Multimedia Newsroom creates a stir in the Dole Center
By Deron Lee, graduate student

Visitors to the second floor of the Dole Center this semester have been unable to resist peering through the large windows of the new Stan and Madeline Stauffer Multimedia Newsroom, where J-School students and faculty are at work.

“We’re beginning to cope with the fact that we’re living in a fishbowl here,” Professor Rick Musser said. Musser is managing the newsroom and teaching his Online Journalism course there.

Nick Irvin, senior, a producer for KUJH-TV, welcomes the opportunity to work in the fishbowl.

“We report on people. We watch them,” he said. “So I think it makes sense that they should be able to watch us work. I think it’s good.”

This summer, work crews gutted the second floor lobby to clear space for the newsroom, which is designed to prepare J-School students for the converged media environment that awaits them in the workplace. A $200,000 donation from Stan and Madeline Stauffer made the project possible.

Professor Rick Musser, Stauffer Multimedia Newsroom director, and Sandra Barry, KJHK radio news director, review the rundown of stories in the TV Newsroom system. The “amoeba table” in the center of the room provides a place for students from KUJH, KJHK, and the Kansan to share ideas and work together.

As you can see from this issue of JLinks, it’s a busy and exciting time here at the J-School. In August, we opened the Stauffer Multimedia Newsroom in the Dole Center. Since classes began this fall, students have been taking advantage of the Bremner Editing Center, named in honor of the late journalism professor and the icon of quality editing, John Bremner.

In September, more than 100 editors from Kansas and other states gathered on Editor’s Day to hear Walter Mears, an AP Pulitzer Prize winner, talk about a new way of reporting—blogging, a sort of online diary. Some
The symbol of the new media landscape in the Stauffer Multimedia Newsroom is the convergence table (also called the “amoeba table” for its unusual shape), which contains workstations for the University Daily Kansan, KUJH, and KJHK radio news. Here, students from the different campus media outlets can exchange story ideas and formulate various methods for telling those stories.

The amoeba table also features two workstations for students in the Online Journalism class, who will be helping other students in various journalism courses get their stories from class published in the Kansan or aired on KUJH or KJHK.

The goal is not only to enhance the news-gathering capabilities of the campus media, but also to improve the educational opportunities for students. “This is a learning laboratory,” Musser said. “The real test is how much and how well people are learning.”

The newsroom also features a training lab with 12 eMac computers, as well as broadcast and editing facilities for KUJH and KJHK. The

Amanda Stairrett, University Daily Kansan campus editor, juggles paper, computer and phone during her shift in the multimedia newsroom. Stairrett, who also is enrolled in the Online Writing, Design & Production class, works with multimedia reporting students to help them get their stories published in the Kansan.

Kansan newsroom remains in Stauffer-Flint Hall, but at least one Kansan staffer will work at the amoeba table.

Most of the newsroom’s equipment is now installed and operating according to plan, but there is still work to be done. As the newsroom continues to evolve, Staci Wolfe, multimedia coordinator, expects to see the installation of a video camera, a Webcam, and a large-screen plasma TV visible from the hallway outside. “We’re in a constant state of construction,” she said.

Musser said he hoped that all J-School students and faculty will take advantage of the newsroom.

Meanwhile, Musser encourages people to visit the newsroom. “The operative term is, come on down.”
New faces in the J-School

Lisa Loewen, Kristen Swain, Doug Ward and I-Huei Cheng (Chris Ralston not pictured).

The Jayhawk flock has grown this fall with the addition of three new full-time assistant professors and two part-time lecturers.

Prof. Kristen Swain, a former assistant professor at the School of Mass Communication, University of Arkansas-Little Rock, was selected to fill the newly-created medical/science communication position. She has taught health communications and writing at Texas A & M University, the University of South Florida and Arkansas, and published extensively in the field.

Swain graduated with a B.A. in journalism from the University of Mississippi, has a master’s degree in journalism from the University of Alabama College of Communications, and received her Ph.D. in mass communications from the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications.

Prof. Douglas Ward, a former copy editor with the New York Times, teaches editing and writing. Ward’s career also has included editing positions at the Kansas City Star, Hutchinson News, Parsons Sun, Philadelphia Inquirer and Philadelphia Daily News.

Ward graduated with a B.S. in journalism and mass communications from Kansas State University, has a master’s degree with honors in journalism from the University of Kansas, and received his Ph.D. in mass communications from the University of Maryland.

Prof. I-Huei Cheng has joined the faculty on a one-year appointment as an assistant professor, teaching Marketing and Media Research and co-teaching Strategic Campaigns. She is currently completing her Ph.D. at the University of Missouri.

Part-time lecturers Lisa Loewen, teaching Research and Writing, and Chris Ralston, teaching Print and Online Design, also have joined the faculty.

Editor’s Day 2004

Walter Mears was the featured speaker for the J-School’s Kansas Editor’s Day Saturday, September 25. He discussed the November election.

Mears covered politics for most of his 45-year career with the Associated Press, winning the Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the 1976 presidential campaign. Mears retired in 2001 and wrote his third book, “Deadlines Past.”

More than 100 Kansas editors, publishers and faculty members attended Editor’s Day. They also had a pre-game brunch at the Chancellor’s house and attended the Kansas-Texas Tech football game.

“Editor’s Day is a time to show our appreciation to editors from around the state and to show them what we are doing at KU,” Dean Ann Brill said. “We were also excited to have Walter Mears here. He’s a veteran political reporter, who through his ‘blogging’ at the political conventions, took a new approach to journalism.”

Mears teamed up with Washington reporter Nancy Benac for the AP debut of its first blog at the Democratic convention in Boston. They provided running commentary, insight and news tidbits from the Republican convention too.
A photographer gives his all  
By Charles Higginson, ACEJMC program associate

Many alumni say they give their alma mater their full support, but few take it as literally as Rich Clarkson, Denver photojournalist and a 1955 graduate. He has arranged a bequest through which virtually his entire estate will come to the University. His extensive photography collection, including prints by Ansel Adams, is destined for the Spencer Museum of Art, and the remainder will benefit the J-School. Values are undetermined, but the gifts help substantially boost the School toward its $5 million KU First goal.

“I’ve been involved with the University my entire life,” Clarkson said. “When this fund-raising campaign came along, it just seemed the time to do it.”

Clarkson’s ties to the University do indeed go back. Both his parents graduated from KU, and the campus provided memorable adventures to a boy growing up in Lawrence.

Take the time he and some friends sneaked into the network of steam tunnels under the campus and found themselves under Old Robinson Gymnasium. Hearing basketballs pounding, they made their way up to the second floor, where Coach Forrest “Phog” Allen was conducting practice. During a water break, Allen came over and invited the boys to meet another observer of the day’s session – James Naismith.

Or the time when Clarkson, as the 11-year-old publisher of an aviation newsletter, got a call from one of his regular contacts, the head of the aeronautical engineering program. There was someone in the office he might want to interview, the man said, so Clarkson hopped on his bicycle and pedaled up 14th Street, and spent 40 minutes interviewing Orville Wright.

“My father asked if I got his autograph,” Clarkson said. “I told him, ‘I’m a journalist. Journalists don’t ask for autographs.’”

Clarkson’s interests soon turned from aviation to photography. As a journalism student at KU, he honed the skills and savvy that eventually made him one of the country’s pre-eminent photojournalists.

Although he has not designated specific purposes for the gift, he said he hoped the School would be able to re-establish emphasis on photojournalism and visual communication, complete with full-time faculty. A teacher himself, Clarkson has advice for aspiring photojournalists.

“It may be a glamorous, sexy, rewarding job to be a photographer at the Olympics, but that future is available only to a very few incredibly talented people,” he said. “The real future is in roles of leadership. Put together the tools to be a great picture editor or director of photography. That means becoming a complete journalist, including writing and design. I’ve always pushed my photographers to do everything.”

Clarkson has been director of photography and senior assistant editor of the National Geographic Society, assistant managing editor of The Denver Post and a contract and contributing photographer to Sports Illustrated.

He organized photographic coverage of the Munich and Montreal Olympics for Time magazine and of the Moscow Olympics for Sports Illustrated, and he was overall coordinator and director of photography in the main Olympic stadium for the Atlanta games.

In 1987, he founded Rich Clarkson and Associates in Denver. The company creates projects based on fine photography in many forms, including photographic books, exhibitions and interactive multimedia.

William Allen White National Citation

The William Allen White Foundation has selected Gerald Seib, the Wall Street Journal Washington bureau chief, as the recipient of the 2005 William Allen White national citation. He is a 1978 graduate of KU and the School of Journalism. He will speak and receive the citation at a public ceremony on William Allen White Day, scheduled for Friday, Feb. 11, at 1:30 p.m. in the Kansas Union’s Woodruff Auditorium.

Marlin Fitzwater, press secretary to Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush, received the 2004 national citation. As the only press secretary to be appointed by two presidents, he gave more than 850 press briefings in six years. His book, “Call The Briefing,” is a best-selling memoir of 10 years in the White House.

A panel of William Allen White Foundation trustees selects the citation recipients. It has been presented annually since 1950 to journalists who exemplify the ideals of William Allen White (1868-1944), a nationally influential Kansas editor, publisher and namesake of the J-School.
New Bremner Editing Center opens
Co-written by Viva Bolova, junior

Prof. John Bremner demanded the best of his editing students. His legacy lives on in the J-School and beyond. This fall, the J-School opened the door to the new Bremner Editing Center in 110 Stauffer Flint, named in honor of the late KU professor.

Students work with professors and teaching assistants to improve their editing and writing skills. Diane Lazzarino, a long-time faculty member, works at the center, offering coaching, computer programs, videos and books to journalism students.

“Professors in the J-School are concerned about the quality of writing in classes of all levels,” said Mary Wallace, assistant to the dean. “We created the Center to help students address deficiencies, and ensure continued excellence in our students’ editing and writing skills.”

An Australian native, Bremner came to KU in 1969 and taught copy editing until 1985. During his tenure at KU, he won the HOPE teaching award and was named the national Outstanding Journalism Educator.

Bremner wrote two books, “Words on Words” and “HTK.” He was also involved with the Gannett Foundation in creating the “John Bremner: Guardian of the Newsroom” video, which is still used to teach editing in the newsroom.

“This was the guy who, at the last part of his career, was invited to go to the New York Times to help the New York Times’ editors to become better editors,” said Prof. Tim Bengtson, chair of the J-School curriculum committee.

“What we are trying to do is make the school live up to what John Bremner wanted it to be,” he said.

Bengtson said that often students are easily satisfied with what they write, and don’t realize the need to rewrite and strive for more.

In the Bremner Editing Center, students are able to get help in problem areas identified by their professors. It is going to be up to each student to make sure that he or she masters the material.

An official open house and dedication program will be later in the fall.

Accreditation: Standards for success
Co-written by Brandi Garvin, 2004 graduate

Every six years the School of Journalism seeks reaccreditation from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC).

“It is a ‘Good Housekeeping’ seal of approval,” said Susanne Shaw, KU journalism professor and ACEJMC executive director.

ACEJMC works to ensure the quality of journalism and mass communication schools in the United States and, increasingly, internationally. The council administers a voluntary process of evaluation. Schools that have been accredited are re-evaluated every six years.

The J-School’s site team visit is scheduled for Feb. 6-9. Faculty and staff have spent the last year gathering documents and preparing for the visit.

The accrediting team for the Kansas visit includes: Beth Barnes (team chair), director of the School of Journalism and Telecommunications at the University of Kentucky; Joel Kaplan, assistant dean for graduate professional programs in the School of Public Communications at Syracuse University; Carol Pardun, associate professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of North Carolina; Kathleen Fearn-Banks, associate professor in the department of communications at the University of Washington; Barbara Serrano, deputy national political editor at the Los Angeles Times; and Barbara Cochran, president of the Radio-Television News Directors Association in Washington, D.C.

ACEJMC sets standards of accreditation, and schools must substantially meet them to achieve accreditation.

A school seeking accreditation spends about a year writing a self-study, examining itself. Next, a team of professionals and educators makes an on-site examination of the school. The visiting team’s recommendation then goes through two more levels of deliberation. The end result is accreditation, provisional accreditation or denial of accreditation.

KU was one of the original group of schools accredited by ACEJMC in 1946, and its offices have been located in the J-School since 1985.

“The school gets no special treatment for housing the council,” said Charles Higginson, assistant to the ACEJMC executive director. “We make sure this school is reviewed just as rigorously as any other.”
Community and professional outreach

The J-School has a strong history of partnering with private business and industry and public and non-profit sector organizations. Students in both the Strategic Communications and News and Information tracks have many opportunities to benefit from working on real projects, for real clients.

“Partnerships with outside organizations, especially in the state of Kansas, are very important to the J-School and KU,” Interim Dean Ann Brill said. “Community outreach is essential to building professional relationships, keeping current with the media trends, and maintaining a network for our students as they seek internships and jobs.”

Strategic Campaigns, one of the capstone courses in the Strategic Communications track, provides students with the opportunity to apply everything they have learned during their years in the J-School to a major business or non-profit agency campaign, complete with fully-developed public relations, advertising and marketing elements.

“In Strategic Campaigns, we seek clients who involve students in the process of solving real challenges and problems that the clients themselves face,” Bob Basow, associate professor, said.

The organizations that partner with the classes also get the benefit of several complete campaigns, at a greatly reduced cost.

“It really is a self-fulfilling prophecy,” Basow said. “What makes Campaigns succeed is the expectation of success that the students and client bring to the problem.”

News and Information students also have opportunities to produce content for real-world media. Last year, students in Christy Bradford’s Business Reporting class wrote for the Kansas City Business Journal. Students in Susanne Shaw’s Community Journalism course worked as reporters and copy editors for the Lawrence Journal-World, and continue to do so.

Last spring, students in Peggy Kuhr’s Community, Media and Credibility class worked with the Junction City Daily Union to research the media needs of two different groups in the community—Junction City High School students and Fort Riley soldiers.

Class clients & public service projects in recent semesters:

2003-04 Strategic Campaigns Clients—Salina Area Chamber of Commerce (IABC Bronze Quill Award winner); Chipotle Restaurants, national chain; Union Broadcasting, Kansas City; KU Women’s Basketball; Commerce Bank; Douglas County Bank; and UMB Bank, Kansas City.

Lawrence Memorial Hospital Endowment Association Heartbeat—newsletter

Douglas County Senior Citizens 60 and Better—monthly newsletter

Operation Immunization—state outreach with KU School of Pharmacy

Alternate Spring Breaks—advertising for KU students to do community service

KU Services for Students with Disabilities—informational materials

Johnson County Community College Summer Youth Program—print advertising encouraging parents to involve their children in an active educational environment

Junction City Daily Union Community Credibility project—involving residents, journalists, and Fort Riley personnel

Grassroots Arts Center, Lucas, Kansas—marketing program

Trinity Respite Care Services—marketing project

Brown v. Topeka Board of Education Web site—for the 50th anniversary (www.ku.edu/~ojclass/brown)

William Allen White Web site—celebrating the William Allen White Home Museum, lives of the White family, the White Foundation and the White Children’s Book Awards (www.journalism.ku.edu/school/waw)

Lee Denim Days—annual fund-raiser for breast cancer awareness work for the Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, sponsored by PRSSA

National Organ Donor Awareness Day—campus campaign, sponsored by PRSSA

Locks of Love project—A volunteer hair stylist cut and collected hair from students, with the hair going to wigs for children who have lost their hair to cancer treatment, sponsored by a management student.
Enhancing learning through technology improvements

J-School students graduate prepared for careers in the real world. It is only logical that they also graduate well-versed in the latest, real-world technology.

The J-School introduced a new Tuition Differential Fee that helps accomplish just that. It supports the purchase and update of hardware and software, special technology training for students, additions to the Journalism Resource Center, equipment for the new Stan and Madeline Stauffer Multimedia Newsroom training lab, and various other computing needs in Stauffer-Flint Hall and the Dole Center.

“Employers expect a certain level of technological savvy from employees,” David Guth, associate dean, said. “This fee allows us to provide students with the right tools for career success.”

On June 24, the Kansas Board of Regents approved the J-School’s Tuition Differential Fee, along with tuition increases in the KU Schools of Business, Education, Fine Arts and Engineering. Students taking any courses in the School of Journalism now pay the $12 per credit hour fee.

In fall 2003, former Dean Jimmy Gentry appointed a Journalism Technology Fee Committee to assess the need and student reaction to a fee. The committee included graduate and undergraduate students in both of the J-School’s tracks, along with faculty and staff.

The committee researched technology fees at other universities and journalism schools, conducted student focus groups, developed a student questionnaire, and worked with student organizations for input and support. The results of the research yielded strong support for this fee initiative.

The J-School will continue to improve its technology offerings with the funds generated from the fee.

For all things KU Journalism, visit www.journalism.ku.edu

The J-School’s Web site received a major facelift. Based on months of research and planning, we reworked not only the design, but also, the content, navigation and functionality. You will find more useful information and a design that allows us to better showcase our students’ multimedia work.

The site is designed to provide information to students, potential students, alumni and friends, faculty and staff. Think of it as a portal to all things KU Journalism.

The Alumni & Friends section will also expand in coming months to include more alumni profiles and updates. The section currently includes links to this alumni newsletter, a database of alumni, information on supporting the J-School and more.

Do you have any suggestions, or just want to let us know how you are doing? E-mail us at jschool@ku.edu.
Linda Davis: International traveler
Co-written by Jennifer DeGraeve, senior

Linda Davis, associate professor, is no stranger to traveling abroad. She was the first professor in the J-School to teach in the Paderno del Grappa, Italy, program. Last summer, she led 11 students to San Jose, Costa Rica, as part of the KU-Universidad de Costa Rica exchange program.

So when the opportunity to participate in a seminar in Havana, Cuba, came up, she jumped at the chance.

After receiving a license to travel to Cuba, KU funded its first faculty seminar to the country. Davis joined 15 other professors in Cuba for the seminar in June 2004.

The purpose of the seminar was to provide direct, in-country experience in Cuba to stimulate professional collaboration among U.S. and Cuban faculty and to explore options for students. The nine-day trip included daily academic meetings where faculty shared knowledge of Cuba.

Susan Gronbeck-Tedesco, director of the Office of Study Abroad, and her staff set up a committee to choose participants. Disciplines represented included journalism, political science, English, Spanish, history, art, theater and film, engineering and the Medical School. Gronbeck-Tedesco said the committee chose a broad cross section of faculty from nine KU departments.

“Linda was chosen because she gave a great proposal,” said Gronbeck-Tedesco. “As a journalist, she gave a different view of how cultures develop.”

Growing up in Miami, Davis said she found herself immersed in Cuban-American culture following the Cuban revolution. Her father flew many flights between Havana and Miami for Pan Am during that time. She said exposure to life in multicultural Miami led her to research and teach Latin American media systems and international marketing communications.

“Opportunities like this don’t come around enough,” Davis said. “Getting to share experiences and learn from KU professors from a wide variety of disciplines was a wonderful education.”

“Under ‘Fidelismo,’ there is no officially sanctioned objective journalism in Cuba, though the country has many skillful professionals. It’s all ‘government public relations’ from our point of view. I was, however, fascinated by the local news shows with their high ideological content. The radio culture, on the other hand, is fantastic, because Cuban music is so amazing. Obviously, the media scene in Cuba is Fidel-driven, not market-driven, and it is a real opportunity to observe a different system,” Davis said.

Davis said she looked forward to bringing more international experiences to the classroom in the future.

The Santería blend of African and Spanish religions can be seen on the streets and in homes. The color yellow represents Cuba’s patron saint, the Virgin de la Caridad del Cobre, who is associated with Ochún, the Yoruba goddess of love and rivers.

Worldly students

Journalism and “the international experience” fit together like a hand and a glove.

Each semester, J-School students take advantage of the study abroad and international programs available to them at KU. The J-School’s most popular study abroad experience remains the Paderno del Grappa program in Italy. Every semester, professors and students from all over the country converge on the beautiful campus in Paderno for an educational and life experience unlike any other.

The J-School sends a different professor to the program each semester. This fall, Terry Bryant, lecturer, is teaching E-commerce and the Media and International Business Journalism in Italy.

Also, last year a group of journalism students traveled with Linda Davis, associate professor, to Costa Rica. Along with the J-School programs, KU offers many other chances for students to go abroad.

Abby Mills, a 2004 graduate, received a grant from the National Security Education Program to work and study in Russia this year. She is helping establish a journalism program in south central Siberia at Gorno-Altaiisk State University this semester.

Mills will study international journalism at St. Petersburg State University in the spring semester. She earned degrees in both Russian and journalism.

Emily Howard, a May graduate, was one of 25 KU/Asia Scholars this summer. She visited China, and is teaching Kansans about the country this semester. Other scholars in the program visited Japan and Korea.

The school continues to explore ideas to further the international experience for journalism students.
Where are they now?

2004
Ashley Arnold is an account representative with Weyforth-Haas Marketing in Overland Park.

Jonah Ballow works for Phog.net and Jayhawk Illustrated.

Brittany Bublitz joined Infinity Broadcasting in Kansas City, selling radio.

Robyn Flohrschutz is with Topeka’s KSNT 27 News Today as a reporter/editor.

Brittany Bublitz joined Infinity Broadcasting in Kansas City, selling radio.

Mark Belot is an account executive with Fallon Worldwide in Minneapolis.

Tara Bonin is marketing director of Innovative Software Technologies in Riverside, Miss.

Thais Brandao is retail outside account executive for the Statesman-Journal in Salem, Ore.

Andrea Burnett is a reporter at KDFX-TV, the NBC affiliate serving Wichita Falls, Texas, and Lawton, Okla.

Kelli Christman is an account coordinator with sturgesword in Kansas City.

Andy Davies is an associate sports producer at KSHB-TV, in Kansas City.

Amanda Denning is an assistant account executive with Fleishman Hillard International Communications in Kansas City.

Natalie DePriest is paid programming coordinator, sales, for Tribune Broadcasting, KPZR-TV, in St. Louis.

Ashley Earnest is an account executive with 360kc.com, an online advertising vehicle for area businesses. The site is described as a “visual directory.”

Melissa Eisberg is an account coordinator for Deutsch, Inc., a public relations, event planning and advertising firm in New York.

Meghan Erwin is publications editor for the National Cable Television Cooperative in Lenexa.

Amanda German is director of marketing at Sandhill Orthopedic and Sports-medicine in Garden City.

Jane Gist is marketing manager for the Overland Park Convention Center/Global Spectrum, Overland Park.

Jenni Glass has been hired as the marketing assistant for Shawnee Mission Medical Center.

Erica Gray is with the Global Customer Service Center of Bloomberg L.P. in New York.

Lindsay Gross is an assistant editor with Covey Communications in Gulf Shores, Ala. She works primarily with two magazines for condo owners.

Dan Harriman is an assistant to the events manager of the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia.

Justin Henning is a Web producer with the Palm Beach Post.

Sarah Warren Henning is a sports copy editor with the Palm Beach Post.

Megan Hieckerson is executive assistant to Gina Sanders, the vice president and publisher of Teen Vogue.

Emily Hutchins, MSJ, has joined Jones Seel Huyett, an advertising, marketing and public relations firm in Topeka as account manager.

Julie Jantzer is an associate production editor for Primedia business publications.

Joy Larson joined KCAU-TV, the ABC affiliate in Sioux City, Iowa, as a reporter.

Kristen Layton is a sales representative at News Radio KMBZ, an Entercom station in Kansas City.

Zach Lee is an assistant editor at Rocket Productions, a commercial production house in Austin, Texas.

Carrie Lindeman is a public relations account executive with Sullivan Higdon & Sink in Wichita.

Christa Lobau is in the GE Communications Leadership Development Program, an 18-month program with three six-month rotations in different divisions and international locations.

Susan Novak, who took journalism graduate courses, received a first place award in the National Federation of Press Women’s 2004 contest. Novak is managing editor of Kansas Heritage magazine of the state Historical Society.

Erin Osburn is an account planner with the Harwood Marketing Group in Dallas.

Julie Ottmar is a media coordinator at McKee Wallwork Henderson in Albuquerque, N.M.

Amy (White) Schmitz is copy editing for four suburban newspapers for Townsend Communications in northern Kansas City.

Kristin Schultz is a staff member for the Flint Hills National Golf Club and Wichita Open.

Jonathan Smith is an interactive media buyer with Plattform Advertising in Johnson County.

Elizabeth Taylor is an editorial promotions coordinator at the Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City.

2003
Amber Agee is an outside retail account executive in Salem, Ore., for the Statesman-Journal.

Mike Alzamora is a sports anchor with the Independent News Network, in Davenport, Iowa.

Ashley Anstaett is policy director for Sen. Anthony Hensley, Democratic minority leader in the Kansas Senate.

Tawnya Bach reports on education and community activities for KRBC-TV in Abilene, Texas.

www.journalism.ku.edu
ally Buzbee, a 1988 J-School graduate, will board a plane Nov. 1 and fly from her home base in Washington, D.C., to become news bureau chief for the Associated Press in Cairo, Egypt. After the first of the year, her husband John Buzbee, a 1989 J-School graduate, and their two young daughters plan to join her.

The Buzbees have spent much of the past six years living and working in the Middle East. And for the first six months of 2004, John worked in Tikrit, Iraq, for the State Department as the second-ranking civilian in the province.

Their professional lives, hers as a journalist covering the Middle East, and his with the State Department working to rebuild Iraq, complement each other.

“When I first came to Washington,” Sally Buzbee said, “I was doing more domestic issues, economic issues, welfare. John had been a journalist, then got a degree in Arab Studies and joined the State Department. John is interested in the Arab world, and I have found that across the board people in the Arab world and elsewhere are regular, normal people who have regular, normal lives. It interests me to write about it.”

Much appeals to Buzbee about the Cairo position. “Bureau chiefs write. It’s a strong tradition,” Buzbee said. “In general I’m interested in this job because there is so much misunderstanding about the Middle East, and I have a strong desire to address those misunderstandings.”

Buzbee, though, will have two initial priorities: overseeing the spot news report that organizations around the globe depend on for daily information about the Middle East, and working to build a solid news infrastructure in Arab countries.

“Cairo is our control bureau for the whole Middle East,” Buzbee said. “Everything from journalists in Iraq to the gulf states to Yeman. We need a permanent person in Saudi Arabia. Four years ago that would have been unthinkable, but things are changing. The demand for news in the Middle East is dramatically increasing.”

Sally Buzbee came to KU thinking she would get a degree in English, then possibly teach. But her work for the University Daily Kansan inspired her and allowed her a glimpse of possibilities for herself. “I just loved working on the college paper,” Buzbee said. “We dove in headfirst. It was the first situation where I was treated like an adult and expected to contribute.”

“It’s also almost impossible to overestimate how much Prof. Susanne Shaw did for us by telling us to get out there and work and learn from people around us. From KU, I got a good, rigorous grounding on how you do this kind of work and what is right and wrong, and since then I’ve learned so much from the people around me,” Buzbee said.

Sarah Tongier is a grants specialist, with the KU Center for Research.

Kelley Weiss is the producer of the Walt Bodine Show at KCUR 89.3 FM, an affiliate of National Public Radio.

2002

Daniel Ahlquist is at the University of North Carolina in a sociology graduate program.

Marit Bates is coordinator of the technology group for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Kyle Burnett is an assistant media planner at GSD&M in Austin, Texas, one of the two main agencies used by Wal-Mart.

Emily Callaghan is a production assistant in the marketing department of Strayer University in Washington D.C.

Julie Carter is a production assistant for VFW magazine in Kansas City.

Mark Hansen is a project coordinator at Thomas Nieman, Inc. in Wilmette, Ill. He researches, edits and develops new books for the company.

Jeremy Knickerbocker recruits college graduates for the Sears Retail Management Development program as assistant store director in Topeka.

Amy McCallom is director of marketing for Southwest Tile & Marble in Oklahoma City.
Michael Moffet: The Regulator

By Kara Lynch, Journalism Lecturer

L
awrence resident and J-School alum, Mike Moffet, has lived on both sides of the regulatory table: as one who is regulated and as regulator. His recent appointment by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius to the Kansas Corporation Commission, the agency that regulates telecommunications, trucking and utility services, puts him squarely back in the regulator camp.

A native of Norton, Moffet is a 1972 graduate. He said his journalism training was essential to the work he had done. “A lot of what I have done over the course of my career has related to public affairs and the work of taking what are often complicated and difficult issues, and trying to explain them in a non-technical way for both decision makers and the public,” Moffet said.

After graduating from the School of Journalism, where he was selected outstanding senior by the faculty, and from the School of Law in 1975, Moffet worked for former Sen. James B. Pearson in Washington, D.C.

He followed this by working as a legislative aide to former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, assisting her on energy, transporation, and banking legislation. He then served as counsel to the Aviation Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

From there he accepted a position with the Federal Aviation Association (FAA), followed by a position with the American Association of Airport Executives in the Washington area. During the first Bush presidency, Moffet returned to the FAA as a political appointee—associate administrator for policy, planning and international aviation. In that position, he worked on the development of the national aviation noise policy, a significant, and highly controversial undertaking in the field of environmental regulation.

For the past six years, he has worked for Public Strategies, an Austin, Texas, public affairs consulting firm, as strategic adviser to the president of SBC Kansas, studying the effect of regulation from the vantage point of the communications industry.
1999

Chad Bettes, MSJ, is the public affairs officer for the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons in Washington D.C.

Corbin Bosiljevac is a network marketing representative with Excel Communications and is starting an outdoor adventure company based in Mexico.

Katie Burford, MSJ, youth and families reporter for the Albuquerque Journal, and families reporter for the Albuquerque Journal, and a Fulbright Scholar studying at the University of Arts, Sciences and Communication in Santiago.

Tyler Cook is an account executive at Saatchi & Saatchi on the Toyota Automotive account in Overland Park.

Miranda Khan has joined WPTV, the NBC affiliate in Palm Beach, Fla., as co-anchor and investigative reporter. For three years, she was primary 6 and 10 p.m. anchor and reporter for WQAD-TV in Moline, Ill. Her first job was anchor/reporter at KPLC in Lake Charles, La.

Jaimee (Reggio) Lumm is an account supervisor of public relations at Chandler Group in Evanston, Ill. She specializes in supporting product communications efforts for health care and pharmaceutical companies.

Umut Bayramoglu Newbury is at the Kansas City Star in paginating and copy editing.

Ann Weishaar has been named producer of a news show at KPNX-TV in Phoenix. She prepared for that while producing the 5 p.m. news during the Olympics.

J-School alum finds ‘civic duty’ in film

By Lisa Schmitz, graduate student

Ranjit Arab grew up in Wichita, the birthplace of Pizza Hut and a city where Americana drifts by in the dusty, Kansas wind.

Yet, despite spending his childhood in the nation’s heartland, Arab maintained a keen awareness of the “immigrant experience” during his youth.

“My parents immigrated from India in the late ’60s,” said Arab, a 1993 J-School graduate, “and I always had a sense of what it meant to be an immigrant. It was a feeling of being from two lands.”

Arab, a publicity manager for University Press of Kansas, carried that feeling of being from two lands.”

Arab decided to enroll in Prof. Tom Volek’s corporate video and documentary class in the spring of 2003 to help ease the transition of his education.

Earlier this year, Arab and creative partner Aaron Paden completed “El Jardín,” a documentary film that focused on Garden City, and the successful education program for the children of immigrants there. In June, the film won two prizes at the KAN Film Festival in Lawrence, including first place in the college documentary division.

“’El Jardín’ means ‘the garden,’ and Garden City is truly a place where many different types of people are growing together,” said Arab, 34.

Arab said he was inspired to make the film after repeatedly reading about the actions of Connie Morris, a State Board of Education member who moved to have children of undocumented workers removed from public schools, despite a U.S. Supreme Court decision that said children must be educated.

“The really bothered me,” Arab said. “I wanted to express my feelings, and a film seemed like the right medium because I could show – really show – people the children being talked about.”

With only a basic background in film, Arab decided to enroll in Prof. Tom Volek’s corporate video and documentary class in the spring of 2003 to help ease the process.

“Prof. Volek, as well as Terry Bryant and John Broholm, really supported me in my goal,” he said. “I can’t thank them enough for their help.”

Arab is currently working on a sequel to the 26-minute “El Jardín.” The follow-up examines the issue of in-state college tuition for the children of Kansas immigrants.

“I feel obligated to use my journalistic training toward some positive end,” Arab said. “It’s not about awards or recognition; it’s more about a civic duty, you could say, and making people think. I think journalism students would do well to remember they have that power.”

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Ranjit Arab—Photo courtesy of Thad Allender, 2002 graduate and Lawrence Journal-World photographer.
Matthew York is marketing coordinator for Playground Destination Properties in Reno. He earned an MBA in 2003.

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ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

KU Alum, former Journalism student Kevin Helliker wins Pulitzer Prize

By Mary Rupert, former Kansas City Kansan news editor and 1996 journalism masters graduate. Article reprinted courtesy of the Kansas City Kansan.

Editor’s Note: Kevin Helliker will be on campus Nov. 29-30. Check the Web site, www.journalism.ku.edu, for more details.

When Kevin Helliker was diagnosed with an aneurysm, he found out all he could about it. That life experience eventually led the Kansas City, Kan., native to a Pulitzer Prize for explanatory writing.

Helliker, the Chicago bureau chief for the Wall Street Journal, won the Pulitzer with Thomas M. Burton.

The awards committee for the top prize in journalism noted that Helliker’s and Burton’s story examining aneurysms was “groundbreaking.” The Pulitzers, awarded by the Pulitzer board through Columbia University, also carry a $10,000 prize.

“Purely by accident, a scan taken of my chest found I had an aneurysm in my aortic root,” said Helliker, who is 45. “I still do have it.”

The aneurysm is too small for surgery, he noted, but if it were to grow, surgery would be recommended.

Helliker noted his initial reaction to the scan was surprise, because he always thought that aneurysms were undetectable until they struck.

“Then I began to process and learn about what they really are and what could be done about them,” Helliker said.

Eventually, what he discovered led him to write about it. In their story, Helliker and Burton told readers that it was well-established that aortic aneurysms run in families and they can be treated, yet much of the medical community was not giving patients this information. Aneurysms can be detected by computerized tomography and magnetic resonance scans, he said.

“Our profession has taken a hit lately with the Jayson Blair’s and Jack Kelley’s (journalists who were caught plagiarizing or making up information), but it’s an honorable profession,” Helliker said. “With this package of stories that we won the prize for, it demonstrated that journalism can really make a difference for the good. We have had people who read our stories write us letters and tell us that our stories saved their lives.”

Helliker said he grew up in KCK with a strong work ethic from his father, G. Robert Helliker, who still works today at the age of 73 as a meat cutter for the House of Sausage on Strawberry Hill.

Growing up here, Helliker read The Kansas City Kansan and he also worked delivering The Kansas City Star and Times.

“KCK as a whole is a place where people work hard, and I think that I have a work ethic that was developed there,” he said.

A 1977 graduate of Bishop Ward High School, Helliker said the teacher who had the greatest influence on him there was Sister Susan Rieke, who is now the chairwoman of the English Department at the University of Saint Mary, Leavenworth.

“She taught English and very much encouraged me to pursue a career in writing,” Helliker said.

He added that Blake Mulvany, retired superintendent of the Catholic schools, was the principal of Ward at that time, and was a great role model.

Helliker received a degree in English literature from the University of Kansas in 1982. He took journalism classes at KU and worked on the University Daily Kansan, the student newspaper, while he was there.

“The three instructors there who made a huge impression on me were Ted Frederickson, Rick Musser and (the late) John Bremner,” Helliker said. “I think that the journalism professors there are very tough, and I found them to be tougher than the professors I had in other departments, but I also found them, in retrospect, much better at training us for the real world,” Helliker said.

“In advanced reporting, you had to write a story every day, and when you have other classes to attend, that’s just essentially like being a full-time reporter while also being a full-time student,” he said. “The rigors of that made the real
world actually seem kind of easy by comparison.”

Helliker started his journalism career with an internship at the Kansas City Times.

“I remember the first story I did as an intern for the Kansas City Times. I profiled a self-help group for little people, dwarves, and I had a call afterward from a young dwarf who hadn’t known about this group, and just told me that my story had changed her life.”

Next Helliker joined the Wall Street Journal’s Houston bureau. He left the Journal to return to the Kansas City Times, where he worked a little more than a year, then went to work for a magazine, Corporate Report of Kansas City, which is now Ingram’s. After three years with a new magazine called Arizona Trend, he then returned to the Wall Street Journal, where he has been for 15 years. As bureau chief, he oversees a team of 10 journalists.

“Working for the Journal, in and of itself, is an honor,” he said. “There are a lot of people here who do great work day in and day out, who never win prizes, as there are in all newspapers.”

Helliker left KCK years ago when he went to college, but he said he returns to visit his parents and family here. It was Helliker who, as bureau chief, assigned the Wall Street Journal story about the renais-
sance of Wyandotte County last summer.

“I’ve talked to Warren Buffett (Nebraska Furniture Mart founder) about why they chose Wyandotte County, and he had great things to say about the county and in particular, about the mayor,” Helliker said.

He said he remembers KCK as a good place to grow up. Helliker offered a bit of advice to students or young journalists.

“My advice would be to approach the job with passion, and if it takes dreaming about the Pulitzer Prize to do that, that’s fine, but really, affecting readers’ lives is, in and of itself, a tremendous reward,” he said. “Information is tremendously powerful, and I guess my advice would be to use it for good.”

Kathryn Ann (Miller) Nelson is interim managing editor of the Albuquerque Tribune.

Carol Beier was appointed to the Kansas Supreme Court by Governor Kathleen Sebelius in 2003. A 1985 graduate of the KU School of Law, she practiced in Wichita before joining the bench. She was on the court of appeals first, from 2000-03.

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Richard L. Kovatch is founder and CEO of SalesVantx, Inc., an Internet venture based in Columbus, Ohio. He recently launched his newest site, www.roadfax.com, a service for business faxing over the Web.

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