued on page 2)



Photos from the School of Journalism May graduate recognition ceremony.

(Dean's letter – continued from page 1)

We need to ask ourselves again if we are meeting the needs of students who come to us for the best journalism education, not just for the next four years, but also for the next 40-50 years of their careers. We also plan to do an even better job in defining who we are and what sets a KU Journalism education apart. Those plans represent a huge responsibility.

During our back-to-school retreat last month we looked at our biggest challenges, both as a school and as part of an industry that is continuing to change rapidly. We reminded ourselves that challenges are really opportunities. With the help of the talent we have in the School and our dedicated alumni and friends, we know that we DO have opportunities. So, while we continue to meet our traditional standards of excellence, we also continue to explore the opportunities that our changing profession brings us.

The evidence of those opportunities is found throughout this J-Links. Our new hires are not just great colleagues, they are among the most talented people in our profession. And, we didn't just wait for them to come to us – we looked for new faculty and staff who have talent, the Kansas can-do attitude, and the kind of creativity that turns opportunities into reality. I hope each of you gets a chance to meet them.

You also will read about the many honors and awards that our students and faculty earned this year. Of course, we are incredibly proud to win the Hearst Intercollegiate Writing Award AGAIN. It is such a confirmation that we are doing the right things when it comes to teaching journalism writing. Also repeating as the best in the nation was *The Kansan* advertising staff. And, speaking of the best in the nation, our faculty continues to receive awards for their service, teaching and creativity.

This issue we are introducing a new column by our development officer. Corrie Moore will use her space to thank our alumni and friends for their support and to feature some of the most pressing needs of the School. This issue, we thank two alumni for endowing awards named for former professors in the School. The John Bremner Award and the Calder Pickett Award will honor their namesakes by recognizing the best students in copy editing and an outstanding graduate student. That is such a fitting tribute to professors who have had a profound impact on so many students.

So, as we begin another school year, we are grateful that you are our partners in ensuring we are successful in meeting our many opportunities. □

*Ann M. Bill*

(New faces – continued from page 1)

**Samantha Mangino Hardy** is the new coordinator of student recruitment and retention for the School of Journalism. She is a 2003 graduate of the J-School, in the Strategic Communication track. Prior to returning to the J-School, Hardy served as an academic advisor at the University of Missouri–Kansas City and as an interim assistant director in KU's Office of Admissions and Scholarships. She worked for nearly two years in marketing at a commercial real estate firm and marketing agency. In 2008 she earned her master's degree in educational administration, higher education administration, from the University of Missouri–Kansas City.



Hardy

**Jennifer Paasch** is the new coordinator of the Journalism Resource Center, formerly the Reading Room, on the second floor of Stauffer-Flint Hall. Paasch comes to the J-School from KU's Academic Technology Services, where she had worked since 2001. She presides over the daily management of the many forms of information and the staff who provide it, while maintaining security in all aspects of the Resource Center and the building.



Paasch

**Jerry Crawford** will be a visiting assistant professor with the J-School this year. Crawford earned his Ph.D. in May from Howard University, where he worked closely with Dr. Barbara Hines, the incoming AEJMC president. He has more than 25 years of professional experience in broadcast management of television stations. His research interests deal with the accreditation of universities and colleges, specifically Historically Black Colleges and Universities, with journalism and mass communication programs. He also researches ethical practices within broadcasting. He will work this fall with Prof. Barbara Barnett in Journalism 101 Media and Society, and will assist in other courses.



Crawford

Also joining the faculty this semester as adjunct professors are **Rob Flores**, who will teach International and Multicultural Marketing at the KU Edwards campus, and **Jennifer Schmidt**, who will teach with Prof. David Perlmutter in a graduate seminar, New Media and Political Communication. □



Photos from the School of Journalism May graduate recognition ceremony.

## J-School wins national Hearst journalism writing competition for second straight year

For the second consecutive year, the School of Journalism placed first in the annual Intercollegiate Writing Competition of the prestigious William Randolph Hearst Writing Foundation Awards contest.

"The Hearst competition is the most challenging writing contest in the country," said Journalism Dean Ann Brill. "We are proud to be named the best intercollegiate writers in the nation by the panel of judges. To win this, especially two years in a row, is a tribute to our students and their professors."

Often called "The Pulitzers of College Journalism," the Hearst program holds an annual, year-long competition in writing. This is its 48th year. The journalism school that accumulates the most points earned by its students in each category of the six writing competitions, titled the Intercollegiate Writing Competition, is designated the winner.

"Our student entries this year were remarkable, not only for their high quality, but also for their consistency," said Ted Frederickson, journalism professor and Budig Teaching Professor of Writing. "Out of our 12 entries in the six categories, 10 finished in the top 20 in the nation out of 216 eligible entries. In a way, we were like our national champion basketball team, which had no All Americans. None of our writers finished first in any one category, but 10 out of 12 scored significant points, which is why we won."

KU journalism students have won a total of \$5,000 in the six writing contests, and the School of Journalism received matching funds of \$5,000, plus \$10,000 for finishing first in the Intercollegiate Writing Competition.

KU finished ahead of Northwestern, Missouri, Pennsylvania State and Nebraska, who rounded out the top five.

While the eight winning articles in the first five contests were all published in *The University Daily Kansan*, the winners in spot news writing were both published while the students worked for off-campus newspapers. The students who placed were: Travis Robinett, third, and Elizabeth McLeod, sixth, for opinion writing; Thor Nystrom, third, and Brian Lewis-Jones, seventh, for sports writing; Matt Lindberg, seventh, and Courtney Condron, 19th, for in-depth writing; Jonathan Kealing, eighth, and Nathan Gill, 10th, for spot news; Sarah Neff, 14th for personality profile; and Jack Weinstein, 16th, for feature writing.

The Hearst Journalism Awards Program is fully funded and administered by the W. R. Hearst Foundation. The program consists of six monthly writing competitions, three photojournalism competitions, four broadcast news competitions, and one multimedia competition, with championship finals in all divisions (except multimedia). Presently, 108 accredited schools of undergraduate journalism in the U.S. are eligible to participate in the program, which awards up to \$500,000 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.



Dean Ann Brill traveled to San Francisco in June to accept the J-School's Hearst awards. She is pictured above, at right, with Jan Watten, Hearst Foundation Journalism Programs executive director, and Dino Dinovitz, Hearst Foundation executive director.

Since then, the foundations have awarded more than \$500 million in grants and programs.

To see examples of the winning work, see the monthly winners section of the Hearst Web site at [www.hearstawards.org](http://www.hearstawards.org). □

## Journalism student honors for 2007-08

### NEWSPAPER, ONLINE AND MAGAZINE:

Stephen Peteritas placed 20th in the first **Hearst College Multimedia Competition**. There were 69 entrants.

*Kansan.com* won an **Online Pacemaker Award** in fall 2007, and is one of nine finalists for the award in fall 2008. *The Kansan* also is one of nine finalists for the daily **Newspaper Pacemaker**, to be awarded in fall 2008.

**Dow Jones Newspaper Fund Editing Internships** were awarded to Tara Smith, *The Naples Daily News*; Kelsey Hayes, *The Indianapolis Star*; and Matt Erickson, *The Kansas City Star*.

Additional **Newspaper Editing Internships** for summer 2008: Luke Morris, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*; and Dianne Smith, *The Dallas Morning News*.

A newspaper series on area water quality, prepared by Prof. Rick Musser's summer Environmental Reporting class for *The Lawrence Journal-World*, received the **Suburban Newspapers of America** award for best environmental coverage.

A newspaper series on homeschooling by Shanxi Upsdell and two *Journal-World* staff members won national awards from the **National Education Writers Association** and the **Suburban Newspapers of America**.

(Student honors – continued on page 4)



Photos of faculty members at the School of Journalism May graduate recognition ceremony.

(Student honors – continued from page 3)

KU students won seven first-place, four second-place and three third-place awards in the **Society of Professional Journalists** regional competition. The first-place winners will compete at the national level. The newspaper and online first-place winners were: Sarah Neff, newspaper feature writing; C.J. Moore, newspaper sports writing; Mark Dent, newspaper sports column; Christopher Raine, online opinion writing; Justin O’Neal and Lisa Allen, online sports writing; and Jessica Reber, Stephen Peteritas, Kelly Cochran and Gretchen Wieland, online in-depth reporting. Second-place newspaper and online awards went to: Courtney Condron, in-depth newspaper writing; Brian Lewis-Jones, newspaper sports writing; and Bradley Mertel, online opinion writing. A third-place newspaper award went to Chris Conetzkey for in-depth reporting.

**Kansas Associated Collegiate Press** cited *The Kansan* as the best daily newspaper among four-year colleges and *Kansan.com* as the best online site. It gave individual first-place awards to: *The Kansan* for its special section on basketball; Travis Robnett for a sports column; Mark Dent for a sports feature; and Arthur Fusco for sports news. Other awards went to: Dent, a second and three honorable mentions for sports news; Fusco, a third for sports news; Thor Nystrom, a third for sports feature; and Sasha Roe, honorable mention for news.

**News internships for summer 2008:** Andrew Greenhaw, Al-Jazeera English, Washington, D.C.; Shawn Shroyer, Thor Nystrom, Mark Dent, MLB.com; Alex Parker, one of 51 citizen journalists for *The Street*, to cover the presidential election from a youth perspective; and Ramsey Cox interned on *Congressional Daily* in Washington in spring.

**News scholarships from professional organizations:** Shanxi Upsdell and Dianne Smith, the American Copy Editors Society; and Jennifer Torline, two scholarships from the Society of Professional Journalists Kansas Chapter.

Amanda Sellers placed first in the **Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication** competition for her start-up magazine “Layers.” Third-place awards went to Elise Weidner for writing and to *Jayplay* for design.

**The American Society of Magazine Editors** awarded Christopher Horn a summer internship on *Real Simple* magazine in New York City.

## BROADCAST:

**Society of Professional Journalists** regional broadcast awards went to: Sam Knowlton, Stephen Peteritas, Jyl Unruh and Alex Wiebel, first place for in-depth report; Tami Drietz, Mary Johnson and Hayley Travis, second place for in-depth report; Andrew Sherwood, Kelly Cochran, Sam Knowlton and Jyl Unruh, third place for in-depth report; and Joseph Erba, Sarah Hart and Sam Knowlton, for TV feature photography.

**Kansas Association of Broadcasters Television** first place

awards went to: Tracy Perlman, producer for a complete newscast; KUJH-TV Web site; Knowlton, Peteritas, Unruh and Wiebel for an enterprise news package. Honorable mention went to Lisa Allen for a complete news feature.

**Kansas Association of Broadcasters Radio Awards** gave first-place awards to: Vince Meserko, news enterprise; Rachel Gray and Elise Stawarz, event promotion; and Denzyl Janneker, graduate student documentary. An honorable mention went to Zachary White, for an entertainment program.

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION:

*The Kansan* Advertising staff was chosen the best in the nation, for the second consecutive year, by the **College Newspaper Business and Advertising Managers association**. Individual top awards went to: Jackie Schaffer, business manager of the year; Laura Vest, sales representative of the year; and Ari Ben, student sales manager of the year. Other *Kansan* first-place advertising awards were for special section, two for electronic banner ads and best Back to School edition. Third-place awards were for display ad and group promotion.

**A Bronze Addy award** from the Ad Club of Kansas City went to a Chipotle ad by Mugar Geana’s Campaigns class.

**The Advertising Club of Kansas City** awarded scholarships to Toni Bergquist, Sonya English, Helen Pavlik, Angela Palacios, Carlos Perez Beltran and Rachel Schulties.

**A full listing of 2007-08 journalism student honors and recognition is available online at [www.journalism.ku.edu](http://www.journalism.ku.edu).**

## J-SCHOOL AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS CEREMONY:

At the April 29 J-School ceremony, 39 students received a total of \$11,100 in cash awards for outstanding work in the news and strategic communication fields. Ninety-eight students learned that they would receive scholarships totaling \$277,886 for next year.

One new award was created this year: Rick Musser Multimedia Award to recognize a student for excellence in multimedia. Five new scholarship funds were created: Fred Brinkerhoff Scholarship to aid directly admitted freshmen; Frazier-Leech Scholarship for a student pursuing a news-editorial career, given by two alumni who had distinguished news careers; Jan Guth Memorial Scholarship to aid public relations or multicultural students, given by Assoc. Dean David Guth and his daughter Susan; and the Judith Reiss Scholarship in magazine, given by retired professor Lee Young, creator of the School’s magazine sequence. □



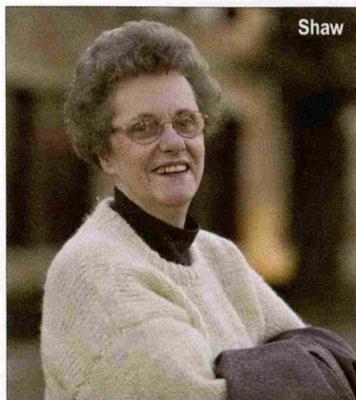
Junior Carneiz Williams is pictured with his family at the J-School Awards and Scholarships program.



Photos of faculty members at the School of Journalism May graduate recognition ceremony.

## Journalism School faculty honored this year for dedication to creativity and excellence

**Prof. Susanne Shaw** received the 2008 Gerald M. Sass Award for Distinguished Service to Journalism and Mass Communication on Aug. 8 at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication national convention in Chicago. The award was presented by the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication, which promotes excellence in journalism and mass communication education. Shaw was recognized for her dedication to accreditation, as executive director since 1986 of the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, the agency responsible for the evaluation of professional journalism and mass communications programs in U.S. colleges and universities. She has taught at the J-School since 1971 and has served as news adviser and general manager of *The University Daily Kansan*, the School's graduate director and twice as associate dean of the School. She is a past executive director of AEJMC. Her many other honors include AEJMC's Presidential Award; The Freedom Forum's Lifetime Achievement Award; the Al Neuharth Teaching Professorship; the Del Brinkman Teaching Professorship; and the H. Bernerd Fink Award for Distinguished Classroom Teaching.



**Prof. Jimmy Gentry**, former dean of the J-School, was presented with the Media Management and Economics Division's Barry Sherman Teaching Award at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication national convention in Chicago Aug. 7. The award recognizes excellence and innovation in the teaching of media management and economics. Gentry, who has been at KU since 1997, is nationally known for his ability to turn complicated financial and accounting information into understandable language for corporate communicators and journalists. He teaches Financial Fundamentals for Communicators and Research, Metrics and Measurement for public relations, marketing and advertising professionals enrolled in KU's graduate program in marketing communication at the Edwards Campus in Overland Park. He primarily



teaches media management courses on the Lawrence campus. In fall 2006, he introduced a new course, Financial Basics for Communicators, for undergraduates in Lawrence. Prior to joining KU, Gentry was dean at the University of Nevada, Reno, for five years and was a member of the faculty at the University of Missouri School of Journalism for almost 15 years. He was a reporter and editor for several newspapers before teaching.

**Prof. Bob Basow** was awarded a Steeples Service to Kansas Award by KU this spring. This is "a tribute to your tireless work in developing outreach activities that bring the university and the public together," CLAS Dean Joseph Steinmetz wrote in informing him of the award. Basow, during his 21 years at KU, has instructed students in strategic campaigns, marketing communication and international marketing. Under his direction, students have worked to strengthen KU's outreach programs in the Biodiversity Institute, the School of Medicine, the Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets and the KU Bookstore. Basow also has guided campaigns to increase tourism in Overland Park and help media such as *The Lawrence Journal-World*, *Olathe Daily News* and Union Broadcasting, better serve their communities.



**Prof. Barbara Barnett** received the John Katich Creativity Award May 9 in recognition of her creativity, which has led her to develop several innovative approaches to teaching, research and service. Her ability to engage students in active learning has made Journalism 101 a gateway that introduces hundreds of students to the challenges and rewards of journalism. Her work with Ft. Leavenworth to develop the Media and the Military course has provided insight for both KU students and the officers involved. Her initiative as chair of the J-School's Research Roundtable has involved all faculty in broadening the School's research activities. The \$1,000 award is named in honor of John Katich, a dedicated teacher who loved students and inspired them to excel. He was on the J-School faculty from 1986 until his death in Oct. 2001. He headed the radio-television sequence from 1990 to 1997, taught media sales and management, and was instrumental in creating KUJH-TV. □





Photos from a retirement reception on April 11 for Prof. Rick Musser.

## 'Uncle Rick' retires; caps red pen after 32 years on classroom stage

By Courtney Johnston, 2008 graduate, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Prof. Rick Musser wore many hats during his days working at the KU School of Journalism. From teaching graduate student seminars to serving as general manager of *The University Daily Kansan*, "Uncle Rick," as students fondly called him, has been an important part of thousands of students' lives. He retired in May 2008, after 32 years of service to the School of Journalism.

Musser came to KU in 1976, after his former teacher at Indiana University, Del Brinkman, also a former dean and vice chancellor at KU, hired him to be the news adviser and general manager for *The Kansan*. Musser refers to his time at *The Kansan* as the "good old days" because "that was the era in which journalism was the cool thing for college kids to do."

"The students were pretty successful," Musser said. "They'll probably remember me as the crazy guy who ran *The Kansan* and threw parties at my house in the country. That's just how it was back then."

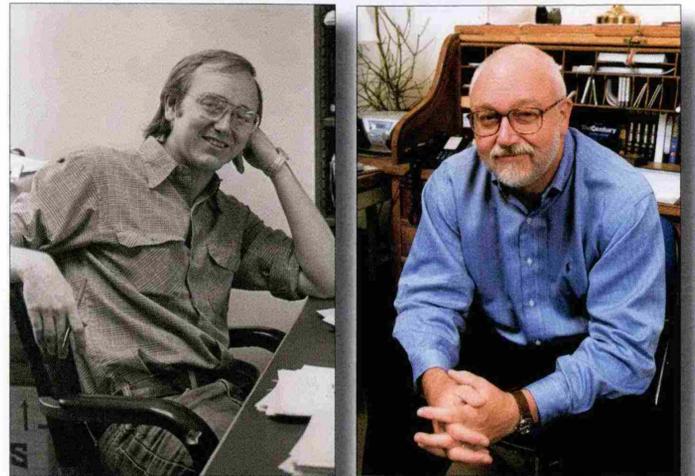
Musser said that his days at *The Kansan* were the most fun and provided the best combination of being a teacher and a journalist. He left his role as news adviser in 1982 and moved on to become the director of graduate studies, and it was during this era that he taught his successor, Associate Professor Mike Williams.

One of Musser's most trusted colleagues is former professor Calder Pickett. Pickett remembers helping Musser organize a History of American Journalism seminar class and the enthusiasm that Musser brought to teaching.

"He came to me for some notes and I must have given him 100 books," Pickett said. "I remember going into one of his classes and thinking that he was a terrific teacher. He was definitely a performer in some ways. He really knew the whole field."

Knowing the whole field was something that Musser took great pride in. When the School of Journalism decided to look at convergence in its curriculum, Musser immediately became involved. He worked for WGN in Chicago for a summer to learn about the television industry and how multimedia was being used. When he returned to KU he worked to create new courses that emphasized multimedia reporting. Later he helped design the Stauffer Multimedia Newsroom in the Dole Center for Human Development.

Dean Ann Brill said that Musser is one of the main reasons that the School has had continued success in multimedia education. She said that Musser was always looking at trends in the industry and getting others to do the same.



Prof. Rick Musser in 1976 when he started teaching at KU, and in 2003.

"He took the leadership role in embracing the whole multimedia environment," Brill said. "His leadership and enthusiasm got other faculty members involved in the process."

Musser's dedication to the School of Journalism has helped many students begin successful careers. "Uncle Rick" showed students the many sides of the journalism industry, and the affection and respect that students still hold for him shows the effect he has had.

### Rick Musser Multimedia Award

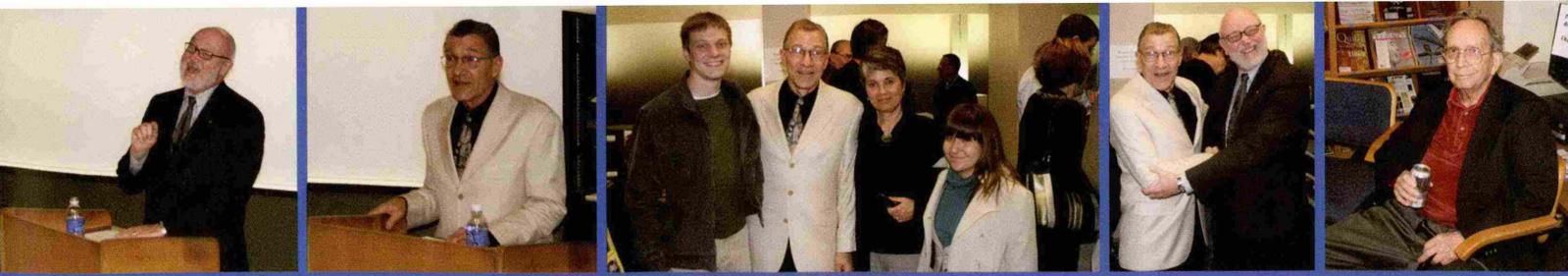
In honor of Musser's 32 years of service to the School of Journalism, the School established the Rick Musser Multimedia Award. The annual cash award recognizes students who excel in multimedia reporting. Jessica Reber was the first recipient in April 2008. Tracee Hamilton, 1983 alumna and one of Musser's former students, made a multi-year pledge to endow the award, along with matching support from *The Washington Post*, where she is the deputy sports editor.

"Simply put, Rick made me a better writer and journalist," Hamilton said. "Rick was a huge part of whatever success I've had, and this was a way to thank both him and the School of Journalism."

Hamilton recalled his advanced reporting class as a place where everyone was equal.

"He didn't treat me any differently because I wanted to do sports, which was sort of looked down upon at the time," she said. "He encouraged me to take chances. I had been talking to the Endowment Association about giving back for some time, and when they came up with the Rick award, I thought the timing was perfect."

Endowing the fund will ensure that it is offered at the J-School in perpetuity. If you wish to contribute to the Rick Musser Multimedia Award, please contact Corrie Moore at 785-832-7352 or [cmoore@kuendowment.org](mailto:cmoore@kuendowment.org). □



Photos from "The Write Stuff" lecture, featuring Budig Teaching Professor of Writing Ted Frederickson, and Rick Musser. It was followed by a retirement reception for Musser.



**Corrie's Corner:**  
 News from Corrie Moore  
 KU Endowment Association  
 Development Director  
 for the J-School

## Alumni give back to honor two J-School legends

Thanks to the generous support from our outstanding alumni, the names of John Bremner and Calder Pickett will be forever honored at the KU School of Journalism.

**Kris Kurtenbach**, 1987 J-School graduate, donated \$10,000 to endow the John Bremner Award, which is given out each year to a student for excellence in copy editing. During his 16-year tenure, Bremner inspired his students with his love for and dedication to the English language. Kurtenbach was one of many students who benefited from his teachings.

"The standards that John Bremner represented and insisted on from everyone he came in contact with have left an indelible mark on who I am as a professional and a person," said Kurtenbach. "I'm simply hoping to help the J-School sustain this ethic, in future editors and citizens."

Kurtenbach is the founder of Collaborative Communications Group in Washington, D.C. The consulting firm develops solutions to education, workforce and community challenges.

1975 alumnus **Craig Stock** pledged \$10,000 to endow the Calder Pickett Award. This award is presented to an outstanding graduate student each year. Pickett retired from the J-School in 1988 after teaching for 32 years. The award honors the retired journalism historian who had a significant influence on his students. "I recall attending my very first lecture by Calder Pickett, whose passion for excellence in journalism and writing was contagious," said Stock. "I'm grateful to him and the School."

Stock is a principal for The Vanguard Group, an investment management firm outside of Philadelphia, Penn.

We plan to endow six additional awards that are named in honor of the following retired faculty: Mel Adams, Sharon Bass, Diane Lazzarino, Dana Leibengood and Lee Young.

If you wish to endow an award or contribute to any of our faculty awards, please contact me, Corrie Moore at 785-832-7352 or [cmoore@kuendowment.org](mailto:cmoore@kuendowment.org). □

## TedFred has all the 'Write Stuff'

Professor Ted Frederickson, "TedFred" as he is fondly called, was the recipient of the first Budig Teaching Professorship of Writing for the School of Journalism this year. The professorship was established by former KU Chancellor Gene Budig.

As part of his award, Frederickson gave a public address, "The Write Stuff," on April 11, on the importance of teaching writing. Prof. Rick Musser, who retired this spring after 32 years teaching at the J-School, also spoke at the event on why being able to write well matters.

"The selection committee chose Prof. Frederickson to receive the first professorship because he embodies the spirit of excellence in teaching writing," said Journalism Dean Ann Brill. "He has contributed so much to the School and to our students. This recognition is very fitting."

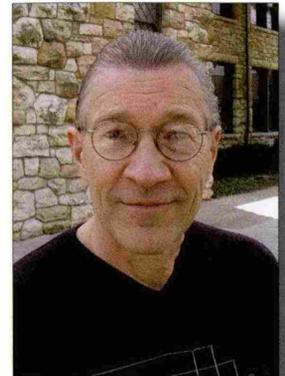
Frederickson has taught at KU for 28 years. He teaches classes in newspaper reporting, media ethics and first amendment law and society. He received his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of North Dakota, his master's in journalism from the American University and his juris doctorate from the University of North Dakota.

He spends much one-on-one time with students, coaching them in the finer points of proper news reporting and writing, as well as teaching them how to get the best story. "A talented writer must approach the people whose stories he or she will tell with respect for their humanity and empathy for their plight," Frederickson said.

The professorship will rotate each year between the J-School and the School of Education and includes a stipend.

Budig was named KU's 14th chancellor in 1981. During his 13-year tenure, more than 180 faculty positions were established. He was an active fund-raiser during Campaign Kansas, the 1987-92 campaign that raised \$265 million from private donors. Budig Hall is named in his honor. He left the University to become president of baseball's American League and now is senior adviser to Major League Baseball. He and his wife Gretchen live in Isle of Palms, S.C.

"Too many young people do not write well and that deficiency threatens our society in a highly competitive world," Budig said. "I believe significant schools of journalism and communications, like the one at the University of Kansas, must reverse the trend, showing the importance of the written word." □





## ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

### Where are they now?



Photos from the May 7 Kansas City alumni reunion event.

### 2008

**Katie Abrahamson** is the new project manager at The DVS Group, a business brokerage firm. She is currently helping the firm redesign its Web site, and will assist in business sales.

**Taylor Allison** works for Barkley, Kansas City.

**Jonathan Anderson** is a territory sales manager for Phillip Morris.

**Whitney Bachamp** is a claims representative for Farmers Insurance, Olathe, Kan.

**Bryce Beasley** is an associate broker for Grubb & Ellis commercial real estate, Kansas City.

**Allison Chalfant** is a group representative for Sun Life Financial, Chicago.

**Whitney Clarke** is a marketing coordinator for Garney Construction, North Kansas City.

**Alex Cohen** is a brand manager for The Richards Group advertising, Dallas.

**Kerri Davidson** is teaching English at Nankai University, Tianjin, China, for one year.

**Hillary Frost** is an assistant account manager for Barkley, Kansas City.

**Erin Gregory** is an account coordinator for Morningstar Communications, Overland Park, Kan.

**Ally Hamacher** works at SHS (Sullivan, Higdon & Sink).

**Joni Hammer** is an associate recruiter for American Consultants staffing and recruiting firm, Kansas City.

**Mallory Hammersmith** is an account coordinator for Wellington Group event planning.

**Lisa Hicks** is teaching English in South Korea for a year.

**Jaime Hornbaker** is a fundraising and public relations consultant for Pennington & Co., Lawrence, Kan.

**Whitney Howell** is an assistant media planner for Bernstein-Rein Advertising, Kansas City.

**Rikki Kite**, MSJ, is the managing editor of *Linux Pro* magazine, Lawrence, Kan.

**Lexy Kohake** is a morning producer and reporter at KXRM Fox 21, Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Amber Kollman** is an account coordinator for MMG Worldwide marketing, Kansas City.

**Rachel Kraushaar** works in advertising sales for the Gannett Talent Development program, Wisconsin.

**Steven Levy** is with Firehouse advertising, Dallas.

**Megan Lewis** is a communications consultant for ONEOK energy company, Tulsa, Okla.

**Lauren Licata** works for Teach for America, teaching middle school science.

**Matt Lindberg** is a writer for *The Montrose Daily Press*, Colorado.

**Rachel Lynch** is an associate in training for ISN oil industry contractor/supplier management.

**Bryan Marriott** is in sales and marketing for the Kansas City Chiefs.

**Brittany Jo McCall** is the communications manager for the USA Basketball Senior National Olympic Teams, Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Mackenzie McClelland** works for Teach for America in special education.

**William McCullough** has a one-year internship with Heartland Community Church, Overland Park, Kan.

**Patricia Morrissey** is in research/marketing for Richard Ellis commercial real estate, Kansas City.

**Scott Oswald** is the supervisor of facilities for the KU Adams Alumni Center.

**Julie Parisi** is an assistant scheduler for Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

**Minhtu Pham** is in brand management for The Richards Group, Dallas.

**Katherine Pitt** is a metro account executive, *The Arizona Republic*.

**Emily Rush** is at Zoom Media and Marketing, Chicago.

**Jacqueline Schaffer** is an associate brand sales manager for the newspaper interactive division of E.W. Scripps Co., Knoxville, Tenn.

**Lauren Schulz** works in marketing for O'Malley's Beverage and Anheuser Busch, Lawrence, Kan.

**Rachel Seliger** is an account coordinator for the Rogers Group public relations, Los Angeles.

**Hanna Soltys** is a junior copywriter and proofreader for Sherri May & Co., Phoenix. ([hanna.soltys@gmail.com](mailto:hanna.soltys@gmail.com))

**Jessica Stelzer** is a volunteer with Cross Cultural Solutions in South Africa, working with children.

**Anna Tabakh** is an intern at Fleishman-Hillard.

**Nate Totten** has been admitted to the BrandCenter at Virginia Commonwealth University, a prestigious advertising portfolio school.

**Alejandro Alex Villamar** is a senior project manager on the Sprint Account for TWO WEST, Kansas City.

**Kimberly Wallace** is the assistant editor of *Natural Home* magazine, Ogden Publishing, Topeka, Kan.

**Cassandra Walter** is an officer candidate in the U.S. Navy.

**Gretchen Wieland** is filming a documentary in New Orleans and Mississippi for Project Katrina Hope.

(News & Notes - continued on page 10)



Photos from the May 7 Kansas City alumni reunion event.

## ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

### And the Emmy goes to...

By Sonya English, sophomore, Overland Park, Kan.

Seven years ago, Amanda Shaw Newsome debated whether she should accept a job producing a series for public television. Her production experience was limited to local news, but storytelling was her expertise. It didn't sound like any job she had heard of in the J-School—regular hours, great salary—so she went to her KU English professor, Mary Klayder, with what she thought was a dilemma. Klayder's response? "It's okay to be happy, you know." Five Emmys later, it appears that documentary film production may not have been such a gamble after all.

You would think someone who interned at a television station in Ghana for six weeks after her junior year would have no inhibitions about exploring the unknown. She said the J-School sponsored trip was an amazing opportunity.

After graduating from the J-School in 2000, Newsome began her job as a producer at KTWU in Topeka, a PBS affiliate. She moved to Alabama Public Television in 2005 where she worked until taking maternity leave in December, when she gave birth to her first child, Kathleen Caroline.

Newsome's KTWU position was originally intended for someone "older and wiser," to use her words, but according to the station's executive producer, Dave Kendall, a strong interview and an impressive resume tape overshadowed that requisite.

"We were looking for a couple of years' experience but... she obviously had the capabilities," Kendall said. "Her chronological age was never something we thought much about and we were very impressed with her ability from the start."

In her time with KTWU, she won the station's first regional Emmy in 2005 for "Plains People," a segment she co-created for the series Sunflower Journeys. Newsome took an approach new to the program when she used a small camera to follow people as they told their own stories, without narration. The segment earned the Emmy in its first season.

Allowing people to tell their stories in their own words is a practice that Newsome brought with her to Alabama Public Television. The Emmy nods followed as well, and in 2007, "Justice Without Violence," a documentary about the civil rights movement in Montgomery, won two Emmys. In November 2007, Newsome completed "WWII: Alabama Remembers," a 90-minute documentary about World War II veterans. It won two Emmys this June.

"I think making a documentary is not telling someone's story but helping someone else tell their story. It's a collaborative effort," Newsome said.

The daughter of one veteran told a reporter for *The Birmingham News* she was amazed by what Newsome was able to draw out of him.



Photo by Kevin McKinney.

"Being quiet was the most important thing I did in those interviews," Newsome said. "I learned the power of...giving someone your attention, not thinking about the next question and just letting it happen."

Her silence encouraged veterans to relate memories that they may not have spoken about before.

"They had a sort of collection of stories that they told people. They would get through those and I would just look at them, listen and stay quiet," Newsome said. "We had about 150 hours of interviews with 65 veterans, but it worked."

Through powerful interviews and award-winning films, she has overcome the fears she expressed to her professor years before. She attributes her success to skills emphasized in the J-School—skills that she now says give her a competitive edge.

"I can work with technical people," Newsome said. "[The J-School] taught me how to write and gave me an understanding of storytelling. It's an important distinction that I have."

As for the often intimidating picture of the job market that J-School professors paint, she says that hard work is no myth. The trick is enjoying what you do.

"If someone was saying be here at 2 a.m. to do something you hate, I couldn't do that," Newsome said. "If you find something you love doing, you don't really think about it." □



Photos from the May 7 Kansas City alumni reunion event.

## ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

(News & Notes – continued from page 8)

**Steven Zawilinski** is an associate director for ESPN, Bristol, Conn.

### 2007

**Zac Beasley** is the director of information and public relations for Taakor: Tropical Hardwoods, Sierre Leone.

**Elyse Calderon** is now a producer/writer at KWGN-TV in Denver, Colo. She was a producer at KSNT, Topeka, Kan.

**Stacey Couch** is director of communications for Alpha Phi Omega National Coed Service Fraternity, Independence, Mo.

**Timothy J. Davis** was named as one of ten Dean's Fellows at the KU School of Law, to mentor first-year students this academic year.

**Vincent Edwards, MSJ**, is the manager of professional education for the Casualty Actuarial Society in Arlington, Va., providing content for symposiums, seminars and conferences of its members.

**Gina Ford** is a reporter at WEEK-TV, Peoria, Ill.

**Anton Menning, MSJ**, serves on the personal staff of Lt. Gen. William Caldwell, commanding general of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., as the new media strategist. He also is pursuing his Ph.D. in geography at KU.

**Maggie VanBuskirk** is the associate editor for *435 South Magazine*, Johnson County.

### 2006

**Maria Kaminska** is in the KU School of Law. This summer she was an intern with the National Association of Broadcasters, researching Federal Communication Commission regulation of children's programming on minority television networks such as Univision.

**Erin Maxwell** was recently promoted to senior account executive at Vincent Partners, a lifestyle public relations and marketing agency, New York City.

**Kristen Maxwell** is the assistant managing editor of *Shape* magazine, New York City.

**Maria Salcedo** was named as one of ten Dean's Fellows at the KU School of Law, to mentor first-year students this academic year.

**Adam Sechrist** won his first Emmy at the 2008 Heartland Regional Emmy Awards. He won for his work producing KAKE News at 4, for the coverage he put together for last winter's big ice storm. Previously, Sechrist worked as a producer for *Good Morning America*, New York City.

**Amanda Kim Stairrett** received top honors from the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors Association for her work for *The Killeen Daily Herald*. Stairrett, the paper's military reporter since 2006, was named Star Reporter of Year for news and feature articles on Fort Hood, the Army and military life.

## 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](http://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](mailto:pnoland@ku.edu).

### 2005

**Christopher J. Kaufman** was named as one of ten Dean's Fellows at the KU School of Law, to mentor first-year students this academic year.

**Elisa (Zahn) Krapcha** is a senior admissions counselor in the KU Office of Admissions and Scholarships. She married Jarris Krapcha on May 24.

**Jarris Krapcha** is a police officer, Leawood, Kan.

**Megan (Claus) Longo** is marketing coordinator at Carroll Communications, a small marketing and public relations firm in Omaha, Neb. ([mlongo1012@gmail.com](mailto:mlongo1012@gmail.com))

**Michelle Orrick** is in graduate school at Florida State.

**Candice Rukes Simmons** is assistant general manager of Sandstone Amphitheater, Bonner Springs, Kan.

### 2004

**Ismael Groves Pinett** works for American Family Insurance, Seattle.

**Adam Pracht** works for Sunflower Bank, Salina, Kan.

**Amber (Byarlay) Pracht** works at the Bank of Tescott, Salina, Kan.

### 2003

**Melissa Freeman** is the manager of business development operations and marketing for B.E. Smith, Lenexa, Kan.

**Dan Harriman** founded the marketing communication and graphic design firm About Face in February 2007. See [www.aboutfacedesign.net](http://www.aboutfacedesign.net).

### 2002

**Paula Spreitzer** is the new director of e-marketing communications at the YMCA of Greater Kansas City. Previously she was the public relations specialist at Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care.

**Kelley Wise**, health care reporter for NPR in Sacramento, won the 2008 National NAMI Outstanding Media Award for News Reporting, for a mental health series she did while at KCUR radio. She also won a SPJ KC Press Club award for the series.



Photos from the August 6 Chicago alumni reunion event.

## ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

(News & Notes—continued from page 10)

### 2000

**Ashley Bowen Cook** was recently chosen as one of *The Wichita Business Journal's* "40 under 40" honorees. Cook, a brand director, has been with the Wichita-based branding agency Greteman Group since 2003. In addition to her brand management responsibilities, she also heads the agency's iTeam, which is responsible for digital strategy development and implementation. Prior to joining Greteman Group, she worked in the Dallas-based marketing department of Bombardier Flexjet.

**Diane (Ismert) Delaney** is a realtor for Prudential Kansas City Realty's Plaza office, Kansas City, Mo.

**Danner Evans** is the main anchor at WMBF-TV, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

**Stephanie (Tweito) Jacob** is a senior editor at *Allure* magazine in New York City. Previously, she was an associate editor in the beauty and fashion department at *MORE*.

### 1999

**Melissa Ngo** is a privacy and information policy consultant, and she blogs about various privacy and civil liberties issues at [www.PrivacyLives.com](http://www.PrivacyLives.com). She had been senior counsel and director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center Identification and Surveillance Project for three and a half years. She appears frequently in print and broadcast stories, testifies before legislators and government agencies, and

speaks at academic, policy and trade conferences. At EPIC, a nonprofit research education center in Washington, D.C., she worked on issues such as anonymity, camera surveillance, terrorist watch lists and medical privacy, and she directed internships and the Amicus Curiae Brief project. She previously worked as a journalist at *USATODAY.com* and *The Washington Post*. She is a graduate of the Georgetown University Law Center. She was a visiting scholar this summer at the ACLU's Technology and Liberty Program.

**Mindie Paget** is the director of communications and marketing at the KU School of Law. Previously, she was the arts editor for *The Lawrence Journal-World*.

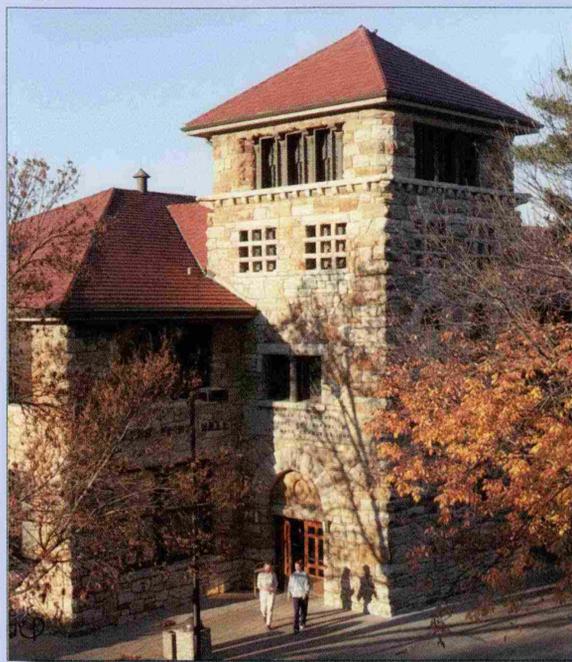
### 1998

**Grey Montgomery** has accepted a position with Gannett Digital as manager of new product development in the Digital Product Incubator. When he left KU, he worked at *The Statesman-Journal* in Salem, Ore., and then returned to Junction City, Kan., where he was editor of *The Daily Union* before entering the MBA program at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. He earned his MBA this year.

### 1996

**Zach Klein** moved from WFTV, Orlando, Fla., to WSB-TV, Atlanta, as a sports anchor.

(News & Notes—continued on page 13)



## J-School Calendar of Events

Sept. 14–19: Bridging the Gap: A Military Experience for Journalists, an intensive week-long workshop at Fort Leavenworth and Fort Riley

Sept. 22: KSPA Fall Conference

Oct. 2: Wooldridge Scholarship Dinner, Kansas Union English Room, 5:30 p.m.

Oct. 23: Editorial-Writing Conference, William Allen White House, Emporia, Kan.

Feb. 5 & 6: William Allen White Day, honoring Tom Curley, CEO and president of the Associated Press

Feb. 20: KSPA Regional Competition

April 29: J-School Awards and Scholarships Ceremony, Woodruff Auditorium/Big 12 Room, 4–5:30 p.m.

May 2: KSPA State Competition

May 6: Kansas City Alumni Reunion Event, details TBD

May 16: Journalism Graduate Recognition Ceremony, Lied Center and Stauffer-Flint lawn

May 17: KU Commencement, Memorial Stadium

June 14–18: Kansas Journalism Institute

**For more event details, visit [www.journalism.ku.edu](http://www.journalism.ku.edu).**



Photos from the August 6 Chicago alumni reunion event.

## ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

### J-School graduate on leading edge of Hollywood's promotional marketing industry

By Courtney Johnston, 2008 graduate, Scottsdale, Ariz.

When Patti Regan graduated from the J-School in 1987, she already had a plan for success. After completing an internship in San Francisco, Regan had her mind set on working in the entertainment marketing industry. She worked for many years on the corporate side of entertainment marketing, and in 1991 she opened her own agency, The Regan Group.

Born in Carlsbad, Calif., Regan left her home state to play softball at KU. When she arrived on campus, her advisor, Prof. Tim Bengtson, now the track head of Strategic Communication in the J-School, told her that her personality was the perfect fit for advertising. Regan said that without Bengtson's advice, she would have had no idea what to study.

After receiving her undergraduate degree from KU, Regan went on to complete the MBA Management Program at Dartmouth University and also has taken classes at the Anderson School of Business at UCLA.

Since forming The Regan Group in 1991, she has seen her business grow into a "Top 50" agency, according to *Promo Magazine*. Some of The Regan Group's clients include NBC-Universal, USA Networks, Warner Brothers, Walt Disney Home Entertainment, American Licorice Co., Nestle USA and Dreamworks.

One of the company's biggest success stories is an instant-win game, developed for Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc. More than 1.4 million game pieces were distributed and Ashley Furniture saw its sales increase \$2.1 million (or 29 percent) from the previous year, during the same time period.

One of the company's more recent success stories is an instant win game developed for the release of the movie "Shrek the Third." More than 14 million game pieces were distributed. By the end of the promotion, 11 million units of "Shrek the Third" were sold, making it the sixth best-selling DVD of 2007.

Regan said that The Regan Group's ability to evolve with the many changes that have taken place in the promotional marketing industry over the years is a big part of why her company has been successful.

"Ten years ago, the world of electronic marketing did not really exist," Regan said. "We are continually on the leading edge of providing targeted marketing solutions because our internal vision and client needs demand we apply this new world of online communication, widgets, viral and text messaging tactics to our clients' marketing mix. We're doing a lot of 'firsts' in the industry because our clients are willing to take risks."

The Regan Group utilized widgets and the virtual community "Second Life" to promote its most recent programs with Red Vines Licorice. The original program promotion included a user-generated content contest inviting people to share their favorite Red Vines moment by drawing it on the trays Red Vines are sold in. The top 100 winners of the contest have their artwork showcased on Red Vines trays being sold on shelves today.

More than 1,000 others have been "enshrined" in the Red Vines Gallery, [www.redvines.com/art/main.html](http://www.redvines.com/art/main.html). From those entries, Red Vines now has a widget that can be downloaded to a computer desktop, where it delivers a new trivia question and art inspiration each day. People can then enter a contest to win free Red Vines licorice. Regan

“Ten years ago, the world of electronic marketing did not really exist. We're doing a lot of 'firsts' in the industry because our clients are willing to take risks.”



— Patti Regan

noted that the contest was so successful, it is being repeated again this year.

Regan said that one thing she remembers most about her journalism education at KU is her senior project. Her group was responsible for doing integrated marketing for the Volkswagen Cabriolet, and now her job requires her to use similar tactics. She said that she often uses her senior project as an example of how integrated marketing should work.

Regan's company has had the opportunity to work on many large projects, including the Country Music Awards, the Academy Awards, the ABC hit "Dancing with the Stars," NBC's "My Name is Earl" and Paramount Pictures' "Ironman."

While Regan has been rewarded with a successful company and once-in-a-lifetime experiences, she said her favorite part about her job is the ability to use her creative side.

"It's a fun, creative industry and every day is constantly changing," Regan said. "Every day is always exciting." □



Photos from the August 6 Chicago alumni reunion event.

## ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

(News & Notes—continued from page 11)

### 1993

**Brennan A. Burger** works in strategic planning and client services for Hickerson Wahaus Advertising & Marketing, Prairie Village, Kan.

**Amy (Seifert) Shaffer**, communications manager for Georgia Ports Authority, recently won multiple awards for the agency's 2006 annual report. The awards included a national Bronze Anvil Award and a state Phoenix Award, both from the Public Relations Society of America, and a Silver Flame Award from the Georgia chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators. She also is managing editor of the agency's quarterly magazine, *AnchorAge*. She earned a master's degree in public relations at the University of Tennessee in 1998.

### 1992

**Paul Proia** published "Just a Big Kid: The Life and Times of Rube Waddell," a full-length biography of the Hall of Famer and legendary pitcher.

### 1990

**Steve Traynor** received top honors from the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors Association for his work for *The Killeen Daily Herald*. Traynor was named Star Photographer of the Year for a portfolio of work from 2007. He also took first and second place in feature photography and first in spot news for an image of a firefighter facing a wall of smoke at a manufacturing plant fire.

### 1988

**Lt. Col. Janet Holliday** was promoted from major to lieutenant colonel in a ceremony on Aug. 1 at the Memorial Campanile. She joined the Army shortly after graduation, working for the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service. She traveled the world, including Greece, Germany and Italy, before returning to KU to earn a master's degree in English. Holliday spent three years teaching English at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. She now is stationed at the Pentagon, working for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

### 1987

**Bridget (Huerter) Richards** is the managing principal for Artemis Communications LLC, Denver.

([4richards@comcast.net](mailto:4richards@comcast.net))

### 1986

**Gina B. Kellogg** is managing editor of *Illustratus*, the newsletter division of Uhlig LLC, Overland Park, Kan.

**Kiesa Kay** owns a writing retreat, called Oleander Cottage, in the South of France. The cottage is open to writers who need time to relax and work in the French countryside. Kay founded the retreat in honor of Robin Carrington, a friend who died before she had time to finish her first book. Kay helped finish her book and created the retreat so that others could make their own writing dreams come true. Visit [www.oleandercottage.com](http://www.oleandercottage.com) for more information. Kay also earned a master's degree in English from KU in 1989.

## All in the family

Jayhawk Journalists run in the Cadden family. **Thomas Scott Cadden**, 1947, and all three of his children are graduates of the KU School of Journalism. Cadden was a long-time "ad man" and composer of the famous "Mr. Clean" jingle. He died Nov. 2, 2007. A self-taught musician, Cadden wrote jingles and produced commercials for many well-known products. He began his career in advertising as a television and radio writer at Smith, Taylor & Jenkins Advertising in Pittsburgh. He worked at ad agencies in Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Chicago before joining Tatham-Laird in 1956. He left in the early 1970s to pursue a career as a freelance composer/writer. His work with dozens of movie actors over his career spurred him to publish a movie trivia book, "What a Bunch of Characters," in 1984.

Cadden's three children also are enjoying success.

**Thomas Scott Cadden, Jr.**, 1978, is a public information officer for the Arizona Department of Fish and Game.

**Holly Cadden (Jenks) Soptick**, 1980, is a senior communications specialist with Kansas City Power & Light. A member of the Kansas City IABC chapter, she was its 2004 volunteer of the year. Her son, **Jayson Jenks**, will attend KU this fall and also plans to major in journalism.

**Timothy Cadden**, 1984, is vice president of highway and infrastructure sales for Carter-Waters Construction Materials in Kansas City. □

**Lynn Kingsley-Jones** sells residential real estate in the Kansas City Metro area for Reece and Nichols realtors. ([lynnkj@reeceandnichols.com](mailto:lynnkj@reeceandnichols.com))

**Tammy Wiard** is the media marketing and advertising director for Safeway, Inc., Pleasanton, Calif.

### 1984

**Greg Vandegrift** joined St. Thomas University as a clinical professor. Previously, he was a reporter at KARE-TV, Minneapolis.

### 1981

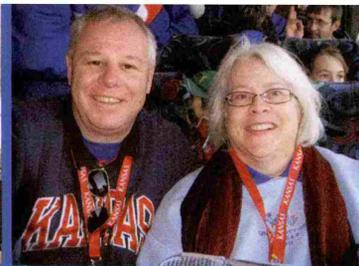
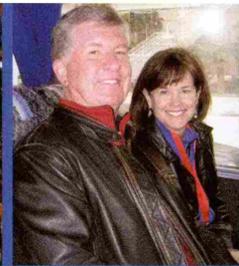
**Dreux DeMack**, who took classes in the J-School, works for KUSA-TV, Denver. He is

executive producer of "Colorado and Company," a talk show that debuted in 2004. The program features international celebrities, local community groups and world class events. ([dreuxdog@comcast.net](mailto:dreuxdog@comcast.net))

### 1980

**David Nichols** is president of AT&T Missouri in St. Louis. He joined Southwestern Bell in 1980. While still in Kansas, he worked for the company in community relations, external affairs and legislative affairs. Then, when the company acquired Pacific Bell, he moved to Reno, Nev., to become president of Nevada Bell.

(News & Notes—continued on page 15)



## ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Scenes from the 2008 Orange Bowl: Mike and Cindy Maude, president/CEO of Callahan Creek; Prof. Tom and Melody Volek; KU deans; and Reggie Robinson, president/CEO of Kansas Board of Regents, with family.

### Journalist turned capital defense attorney represents those on death row

By Courtney Johnston, 2008 graduate, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Kathryn Kase's journey to the courtroom might not have happened if not for her background in journalism.

In 1982, fresh out of the University of Kansas with a journalism degree and a background in Spanish, Kase headed for the town of Brownsville, Texas, a small city on the U.S.-Mexico border. She took a job with *The Brownsville Herald*, where she covered public education, the police beat and even the zoo.

After working for 10 months in Brownsville, she headed north to San Antonio and began writing for the (now defunct) *San Antonio Light*. She was once again a jack-of-all-trades reporter, but in 1987 she decided to return to school for a graduate degree.

"I always knew I would get a master's degree," Kase said. "I just didn't know what I would study until I had worked the court and government beats as a journalist."

Kase decided to attend St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio. Choosing to leave the working world to go back to school was not an easy decision.

"I felt as if I had lost my professional identity," she said. "I was no longer Kathryn Kase the journalist, I was Kathryn Kase the law student."

While in school, she kept her ties with the newspaper and the journalism world, thinking that one day she would return to her former profession. She was even able to work Friday nights in the sports department calling high school football scores to earn extra money. But as her education progressed, she became more intrigued by the thought of becoming an attorney.

"I was bitten by the trial bug in law school," Kase admits.

Now, instead of writing about people serving on death row, Kase represents them in court. She serves as a capital defense lawyer, whose job entails representing people with death penalty offenses or those currently serving time on death row.

Kase's employer, the Texas Defender Service, also provides consulting and trains capital defense lawyers in Texas. Kase works from the Texas Defender's Houston-based office and has traveled to Idaho, Wyoming and California to help educate attorneys on capital defense.

Kase believes that her background in journalism served her well for law school and the legal profession. She said that one of the most important parts of being a lawyer, especially a trial lawyer, is that you have to be able to tell a story effectively. Her journalism education at KU also prepared her to work well in a group environment.

"Journalism helps you because you have to be able to get



Kathryn Kase in front of the Harris County Criminal Justice Center in Houston, Texas. Photo by Max Addison.

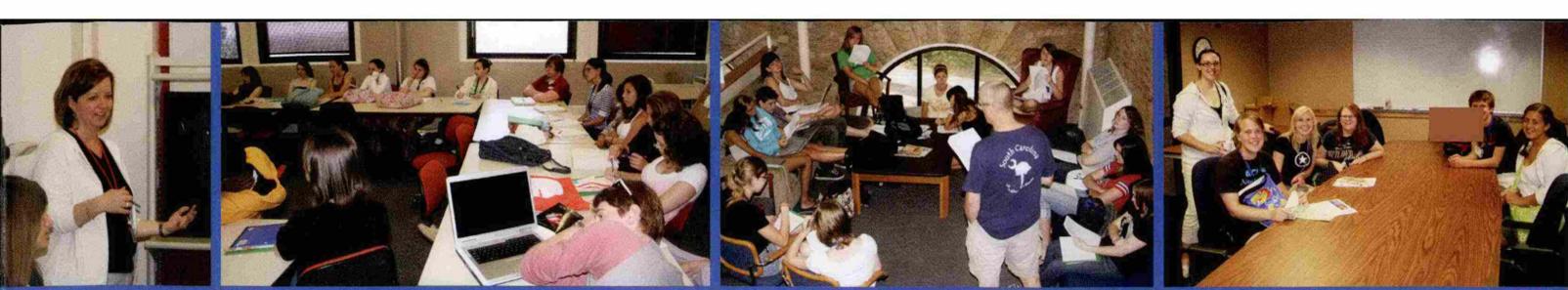
the story, but also understand the other side's story before you can be persuasive in court," Kase says.

She said that the greatest benefit of having been a journalist is that she is not afraid for her work to be edited. After working for *The Kansan* during her undergraduate career and for other daily newspapers after graduating, Kase said that having other people look at her work only makes it better.

"Some of the young attorneys are afraid to make comments because they think I'll get mad," Kase said. "I try to tell them that I don't care what comments they make if it's going to make my argument stronger."

Kase said that even though she is glad she became a lawyer, she still misses that newsroom environment where everyone is busy and doing something different.

"I think my current job is pretty cool," she said. "But I still envy all of my colleagues who are still reporters, because they still get that rush of adrenaline when the big story breaks." □



Photos from the June 15-19 Kansas Journalism Institute for high school students.

## ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

(News & Notes – continued from page 13)

Eventually Nichols moved to California, where he held a series of positions, the last being senior vice president-external affairs at AT&T California, Los Angeles. He serves as chairman of the Los Angeles area Chamber of Commerce.

**Grant Overstake** received a Kansas Farm Bureau Golden Wheat Award for agricultural reporting in *The Peabody Gazette-Bulletin*. He shared the award with two others for their reporting on the frustration of Marion County farmers with their below-average summer wheat harvest.

**Deb Riechmann**, of the Associated Press, won the Merriman Smith Award for presidential coverage under deadline pressure. The award recognized her reporting on Pres. Bush's trip to Iraq's Anbar Province in September. The award and cash prize of \$2,500 were presented at the White House Correspondents Association dinner April 26.

### 1978

**Hannes Combest** is chief executive officer of the National Auctioneers Association in Overland Park, Kan. The organization represents about 6,000 auctioneers in the U.S. and abroad. Previously, she was managing director of member programs at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, which she joined in 1996. Before that, she was a professor of journalism and assistant to the president of Haskell Indian Nations University for 10 years.

### 1976

**Harry Waterhouse** wrote a history of Calvary Bible College, which was released on its 75th birthday. He also is editor of his church's online newsletter. ([harryh20@comcast.net](mailto:harryh20@comcast.net))

### 1974

**Dan Chegwiddden** is the advertising and public relations director of gift planning at Michigan State University. He has been there for 18 years.

### 1968

**Will Hardesty** was elected president of the Colorado Municipal Judges Association. He serves in the courts of Broomfield, Golden, Lakewood, Thornton and Wheat Ridge, all Denver suburbs. He also is the Association's Minority Affairs Proponent/ Advocate and serves as the Association's representative on the Colorado Bar Association Domestic Violence Task Force.

### 1947

**Alamada (Bollier) Barrett** lives in Van Nuys, Calif. She was editor-in-chief of *The University Daily Kansan* in spring 1947. She began her career selling freelance feature articles and writing official publications for civil rights and political activism organizations. She and her husband, Russell, then lived in Australia and Berkeley for two years each. After he was appointed to the political science faculty at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, she spent nine years assisting the university editor with official publications. She also did English graduate work. In 1975, she returned home

## In memory: Christy Bradford

We said goodbye this spring to a beloved colleague, respected professional and an inspirational mentor to students. On April 24, Journalism lecturer Christy Bradford died after suffering a heart attack.



"It was a very sad day for all of us," said Journalism Dean Ann Brill. "Christy was a colleague and friend, in addition to her dedication to teaching and her students. We will miss her."

Bradford joined the J-School in 1999, teaching reporting, editing and multimedia classes. She also was a mentor to the School's multicultural scholars.

Before coming to KU, Bradford was managing editor of *The Detroit News*, where she helped guide the staff to a Pulitzer Prize in 1994. She had more than 35 years experience in the newspaper industry.

"Christy was committed to good teaching and good journalism," said David Guth, associate dean of the School of Journalism. "She was a versatile teacher who could teach multiple writing and editing courses. Her students fondly describe her as 'combination den mother/drill sergeant.'"

A memorial service for Bradford was held April 28 at the Ecumenical Christian Center in Lawrence, Kan.

Bradford's family has asked that memorial gifts be sent to the Journalism Multicultural Scholarship Fund in care of KU Endowment, P.O. Box 928, Lawrence, KS 66044-0928. The family wants to be able to acknowledge any donations, so please make sure that your name and contact information are on the check. □

to Los Angeles to do editorial work at the UCLA School of Medicine. After retiring in 1991, she continued to review manuscripts for publication on a freelance basis. As a member of the American Medical Writers Association and overseer of a small reading room for faculty and staff at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, she was invited in 1991 to speak to an International Librarians' Conference in Beijing, China. She described assistance libraries can provide physicians in

preparing research for publication. She was gratified to see that the Fifth International Congress on Peer Review and Biomedical Publication, that she attended in Chicago 2005, featured a poster session, "Detailed Instructions for Authors Are Required in Chinese Medical Journals." She still uses her journalism degree, writing a police bulletin for Neighborhood Watch. □



J-School visitors: Capt. Nicoline Jaramillo and Lt. Col. Mike Snyder, Ft. Leavenworth; John Kirby, spokesman for Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Dean Brill with L.A.-based alumni: Susan and Bob Neely, retired marketing executive, Johnson & Johnson; Laura Okmin, broadcast journalist, FOX Sports; Bill Farmer, voice of Disney's Goofy.

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Summer 2008

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