Wooldridge scholarship ‘family’ continues to grow
By Shanxi Upsdell, Shawnee, Kan., junior

Roger Wooldridge was an only child, but the number of brothers and sisters in his extended family grows each year. The scholarship in his name has helped his “siblings,” the Wooldridge scholars, earn journalism degrees at the University of Kansas since 1974.


Before she died, Helena spoke in a final interview about Roger and the Wooldridge scholars, whose number reached 140 journalism students in 2006.

“They were like an extended family,” she said. “That’s the way I felt about them.”

The scholarship has become one of the hallmarks of the Journalism School, providing financial assistance, emotional support and lifetime membership in the Wooldridge family in honor of their son.

Roger was born in 1952 and grew up in Kingman on the Wooldridges’ farm. Helena described him as “a real good kid” who “never was a minute’s trouble for us.”

“He was a lot like me – he might butt in where he wasn’t supposed to,” she said, laughing. “But he’d do it because he thought he was helping.”

In 1970, Roger enrolled at KU and began pursuing a public relations major. After interviewing for an internship in South Dakota in 1973, he started driving back to Lawrence. He was killed when his car crashed in a field near Norfolk, Neb.

“I had so many older people come up to me after he was dead,” Helena said. “They’d say, ‘I just want to tell you how I enjoyed your son.’ And I’d say, ‘Well, why?’ and they’d say, ‘Because he talked to older people.’ … That made me feel real good.”

Letter from the Dean

One of the most rewarding aspects of being dean is the wonderful people I meet. Our donors, in particular, are people who have fond memories of the School, the University, former professors and good times at KU. They now make it possible for current students to have a positive, similar experience here.

Throughout this issue of J-Links you will read the stories about some of our donors. They are creating scholarships, establishing funds for special projects, honoring faculty members or supporting an area of interest, such as writing or the broadcast facilities, and giving back to the School in many creative ways.

It’s like the commercial that lists costs of things, but then concludes with the value of the relationship: “Priceless.” –And, that’s the way we feel about our donors.
This year we also mourn the passing of Helena Wooldridge. While Mr. and Mrs. Wooldridge gave financially to so many students, they also created an extended family. The annual Wooldridge Scholars dinner was a highlight for these students. The Wooldridges took a keen interest in each of “their” students and followed their careers beyond KU. We also have a graduate center named in honor of their son Roger.

Through their endowed scholarships, the family will help KU journalism students for a long time. Beyond the dollars is the knowledge carried by Wooldridge Scholars that a family believed in them and wanted them to get a good education: Priceless!

Another family established a fund that brings working professionals to campus. Each semester, we bring three professionals here for three days of talking to classes, meeting with students, and making a lunch presentation to faculty about the latest trends in the media industry. One of the professionals-in-residence this year was Peter Bhatia, editor of The Portland Oregonian. Bhatia talked about his newspaper’s approach to covering a story about a family lost in the mountains. That reporting just won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for spot news. The experience for our students: Priceless!

Other donors have set up funds for special projects. For example, we sent a student to cover the NCAA men’s basketball tournament this year. He did an amazing job getting his stories online and impressing the ESPN reporters with his multimedia skills. The student sent a thank you note saying, “This was the experience of a lifetime.” I’m biased, but I think our student coverage was even better than the team’s play: Priceless!

Educating students and giving them every opportunity to succeed is the reason we all work hard at KU. I often tell people that my job as dean is to make sure students and faculty have the resources they need to succeed. I believe in them and in the future of journalism.

We could not operate without you—our friends, our donors. So, thank you all for the many ways you support the School. You are priceless!

Dean M. Bille

The Wooldridges added personal touches to the Roger Wooldridge scholarship, which goes to Kansas high school graduates who intend to pursue a degree in journalism. The fund provided $41,000 last year to 14 recipients.

They paid for dinners to meet the students before such events became commonplace, said Joe Zanatta, director of scholarship support and assistant vice president at the KU Endowment Association.

“They were a decade or two ahead of the other scholarships,” he said.

Mary Wallace, assistant to the dean of journalism, said the Wooldridges often brought relatives and friends to the dinners. It was always held in the English Room of the Kansas Union.

Scholars updated the Wooldridges on their progress every year until graduation. They still gather annually.

“It’s like watching members of the family kind of get their wings and grow out,” said Dale Seuferling, president of the KU Endowment Association.

Seuferling said the Wooldridges treated the scholars like family, commenting on world affairs and giving advice.

“We try to continue that as much as possible and in that spirit,” he said.

Early scholarship recipients include Jerry Seib, Washington bureau chief for The Wall Street Journal and winner of the William Allen White Foundation’s 2005 National Citation.

Seib said the Wooldridges expressed genuine interest in the scholarship recipients and made sure to meet each one.

“They wanted to see the opportunities that they couldn’t see carried out in their own lives carried out by the people who were beneficiaries of their generosity,” he said.

Jeanny Sharp, editor and publisher of The Ottawa Herald, said the scholarship allowed her to finish her journalism degree in four years.

“I hope someday that I can return that kind of investment in me to others,” she said, “because I know what a difference it made for me.”

Lori O’Toole Buselt, WchiTalk editor of The Wichita Eagle, said the scholarship allowed her to work more at The University Daily Kansan, becoming editor in spring 2001.

“Throughout my career, I think I’ll always look back and feel fortunate for that opportunity,” she said. “My way to give back is to be the best journalist I can be.”

To read more about these and other Wooldridge scholars, please see the Alumni News & Notes section of J-Links, pages 8-16.
Richard C. Clarkson, 1956 School of Journalism graduate and nationally known photojournalist, was honored as this year’s William Allen White Foundation National Citation recipient.

The man who began his career with the creation of a bimonthly aviation newspaper for Pinckney Elementary School in Lawrence has changed the way Americans see the news. America Photo magazine named Clarkson one of the 50 most influential individuals in American photography.

Clarkson photographed seven summer and one winter Olympics. He organized all photography for Time at Munich in 1972 and Montreal in 1976 and for Sports Illustrated at Moscow in 1980. He was a consultant to the Los Angeles Organizing Committee in 1984 and in 1996 he managed all photography for the Main Olympic Stadium in Atlanta.

“For all those amazing times at Olympics, Super Bowls, Final Fours and World Series...what I am most proud of are the young photographers that I was able to recruit and occasionally train at Topeka. Their careers—not my pictures—are what I value most,” Clarkson said during his speech at the William Allen White Day citation ceremony.

Clarkson has not only attended William Allen White Day for the past 25 years, but he also is on the William Allen White Foundation board of trustees. He also has arranged to bequest nearly his entire estate and photography collection to the University.

“Rich Clarkson has been a tremendous friend to and supporter of the J-School over the years,” said Ann Brill, dean of the School of Journalism. “We are so proud of his accomplishments and the national recognition he has received.”

Although he has strong Midwest roots, his accomplishments have received continuous national recognition.

Clarkson has been the director of photography and senior assistant editor of the National Geographic Society, assistant managing editor for graphics of The Denver Post and director of photography of The Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal. He also has worked throughout his professional career as a contract magazine photographer for Sports Illustrated, Time and Life.

In 1987, Clarkson founded Rich Clarkson and Associates, a Denver-based company that creates and manages unique photography projects for clients such as the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the Colorado Rockies baseball team and the Denver Broncos football team. He also manages continuing education seminars and workshops for professional photographers and is a consultant to media, advertising and photographic trade organizations.

Clarkson received an honorary Master of Science Degree in Professional Photography from the Brooks Institute of Photography. He will be inducted into the 2007 class of the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame. Clarkson closed the citation ceremony by defining the field that he has helped shape throughout the past five decades.

“Great journalism, great newspapers and magazines, great television that are successful...are the product of great leadership—editors, producers, directors who are out in front of the readership. Leadership that tells us a story, shows us what we need to know, moves the readers and viewers into new territory,” Clarkson said.

The White Foundation trustees chose Clarkson to receive the citation, presented annually since 1950. KU’s Journalism School is named in White’s honor. White (1868-1944) was a nationally influential Kansas editor and publisher of The Emporia Gazette. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1923 and posthumously in 1947. Other notable recipients of the William Allen White Citation have included Walter Cronkite, 1969; Arthur O. Sulzberger, 1974; Helen Thomas, 1986; Charles Kuralt, 1989; Bernard Shaw, 1994; Bob Woodward, 2000; Molly Ivins, 2001; Cokie Roberts, 2002; Gerald F. Seib, 2005; and Gordon Parks, 2006.
Graduate gives back to the J-School

Keith Swinehart Sr., 1938 Journalism graduate, was honored at a reception on March 2 for his major gift contribution of $3 million for future facilities enhancements to the School of Journalism.

Swinehart made the gift through two $1.5 million charitable gift annuities established at the KU Endowment Association. His donation will be used for the Swinehart Family Building Fund in support of the School of Journalism.

“Mr. Swinehart is a very generous man,” Ann Brill, dean of the School of Journalism, said. “He is very committed to and passionate about his family and education. He is very grateful for the education he received and wants to give back to the School and KU.”

Swinehart is now retired and lives on Hilton Head Island, S.C. Both his daughter, Dinah, and son, William Keith Jr., also are KU alumni.

While attending KU he worked for the University Relations department. He founded two companies, serving most recently as chairman of Vanguard Plastics.

Retired J-School faculty updates

Below are updates on retired J-School faculty and staff with whom we keep in regular contact.

Samuel Adams lives in his hometown of Waycross, Ga., but visits Lawrence every year.

Len Alfano is traveling the country with his wife, Deborah. He speaks in classes when he visits KU.

Tom Eblen is president of the Endacott Society, the group for retired faculty and staff at KU; is a news consultant for Kansas Press Association (he lectures, writes and visits one newspaper each month in order to give a detailed critique and review); speaks on journalism for the Kansas Humanities Council; is a board member of the William Allen White Community Partnership in Emporia; is a trustee of the William Allen White Foundation; and he also freelances.

Tom Hedrick teaches sportscasting at Baker University. He also announces 10 football games and 25 basketball games on two radio stations and online for Baker as well as KU baseball on KLWN and online. In his spare time, he coaches reporters and students to strengthen their broadcast voices. He enjoys “working on my own schedule in retirement.”

Paul Jess is relaxing in his retirement and is “enjoying every moment of it.”

Dana Leibengood pursues his love of baseball by continuing to play in the Choo Choo Coleman fantasy league with journalism colleagues and in Ballpark Baseball with friends from across KU. He also admits to playing “a bit of bad golf.” Baby-sitting grandchildren and keeping up his yard are among his activities.

Bruce Linton edits family video projects on his Mac, golfs in nice weather and has just returned from South Padre Island where he and his wife go every winter for six weeks.

Calder Picket just celebrated his 60th wedding anniversary with his wife, Nola. He reads for fun and he also reads for the Audio Reader Program.

Lee Young says “there isn’t enough time to do everything on the list in retirement.” He volunteers at Audio Reader and Lawrence Interdenominational Kitchen. He also plays golf and travels.
**Lazzarino passionate for written word**

Writing was Diane Lazzarino’s specialty throughout her 37 years at the School of Journalism. She retired from the journalism faculty in spring 2006.

In her final year at the J-School she was chosen to run the School’s new Bremner Editing Center, named for her longtime colleague and noted editing teacher John Bremner.

Her identification with the Strategic Communications track traces back to her many years teaching Promotional Writing to advertising majors with community groups as clients. Projects were designed to combine professional learning with practical applications.

Clients included the then Haskell Indian Junior College centennial, Cottonwood sheltered workshop, Meals on Wheels of which she was a founder, Kansas Wheelchair basketball, Volunteer Clearing House, Lawrence Senior Center, Headquarters, the city household recycling program and the Humane Society.

A class in 1981 worked with State Rep. Jesse Branson to create a public awareness campaign that culminated in the passage of a state law requiring infant restraints in automobiles. In her most unusual project, “the Class of 2000,” her students were paired with kindergartners at a local school. Each succeeding KU class interviewed those children until they graduated from high school in 2000.

A permanent award was created in her name and presented for the first time at the J-School’s 2006 Awards and Scholarships ceremony. The Diane Lazzarino Award goes to a Strategic Communications senior who excels in writing.

Outside the classroom, she advised the KU AD Club for 20 years. Many of its leaders are influential in strategic communications positions today and return often to speak in journalism classes, and to hire KU interns and graduates.

After several years as a teacher and magazine editor, she earned her master’s degree at KU in 1969 and became an instructor in the J-School.

She continues to advise and encourage writers. She coaches groups of senior citizens who meet weekly at Babcock Place, Drury Place and Brandon Woods.

“You never know what you are going to learn from them. They are just wonderful people,” she said.

**Bass brought profession into classroom**

Professor Sharon Bass taught at the J-School for 22 years, but her influence will be felt for many years.

During her time here, she taught and created more than a dozen different courses for undergraduate and graduate students. Still a teacher, she recently conducted an honors tutorial on the media and military and she will teach journalism in the KU program in Paderno del Grappa, Italy, in fall 2007.

At the J-School she set up internships that allowed students to work at national magazines. She brought knowledge of the field, gained by directing a competition and professional development program for the City and Regional Magazine Association. Her industry network continues to benefit students. Many former journalism graduates return to critique student work as well as hire interns and staff members for their publications.

A permanent student award, the Sharon Bass Award, was given for the first time in 2006 to an outstanding senior who has specialized in magazine.

Faculty members appreciate her leadership and service in creating a new curriculum, revising the student advising system, initiating the FrEd program for faculty development, chairing search committees and organizing the School’s accreditation self-study. She also served as director of the School’s graduate program.

Across campus, she served on the advisory board for the Center for Teaching Excellence, participated in the KU Honors Program, and served on numerous University committees, including the KU Athletic Corporation board for seven years, four of them as chair. She is an enthusiastic fan of the KU baseball team and continues to work in academic mentoring.

In Stauffer-Flint Hall, she redesigned the Journalism Resource Center to create space for students to meet, reconfigured computer labs and organized photo displays in the halls to showcase the work of students and alumni.

After Sept. 11, 2001, she and her Visual Communications students collected and organized a display of front pages to illustrate newspaper responses to the World Trade Center attack.

Bass now works in her home studio as an art quilter and fiber artist. Her work has been shown throughout the state, as well as in Chicago and Houston.
Strategic Campaigns capstone course gives students real-world, hands-on experience

By Abby Hughes, St. Louis, Mo., senior

For all strategic communications students in the School of Journalism, there is a rite of passage they begin preparing for in their first classes at the J-School. Journalism 676, Strategic Campaigns, is the students’ opportunity “to solve a practical problem for a real world client,” according to Bob Basow, associate professor and campaigns instructor.

While working within a team, students learn how to develop a cohesive campaign in this capstone class through researching, developing a strategy, executing tactics and evaluating outcomes.

Even more importantly, “they finish the semester with a sense of accomplishment and confidence for when they start doing the real thing,” said David Guth, associate dean and campaigns instructor.

There are five campaigns classes this semester, taught by different professors and working with different clients. Each class is broken into “agencies” that develop their own plans book to present to their clients, at what some refer to endearingly as their “senior recital.”

Tim Bengtson, associate professor, has taught this course for 28 years and still “can’t think of anything more exciting than campaigns presentations. Seeing our students demonstrate what they know. That’s what teaching is all about,” Bengtson said.

Working with clients who are also his former students is exceptionally rewarding, he said. His current class is working with Stacey Slyter McBride, ad director for Helzberg Diamonds and Bengtson’s student from 15 years ago, and Amanda Pitler, account executive for Sullivan Higdon and Sink, also a former student.

David Guth is teaching his 33rd section of campaigns this semester. His class is working with Kansas Public Radio.

“One thing I try to do in addition to teaching campaigns is instill a sense of social responsibility by working with organizations that would not otherwise be able to afford an agency,” Guth said about the process of choosing clients.

His favorite experience was working with the Ryan Gray Playground for All Children project. His class’ effort helped raise $300,000 to build a handicap-accessible playground at Hillcrest Elementary School.

For Basow, the most important result for any campaigns student is finishing the class knowing, “I’m now ready to contribute to the world.”

Brielyn Dickerson, a strategic campaigns student in fall 2006, said this knowledge helped her secure her first job.

“I went into my Starcom interview with confidence. I had experienced so much with my campaigns group — the frustrations, the excitement, the hard work and results. Being able to elaborate on those experiences and how they will translate in my first job is what I think really put me at an advantage over other candidates,” Dickerson said.

Basow’s class currently is working with Vital Support Systems, which represents Cisco, Hewlett-Packard, Oracle and others.

Associate Professor Tien-Tsung Lee’s class did a campaign for Taco Bell and now is working with Audio Reader, a reading and information service for the blind.

“Many students will start their careers at agencies serving small clients with budgets similar to Audio Reader’s. They will be forced to be creative and maximize with the given budget. Also, it will instill a sense of social responsibility,” Lee said.

Mugur Geana, assistant professor, has each student work with two clients. All of his students worked with the Solar House Project from Kansas State University. For the second half of the semester, two of the “agencies” are working with Kaw Valley Center Behavioral Healthcare and two with the KU Transportation Center.

Having multiple groups working for the same client is an added benefit for both the client and the students, Geana said.

Strategic Campaigns is a growing experience for students, the University and the community. Students leave the capstone course with transferrable skills, ready to succeed in their professional working careers. It is considered a rite of passage for students who “love that they’ve had it when they’re finished. It is the highlight of the Stratcom student’s academic life,” Guth said.
Recent Strategic Campaigns class clients

Every semester KU J-School professors teach several sections of Strategic Campaigns. Clients include public service agencies, businesses and KU campus organizations. New clients are always joining the family. Recent class clients are listed below.

**SPRING 2007:**
- **Bob Basow** — Vital Support Systems, the Kansas City distributor for Hewlett-Packard, Cisco and Oracle
- **Tim Bengtson** — Helzberg Diamonds, Kansas City
- **Mugur Geana** — KU Transportation Center; KVC Behavioral Healthcare Services, Olathe; and Solar House Team for Solar Decathlon competition
- **David Guth** — Kansas Public Radio
- **Tien Lee** — Kansas Audio Reader Service

**FALL 2006:**
- **Bob Basow** — Sprint
- **Tim Bengtson and Mugur Geana** — Haskell Indian Nations University
- **Tien Lee** — Cottonwood social service agency

**SPRING 2006:**
- **Bob Basow** — KU Bookstore
- **Bob Basow** — Kansas Union Dining Services
- **Tim Bengtson** — Lawrence Convention & Visitors Bureau
- **Tim Bengtson** — Lawrence Transit System (bus)

**FALL 2005:**
- **Bob Basow** — KU Biodiversity Research Center
- **Tim Bengtson** — *The Ottawa Herald* newspaper
- **David Guth** — The Dole Institute of Politics

**SPRING 2005:**
- **Bob Basow** — Overland Park city convention center, police and fire recruiting
- **Tim Bengtson** — Blimpie restaurant chain
- **Gerry Cain** — Williams Foods, a product for ethnic Hispanic market
- **I-Huei Cheng** — Watkins Student Health Center

**FALL 2004:**
- **Bob Basow and I-Huei Cheng** — Sprint
- **Tim Bengtson** — Lawrence Memorial Hospital
- **David Guth and Kerry Benson** — The Kansas Speedway

**SPRING 2004:**
- **Bob Basow** — Commerce Bank
- **Tim Bengtson** — KU Women’s Basketball
- **Tim Bengtson** — Douglas County Bank
- **Gerry Cain** — UMB Bank

For more event details, visit [www.journalism.ku.edu](http://www.journalism.ku.edu).
ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES
Where are they now?

2006

Tyler Ball is a media consultant for KTKA, Channel 49, the ABC affiliate in Topeka.

Andrea Belfry is an assistant account executive at Padilla Speer Beardsley Public Relations in Minneapolis.

Natalie Bogan is the assistant editor at Houston Magazine. (nataliebogan@hotmail.com)

Jacky Carter is an art assistant at Budget Travel magazine in New York.

Kyle Cook has joined Glynn Devins advertising and marketing as an account coordinator.

Audrey Esther is host/anchor of a soon-to-be launched news and entertainment segment on HamptonRoads.tv, which is owned by The Virginian Pilot newspaper.

Christina Ferguson has been hired as retail communications manager by Sprint and will write content and help lay out the company’s retail magazine.

Janiece Gatson is a graduate student in the KU School of Education.

Tiffany Goebel works for eShots in Chicago. (tiffany.goebel@gmail.com)

Suse Goercke, MSJ, is an account assistant at GMMB, a political consulting and cause-marketing firm in Washington, D.C.

Dominic Gutierrez is an advertising account executive with The Dallas Morning News.

Haley Harrison is a reporter with 6News in Lawrence.

Laura Holzman works for Synapse Communications, a media planning agency in Silver Spring, Md.

Sara Katch is an account coordinator for MB Pland. Her responsibilities include developing media timelines, tracking deadlines and providing client service.

Molly Kocour is a public relations specialist for New Vantage Group, a private equity investing firm and membership association in Washington, D.C. She plans events for investors and organizes regional and national conferences.

Shane Kucera is in public relations and marketing at 360 Architecture in Kansas City, Mo.

Patrick Lafferty, MSJ, is the Multimedia Newsroom Coordinator at the KU School of Journalism. He manages and teaches a staff of 200+ student journalists the ways of the new media landscape, while serving as Webmaster to 39 Web sites affiliated with the J-School.

Tricia Masenthin is a reporter at The Lansing Current in Lansing, Kan. (tmasenthin@sunflower.com)

Kristen Maxwell is a full-time freelance reporter in New York for InStyle magazine’s Best Beauty Buys section. She had interned at the magazine.

Louis Mora is media relations coordinator for the Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth.

Carly Pearson is a staff photographer at The Emporia Gazette.

Lindsey Ramsey is an assistant editor at Budget Travel magazine.

Patrick Shehan is morning producer at KYTV, Springfield, Mo.

Denise Spidle works for The Naples, Fla., Daily News as executive producer and anchor for its TV news show, Studio 55.

Marissa Stephenson is assistant to the managing editor of Shape.

Edwin Yang is a proofreader at Plattform Advertising in Olathe.

Andy Hyland works for The Kansas City Star, covering Platte County government.

Lauren Foremsky is coordinator of public relations for Neiman Marcus in Dallas.

Matt Fortner is a real estate agent for Graham-Welch, serving the Kansas City area.

Ty Fowler is the promotions coordinator for Entercom in Mission, Kan. He handles promotions for KQRC 98.9, KYYS 99.7 and KRBZ 96.5. (tfowler@entercom.com)

Kevin Kampwirth is a staff writer for CMJ, College Music Journal.

Christopher Kaufman works in the KU Office of Admissions, where he is planning recruitment events in Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Omaha and St. Louis.

Amanda O’Toole has joined the online team of The Wichita Eagle, where she had been a general assignment reporter.

Kellis Robinett of The Idaho State Journal, recently won three awards in the Associated Press Sports Editors competitions. His entries placed in the top 10 for columns in newspapers under 40,000 circulation, for project reporting and for feature writing.

Morgan Smith is overnight producer at KAKE-TV, Wichita.

Andrew Vaupel is assistant online editor for American Banker, a weekday newspaper in New York City that covers the banking industry.

(News & Notes – continued on page 10)
Despite having lived in Slovakia for more than 1,000 years, gypsies are still treated as outsiders, according to Julie Denesha, 1993 J-School grad. Since 1996, she has worked on a personal project, titled “Outcasts of Europe,” to capture what she calls a “universal issue of minority populations.”

Denesha headed back to Slovakia in March to finish her personal photo project on the Roma people, an ethnic group often referred to as gypsies living in communities all over the world. She will gather sound and video clips to compile with her photos into a book and Web site.

Photos from her project were displayed at the Irene B. French Community Center in Merriam, Kan., in Nov. 2006. The photos are currently on display at the J-School.

Denesha lived in the Czech Republic from 1996 to 2004. Initially she moved there looking for a job, hoping to use her second degree in Russian from KU. Soon after her arrival, she began working at The Prague Post, a weekly English-language newspaper. However, her Russian did not prove useful in her new home. Being associated with Russia was grounds for discrimination, according to Denesha.

She found herself among many Americans in Prague and she led a life with similar amenities to those in the U.S. But, when she went to the villages of eastern Slovakia, a country southeast of the Czech Republic, she found dramatic differences.

“It’s really hard to be poor,” Denesha said about living with Roma families in Slovakia. “Especially in an isolated village; and when you are not accepted by the greater society (as the gypsies are not).”

She lived with Roma families for up to 10 days at a time, in order to portray their lives in Slovakia as authentically as possible. She gathered water, even though she couldn’t drink it without getting sick, she cooked and talked with them.

She worked on her project whenever she was able to piece together time outside of work. Denesha was at The Prague Post until spring of 1998 and continued freelancing for The New York Times, Time, Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service (KRT), The Christian Science Monitor, The Guardian and The Economist after that. She also covered the Kosovo conflict for Knight Ridder in 1999.

“I’m just a girl from Kansas. I grew up in Johnson County. But I’m a journalist and a shy person. Having a camera gives me the reason to talk to people and allows me a window into their lives,” Denesha said.

On her most recent return to the U.S. she spent two years as photo editor of features and special projects for The Washington Times.

Denesha isn’t sure whether she is returning to Slovakia just to finish her project or whether she will come across other social conditions that must be captured by her camera.

“Everyone’s too busy to put themselves in someone else’s shoes or even to relate to the person sitting across from them. It’s hard to take time from our own struggle to see someone else’s,” Denesha said. That being said, she is off: taking the time for all of us, to see how the “outcasts of Europe” live.

For more information about Outcasts of Europe and Denesha’s other work, visit www.juliedenesha.com.
Wooldridge Scholar: Jerry Seib, *The Wall Street Journal*

Compiled by Shanxi Upsdell, Shawnee, Kan., junior


The scholarship’s influence on his career:

“It was one of the things that made it possible to get through KU and have a career in journalism afterward. I was essentially financing my own education. I had to figure out where I was going to get the money from year to year to pay bills and pay tuition. In the effort to do that, the Wooldridge scholarship really was important to allow me to get both ends met in the middle and allow me to continue in Lawrence. It was important, not just because of the way it encouraged journalism education, but in my case, it really allowed education to continue at all.”

Relationship with the Wooldridges:

“Mostly, I just remember how nice the Wooldridges were and soft-spoken, but also eager to know you, eager to know about you, eager to hear your story, eager to know of your plans. Sometimes, you go to those things and feel the people are simply being sociable or going through the motions. I think with the Wooldridges, I always had the feeling that there was genuine interest in the people receiving the scholarship.”

Other thoughts on the scholarship:

“I think the Wooldridges themselves were the thing that sets it apart. A lot of scholarships have a name attached to them, but the name has very little meaning. In this case, the Wooldridges were personally attached to it, which is to say they made sure they knew the recipients. The people who were the benefactors were not distant or abstract or just a name on a piece of paper, but rather real people that you came in contact with.”

Paige Worthy has been promoted to copy chief of two magazines at Harris publications in New York. They are *King*, an urban lifestyle magazine for an African-American audience, and *Ride*, an automobile spin off from *King*. She has been an assistant editor at Harris for seven months.

**2004**

Bethany Chmelka is project supervisor with Service Management Group, which specializes in service improvement tools for companies in retail, restaurant, hospitality and service industries.

Ismael Groves is manager of multicultural marketing for Embarq Corporation.

Kathryn M. (Hardacre) Leary is with Cerner Corporation in the Marketing Department. She works with a team coordinating Cerner’s trade show presence at nearly 150 tradeshows worldwide. She formerly worked with Byeway Books, Inc. in Lenexa, Kan.

Meka White is on the Cleveland Cavaliers marketing staff. The Harvard MBA program has accepted her but she has deferred her enrollment to continue with the team.

**2003**

Mai Do is marketing director for KU Student Health Services. She was with GlynnDevins Marketing and Advertising in Overland Park previously.

Melissa Eisberg is an account executive for Redpoint Marketing.

Megan Hickerson has been appointed to a promotion coordinator position at Conde Nast Bridal Media, the group that publishes *Brides*, *Elegant Bride* and *Modern Bride* magazines in New York.

Lane Lyons is communications and public relations specialist at Compdata Surveys, which maintains data such as salaries by company size, industry and geographic area for all levels of job titles across the country. Visit www.compdatajobs.com.

Kristy Maharay is an account planner for Campbell Mithun in the Cash Plus Media Services division.

Lauren Serpe finished her Master’s in International Affairs at American University. She is currently the development and marketing assistant at the Institute for Social & Economic Development, a non-profit organization in Washington, D.C. (lserpe2@yahoo.com)
ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

(News & Notes – continued from page 10)

Sue Ann Tan is an associate with Weber Shandwick in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Mary Andreleita Walker is an attorney specializing in media law and intellectual property law in Minneapolis.

2002

Jonathan Gordon is an associate with Transwestern Realty in Chicago.

Ryan Irwin started OTS Media, a placement agency in Kansas City that is owned by Plattform Advertising of Olathe. He has been a media buyer for Plattform for more than two years.

Jenni (Jones) Miller is a marketing specialist at Cerner Corporation in Kansas City, Mo. She recently got married. (jennimjones@gmail.com)

Bruno Pieroni is on the creative staff of Sullivan Higdon & Sink. Also, his comic strip, “K City,” runs in the weekly Preview section of The Kansas City Star. He is education chair of the Kansas City Art + Copy Club that sponsors the student Omni Award competition.

Michael R. Stern is a senior account supervisor with Ketchum Chicago.

2001

Noel Anderson is chief development director for the Midway-Kansas Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Christopher Hopkins is a live online producer at washingtopost.com, with responsibility for politics, foreign affairs and opinion chats. He had been online reporter and online news editor for The Olympian.

2000

Katie Boncella is an account executive with Kelly/Russell Advertising in Kansas City.

Maggie (Heck) Boroujerdi is the associate art director for Everyday Food & Special Issues at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia in New York.

Michael Erb, who covered high school sports for KSAL-AM, Salina, for six years, received the Oscar Stauffer Sportscaster of the Year Award from the Kansas State High School Activities Association recently. He now works for NFL’s Instant Replay division in Kansas City and is a territory representative for Vindex Pharmaceuticals. At KU he was sports director at KJHK and provided play-by-play of high school games for KLWN.

David Gunasegaram heads public relations for the Mobile Embedded Devices Division of Microsoft in Redmond, Wash. His work focuses on digital rights management and HD-DVD in Asia, Europe and North America. Previously he was with Sprint Nextel.

1999

Mandy Anderson is an event manager in the Corporate Events Marketing Group at Sprint. She works on senior executive level events including leadership conferences, customer hospitality and incentive programs. She started as an intern at Sprint.

Alex Locke is an assignment editor at KARE-TV, Minneapolis.

Anna (Attkisson) Riley is a senior associate editor at Time Inc. Content Solutions in New York. She edits two magazines, one for Ford owners called My Ford and the other for the National Park Foundation called Parks. (annaattkisson@yahoo.com)

Alex Runner is the media critic and “Pressroom” columnist for Milwaukee Magazine. He is also a writer at Marquette University’s Office of Marketing and Communication, writing feature articles for Marquette Magazine and speeches for Marquette’s leadership. Formerly he was a senior writer at Northwestern University. He and his wife Jessie recently had a baby, Benjamin Claude Runner.

Rick Shearer is an associate attorney practicing in the West Virginia and Washington D.C. offices of Jackson Kelly PLLC. Rick and his fiancée Franki L. Parsons, also an attorney at Jackson Kelly, will wed in June.

Tony Vinh has joined Doner Advertising in Southfield, Michigan, as a senior copywriter.

1998

Brian Flink is senior production manager for Glamour magazine.

John Kepley is a speechwriter for the office of California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. He previously worked as the senior correspondence editor and deputy director of constituent affairs in the office.

Kelly Maack is the marketing director at Westfield Gateway in Lincoln, Neb. (kmaack@inebraska.com)

Kate Blatherwick-Pickert, MSJ, won the 2006 Mid-America Emmy Award for Best Newscast. She is a producer at KMBC 9 News in Kansas City.

Amy (Boresow) Prendiville is general manager of Waitt Outdoor KC, which handles more than 100 billboards in Kansas City. (aprendiville@waittoutdoor.com)

Keri Russell is the associate director of membership marketing for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas alumni association.

1997

Bradley Brooks is an international desk reporter for the Associated Press.

Nate Hill is news director at KSNT, Topeka.

Correy Honza is director of Internet marketing for Quiznos Sub in Denver.

1996

Jan-Eric Anderson has joined Barkley in Kansas City as vice president, group media director. He will oversee consumer connection planning for Barkley’s largest client account, Sonic Drive-Ins. Previously Anderson was vice president, media director at Starcom Worldwide in Chicago, and earlier was with ESPN.com. Barkley is the largest employee-owned agency of its kind. It was founded in 1964 and has field offices across the nation.

(News & Notes – continued on page 12)
Here at Other thoughts on the scholarship: felt that theWooldridges were fans of the students, too.

Remembered a lot of personal details about the Wooldridges like she was our benefactor. The Wooldridge family paid for our educations more than the O’Toole family. So we really feel of respect and appreciation for Helena Wooldridge.

“My sister (Amanda O’Toole) and I have a lot of income, I was able to devote more time to the newspaper, to The University Daily Kansan, and I eventually worked my way up to editor there, and I think that had a direct impact on my career.”

“Since I did have the additional scholarship money, I was able to become more involved with the student paper, which wasn’t a job that necessarily paid very well. I probably could have found a student, part-time job that would have made more money, but because I didn’t have the stresses of finding additional sources of income, I was able to devote more time to the newspaper, to The University Daily Kansan, and I eventually worked my way up to editor there, and I think that had a direct impact on my career.”

“My sister (Amanda O’Toole) and I have a lot of respect and appreciation for Helena Wooldridge. The Wooldridge family paid for our educations more than the O’Toole family. So we really feel like she was our benefactor. The Wooldridges remembered a lot of personal details about the students. It wasn’t only a funding mechanism. I felt that they were fans of the students, too.”

“Here at The Wichita Eagle where I work, a lot of the KU grads are also Wooldridge scholars. Even in my career, I’ve run into people who I didn’t realize were Wooldridge scholars. The KU journalism school has such a great national reputation. I feel like Wooldridge scholars are kind of the cream of the crop.”

The scholarship’s influence on her career: "Since I did have the additional scholarship money, I was able to become more involved with the student paper, which wasn’t a job that necessarily paid very well. I probably could have found a student, part-time job that would have made more money, but because I didn’t have the stresses of finding additional sources of income, I was able to devote more time to the newspaper, to The University Daily Kansan, and I eventually worked my way up to editor there, and I think that had a direct impact on my career.”

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Wooldridge Scholar: Lori O’Toole Buselt, The Wichita Eagle

Compiled by Shanxi Upsdell, Shawnee, Kan., junior


The scholarship’s influence on her career:

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(News & Notes – continued from page 11)

Jen Humphrey is the communications officer for the KU Museum of Natural History and Biodiversity Institute. She directs internal and external communications, including promotion of the museum and the institute’s research programs. She had been a senior editor at the KU Endowment Association for nearly eight years. She is a candidate for a master’s degree in English.

Zach Klein is sports director for WFTV, the ABC affiliate in Orlando, Fla.

Megan Bell is manager, Genesco Sports Enterprises.

Tim Joyce has become morning meteorologist at KOIN-TV in Portland, Ore., and weathercaster for KUPL-FM. He has been weekend meteorologist and environmental reporter for the station for two years. He will continue to do special projects on environmental issues for the CBS affiliate. Previously he worked at KTKA-TV, Topeka, KVAL-TV and KMTR-TV in Eugene, Ore., and Northwest Cable News in Seattle.

Gayle Martin, MSJ, is the Marketing Director for Cloud Community College in Concordia, Kan.

Heather (Harthorn) Gunasegaram works for Argus Health Systems in Seattle.

Kimberly Hobe joined Goodyear at its headquarters in Ohio to oversee its sponsorship department and fleet of blimps. She had been with Sprint sports marketing for nine years.
First, Gorski was at The Colorado Springs Gazette, and since 2003 at The Denver Post. He twice won major honors from the Religion Writers Association, Religion Writer of the Year for all circulation categories and for mid-sized papers. He also reported for The Oregonian. He will be based in Denver, teaming with Rachel Zoll, who works in New York.

Stephen Kline is the chief attorney for Xanga, a social networking site.

Jeffrey Kobs is associate director for Smart Moves Strategy, AT&T.

Jodi (Eidsness) Siemers accepted the marketing director position for Fishback Financial Corporation, a bank holding company in Brookings, S.D. She previously worked as a media planner at Lawrence & Schiller Advertising & Marketing in Sioux Falls, S.D. (siemers@sio.midco.net)

Bob Wiltfong is currently writing and producing a screenplay with his improv comedy friends in New York, as well as developing and hosting a weekly talk show at his home theater, The P.I.T., www.thepit-nyc.com. His work can also be viewed at www.bobwiltfong.com. He was formerly a freelance correspondent on “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.”

1990

Steve Buckner, MSJ, is the author of “Game of My Life—Kansas: Memorable Stories of Jayhawk Basketball,” published in January by Sports Publishing. The book features interviews with 20 KU players of the last 20 years, photos, box scores and player profiles, as well as a forward by Coach Bill Self.

Jana Gregory Dobbs has been promoted to community bank president for CornerBank, Lawrence. She joined the bank in October 2000 as director of marketing. In December 2003, she was promoted to senior vice president for relationship management, overseeing the Lawrence branch’s marketing, human resources and business development functions. Before that, she was president and chief executive officer of the Arkansas City Chamber of Commerce.

Carrie (Harper) Wiklund has been guiding tours at the Republic of Singapore’s Asian Civilizations Museum. She writes themed tours for students that tie into the local secondary school curriculum, and trains docents, particularly to help them generate enthusiasm among middle-school students. In December, she was elected vice president of the Friends of the Museums, a 1,300-member organization that supports the educational missions of the Republic of Singapore’s four national museums. She and her husband Bob Wiklund and their two children moved to Singapore in December 2004, after living for many years in Russia. Bob Wiklund is an economist with Caterpillar Finance.

1989

Rebecca Cisek is executive vice president of TagTeam Global, a marketing company.

Chris Coughlin is director of Channel Sales for wireless reseller company Telecommunication Systems, based in Owings Mills, Md.

1988

John D. Montgomery, editor and publisher of The Hutchinson News, has been appointed by Gov. Sebelius to the Kansas Mentors Leadership Council. The council is composed of nine executives and leaders in the public and private sectors who have proven to be influential members of their communities.

Stacey (Slyter) McBride is the director of advertising for Helzberg Diamonds.

Ulrika Nilsson is an anchor for the evening news in Stockholm, Sweden. She previously worked for CNN in Atlanta.

Wooldridge Scholar: Tony Vinh, Doner Advertising

Compiled by Shanxi Upsdell, Shawnee, Kan., junior

Tony Vinh received the Wooldridge scholarship from 1997 to 1999. He graduated in 1999 and is now a senior copywriter at Doner Advertising in Detroit.

The scholarship’s influence on his career:

“The scholarship helped me out financially a lot. What the scholarship gives you that’s not written on paper – it gives you a little confidence, that someone out there believes in you and will back you up as you pursue your chosen career path. It gave me the confidence to move forward and helped me out, both financially, as I said, and mentally.”

Relationship with the Wooldridges:

“They were just the nicest family. You realized that these are people who actually are willing to donate their money to help students, and we put a face with that. You kind of want to make them proud because it’s their name on it.”

Other thoughts on the scholarship:

“Whoever gets that scholarship should be proud and know that a family such as the Wooldridges were kind enough to offer such a thing, and believe in you, pretty much a stranger, that you will follow through and make the best out of their name, and then make the best out of yourself, too.”

(News & Notes – continued from page 12)
Wooldridge Scholar: Jeanny Sharp, The Ottawa Herald

Compiled by Shanxi Upsdell, Shawnee, Kan., junior

J eanny Sharp, The Ottawa Herald editor and publisher, received the Wooldridge scholarship for 1983-1984. Sharp, member of the William Allen White Foundation board of trustees, was the president of the Kansas Press Association last year.

The scholarship’s influence on her career:
“I think it enabled me to finish my degree in journalism. That was a great impact, a great influence because I may not have been able to afford to finish on a timely basis. I was working multiple jobs and doing my best to make good grades, but in the end it was a stretch to afford tuition and books. I graduated in four years, but I may not have been able to pull it off without the aid of that. I think also it’s a confidence booster. When you know that your professors and others, such as administrators at the school, have that kind of faith in your potential via a scholarship like that, I think it drives you to continue to achieve.”

Relationship with the Wooldridges:
“It’s a little bit like your parents telling their friends about you. They didn’t actually talk to you, but they were keeping their finger on the pulse of what you’re up to, and I think it’s worked the same way with me with the Wooldridges. While it’s not always a direct communication, there’s always that sense and that spirit of them.”

Other thoughts on the scholarship:
“It’s a very generous heart that gives back in that kind of way, the scholarship, expecting nothing in return except to improve other people’s lives. We need more people like that.”

1987
Darya (Hirschfeld) Folsom is morning anchor at KRON-TV, serving San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose, California. Previously she worked for WTTG-TV in Washington.

1985

1983
Jane Cigard, MSJ, became publications coordinator for the KU School of Law last spring. Previously she was publications manager for the KU Lied Center.

1982
Scott Faust is general manager and executive editor of The Salinas Californian, its Web sites and other publications. He has been at the paper since 2000 and with Gannett since 1986 when he left The Wichita Eagle for a reporting job at The Detroit News.

1981
Brian Booton works in new product development for Farmland Foods. He is working on a book about wetlands.

1979
Caroline Trowbridge has been appointed assignment director of The World Company media outlets. (continued on next page...)

“Wetland Dreams or Duck Soup?” (bmbooton@farmland.com)

Mark Pittman is in financial markets news for Bloomberg News.

1980
Kathleen Conkey started her own law firm, The Law Offices of Kathleen Conkey, focusing on media and entertainment law and intellectual property. Formerly she worked for MTV Networks. (kconkey@aol.com)

Barbara Kinney has been features picture editor for The Seattle Times since 2004. She was a White House photographer during the Clinton administration. Her photo of the President with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Jordanian King Hussein and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat before a White House event is listed as one of “The Photos of the Century” by American Photo Magazine. She also worked for Reuters and USA Today and taught at American and Gallaudet universities in Washington, D.C.

Donna (McFarland) Scott, MA Radio-TV-Film, is a director for Jabez Films in Detroit. Previously she was a radio account executive, commercial director for ABC and Univision TV stations, a producer and copy writer for J. Walter Thompson, a documentary film maker, screenwriter, producer of stage musicals, author and publisher.

Photos from this year’s Journalism Career Fair.

(News & Notes – continued from page 13)
Trowbridge had been editor and publisher of *The Tonganoxie Mirror* and *Basehor Sentinel* and previously was an editor and reporter for *The Lawrence Journal-World*. She was elected president of the Kansas Press Association in July 2006.

1978
Mary Rintoul has been promoted to managing editor of *The Hutchinson News*, where she started in 1984 as a day editor. She has been assistant managing editor for news and for special projects, as well as interim editor of *The Hutchinson News*. She also worked for weeklies in Ellsworth and Wilson.

1970
Cynthia Austin earned her Master’s in Public Administration from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. She works as a contractor manager with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Frank Cook has just published “21 Things Every Future Engineer Should Know: A Practical Guide for Students and Parents.” He has written chapters in a New England mystery anthology and in the newest Donald Trump book, “Trump: The Best Real Estate Advice I Ever Received – 100 Top Experts Share Their Strategies.” He previously worked as a reporter and editor for United Press International and also as the managing editor of the first joint U.S.-Russian newspaper, published by Hearst. He has written multiple books during his career.

Steve Haynes, president of Nor’West Newspapers, was elected vice president of the National Newspaper Association and will become president for 2007-08. He has been treasurer the past year and a member of the board of directors for five years.

1966
Judith (Farrell) Corcoran is vice president and manager of Wells Fargo Financial Corporate Communications.

1962
Cynthia Dennis is publishing a book, “SEDUCED BY POWER: Losing a Father to Politics,” based on a 1960s Kansas political scandal. It involved murder, a parole bribe, a governor and other prominent politicians, including Dennis’ father. As a result, unique behind-the-scene glimpses of life in a political family, and the impact of scandal on it, are woven through the story. She is a freelance writer, author and screen writer. She has been a feature and travel writer/columnist for *The Milwaukee Journal*, has written for radio-TV and magazines and has taught journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

1953
Arthur Wahlstedt has served on the County Assessment Appeals Board in Orange County, California, from 1994 to present. He retired from Orange County as counsel in 1993. Previously he spent four years as a shipboard naval officer and graduated from UCLA Law School in 1959.

In Memory of Jan Marie Guth

Jan Marie Guth, wife of Journalism School Associate Dean and Associate Professor David W. Guth, died March 18, in the University of Kansas Hospital. She was 50. A funeral service at St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center and burial in Oak Hill Cemetery took place March 23.

Mrs. Guth was a software engineer for the National Association of Insurance Commissioners in Kansas City, Mo., for more than 15 years.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in economics at KU in 2005. She was a member of the St. Lawrence Center and its family choir, a Kaw Valley Girl Scout leader and Webmaster for the Free State High School band.

Survivors in addition to her husband include their daughter, Susan Elizabeth Guth of Norman, Okla., Mrs. Guth’s father, two brothers and a sister, all of Owensboro, Ky.

The family suggests memorials to the Kaw Valley Girl Scouts or to the Free State High School marching band.

Let the Journalism Career Center help you find your next job

The School of Journalism’s Career Center provides information online about journalism jobs that require at least two years of experience. The job listings 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 2-4, 3-5, 5-7 and 10 or more years of experience. The School and faculty members hear about such positions on a regular basis. The jobs are immediately posted online. If you know of relevant job openings that should be listed, please e-mail Patty Noland, the J-School’s career development coordinator, at pnoland@ku.edu.
### J-Links Spring 2007

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Spring 2007

J-School visitors: Martin Hawver, Hawver’s Political Report; Kevin Helliker, Pulitzer Prize winning Wall Street Journal reporter; Dr. Dwight Brooks, Univ. of Georgia; Joan McCarter, Daily Kos blogger, and Patrick Hynes, blogger and New Media Strategies president; Pete Souza, Chicago Tribune photojournalist; and Joe Galloway, war correspondent, author and columnist.

J-Links is a publication for the alumni and friends of the University of Kansas William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

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