With the media profession continuing its upheaval, the J-School is deep in the process of revising its curriculum to meet the needs of current and future students. A significant change is the addition of a visual communication course requirement for all J-School undergraduates.

This requirement may take the form of a single overview course that exposes students to the full range of visual forms and uses. But for some students, it also could mean immersion into a more specialized area of journalism that has been a part of the curriculum for at least 50 years.

Photojournalism, as a separate journalism major, has been a significant contributor to the School’s reputation of excellence, with photo graduates winning recognition from Pulitzer Prizes to World Press Association awards, and rising to some of the most prominent positions in the profession. KU photo alumni have held or currently hold editorships and photographer positions at top newspapers, magazines, wire services and corporations in the U.S. and abroad.

Photojournalism at the J-School
By Associate Professor Mike Williams, News and Information Track Chair

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. And, if that is true, then this issue of J-Links contains many, many thousands of words! Like wonderfully written prose, photojournalism tells a story.

On the wall in my office is one of the most famous photos of all time — Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima. This iconic photo by Joe Rosenthal was a gift from Rich Clarkson, another iconic photojournalist and KU J-School alumnus. When I look at that photo, I see men who are celebrating a triumph over some of the worst situations this nation has ever faced. I also think of my mother, who was a Marine, and my father, who was badly hurt in World War II but came home to raise his family despite the horrors he had seen. Amazing times, amazing people, amazing stories.

Photos like this continue to inspire us. Earlier this month, I came back from a meeting about budget cuts and about the time I was thinking that we are facing some tough times, the Iwo Jima photo caught my eye. The triumph of human will over adversity is a message for all times. We can take lessons from the past in how we face today’s challenges.
The hardships and difficulties those Marines overcame to raise that flag inspire us to maintain our ingenuity and integrity in tough times.

And, we are facing tough times in the School of Journalism. We are seeing dramatic changes in the media landscape compounded by the economic downturn that continues to alter our financial plans. I am happy to report that we still have recruiters on campus and students are finding jobs upon graduation – but they are, in many cases, different companies and different jobs than in the past. Today’s employers are looking for eager, dedicated, entrepreneurial workers who understand the need to have solid journalism skills as well as technical and critical thinking abilities. Those employers are finding that journalism students at KU meet those requirements.

Part of understanding our changing landscape is educating our students about the importance of visual communication. That is one of the competencies we require of all our students. The enduring value of photographs, like the one taken at Iwo Jima, is a testament to the power of visuals to communicate. Every day, that photo gives me inspiration, courage and memories of a time where others fought the good fight.

During this season of giving, people are asking what they can do for others that is meaningful and lasting. Might I suggest giving an inspiring photo? Trust me, it will create a lasting impression.

Happy Holidays from all of us here at the J-School!
Photos of J-School students at work on class projects.

(Photojournalism – continued from page 2)

As discussion of the general curriculum revision proceeds, the photo curriculum has already taken steps to move deeper into the realm of convergence. Students now produce final still photo projects as multimedia presentations with audio and prepared for Web delivery. This semester, the basic photo course will include instruction in video as well as still photography using the latest DSLR equipment capable of doing both formats in the same camera.

The renewed emphasis on visual storytelling has resulted in excellent efforts by current photojournalism students. Last year, Jon Goering, senior, was the first KU student in several years to be honored in the Hearst Foundation Photojournalism competition for his work with subjects in Ethiopia.

Advanced videography students also expanded the scope of their work, producing a documentary about the Kansas Bureau of Investigation during its 70th anniversary year. It can be viewed online at: http://www.journalism.ku.edu/videos/kbi70th

And with the assistance of 1955 graduate Rich Clarkson, KU photo students have, for the past several years, been invited to work with top professional photojournalists at the Summit Series of Photography Workshops held at Jackson Hole, Wyo.

Visual communication remains a critical element in the media mix. The J-School considers photojournalism to be an element of communication all students should be familiar with, and intends to again make it possible for students to develop visual communication as their professional specialization if they choose. ☐
Students benefit from international study abroad photojournalism experiences

A resident of Armagh, Northern Ireland, passes a wall with fresh graffiti demanding freedom for all Irish POWs. Partisan tensions have continued to be evident across Northern Ireland in the decade since the signing of the Belfast accord, which was to bring peace to the country. Photograph by Susan Melgren, J’09.

Seasoned journalists optimistic for profession’s future

By Kayla Regan, Wichita, Kan., senior

Each semester, the J-School brings in professionals-in-residence. Staying in touch with the professional world helps the J-School better prepare students for life after graduation. And John and Barbara Cochran, two of this semester’s professionals, said the J-School is doing a good job.

“It seems like people here really get it,” Barbara Cochran, president emeritus of the Radio-Television News Directors, said. “That will stand the graduates really well when they’re out looking for jobs.”

The husband and wife team recently spoke to students about issues facing journalism today. When John, senior Washington correspondent for ABC, began writing for television and radio news, he said his responsibilities were to write for those media alone. Now, with the increasing importance of multimedia journalism, he says he also writes for the Web site, which requires a different style of writing.

“I’m an old dog who had to learn some new tricks,” John said. “People are going to have to be able to write for the ear as well as the eye.”

Journalism also was going through a similar revolution when Barbara entered the profession, she said. Women and minorities were entering the field in record numbers and Watergate created a style of journalism that questioned authority. The difference between the revolution she took part in and the current revolution, she said, was today’s focus on telling a story in a variety of ways in a variety of platforms.

“This generation is going to get to invent the journalism of the future, whatever that is,” Barbara said. “They’ll get to participate in that revolution, they’ll get to define what journalism and communications will be like in the future.”

They both recognize the current economy and changing newspaper industry may make it difficult for journalists to find their dream jobs right away, but the Cochrans remain optimistic.

“I still feel it’s a great field to go into for people who want to do something exciting, want to feel like they’re contributing and want to have a lot of fun while being paid for it,” John said.
KU J-School professor receives Budig Teaching Professorship of Writing

Carol Holstead, associate professor at the J-School, is the recipient of the 2009-10 Budig Teaching Professorship of Writing, established by former KU Chancellor Gene Budig.

As part of her award, Holstead will present a public address on the importance of teaching writing this spring.

“Excellence in writing is critical to good journalism,” Ann Brill, dean of the School of Journalism, said. “Professor Holstead is very deserving of this honor, and we are looking forward to her lecture in the spring on the importance of good writing.”

Holstead has taught at the J-School since 1990. She has led classes on reporting and editing, visual communication and ethics, along with various courses in magazine and publication writing, editing, design and production. She teaches the advanced media course for students who write for Jayplay, the University Daily Kansas’s weekly lifestyle magazine insert.

“I am really honored to win this, but I’m just one in a long line of capable people who teach our students how to write,” Holstead said. “William Zinsser says he’s not sure writing can be taught, but he believes it can be learned, and I agree with that. People learn to write by doing and by thinking about what they’ve done and rewriting. Teachers can lead students to the trail head, but they can’t take the path for them.”

In addition to teaching and conducting research, for many years Holstead has run the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Student Magazine Contest, which helps aspiring journalists become better writers and designers. She also operates a magazine internship placement program for KU journalism students and is the professional consultant to KU Giving, the university’s fundraising magazine.

Before coming to KU, she was an editor at Vance Publishing Corp., in Overland Park, where she worked for magazines including Supermarket Floral, Produce and Floral Retailing, Fresh Produce and the Packer. She received a bachelor’s degree in journalism and a master’s degree in theater, both from Kansas State University.

Holstead’s former students, many who have gone on to become successful journalists and editors of national publications, may have said it best in their numerous letters of support submitted for her nomination for the award.

“In New York City, I’ll often run into fellow Jayhawk journalists,” Marissa Stephenson, a 2005 KU graduate and editor at Shape magazine, said. “I think this is in large part due to Carol’s work placing students in NYC internships that led to crucial contacts and full-time positions.”

John Rockhold, 2000 graduate and managing editor of Mother Earth News, said, “Carol has had a profound influence on my development as a writer and editor. Under her instruction, I grew from an ambitious but clueless student to a sharp, confident and capable job candidate. These days, I look first to Carol’s students for candidates for internships and full-time jobs.”

In nominating Holstead for this award, journalism professor and 2007-08 Budig Teaching Professor of Writing recipient Ted Frederickson wrote, “I am thrilled to get Carol’s students in my classes because they always arrive with the unique skills that make magazine journalism so effective and interesting — stories alive with descriptive detail, written with an empathetic voice, based on serious fact-gathering and edited to hook readers and keep them reading to the end.”

Budig was named KU’s 14th chancellor in 1981. During his 13-year tenure, more than 180 faculty positions were established. He was an active fundraiser during Campaign Kansas, the 1987-92 campaign that raised $265 million from private donors. Budig Hall is named in his honor. He left the University to become president of baseball’s American League and now is senior adviser to Major League Baseball. He also is the senior presidential adviser for the College Board and recently authored a book on the nine most interesting public people with whom he has worked. He and his wife, Gretchen, live in Isle of Palms, S.C.

“We are very grateful to Dr. Budig for his generous support of the School of Journalism,” Brill said. “Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Budig has been dedicated to excellence in education. We are very appreciative.”
Leonard Pitts, Jr., the nationally syndicated, Pulitzer Prize winning columnist for the Miami Herald, was selected to receive the 2010 William Allen White Foundation’s national citation. He will accept the citation and give a public address on William Allen White Day, at 1:30 p.m., on Friday, Feb. 5, in Woodruff Auditorium of the Kansas Union. The event is free and open to the public.

Pitts joined the Miami Herald in 1991 as its pop music critic. Since 1994, he has penned a syndicated column of commentary on pop culture, social issues and family life. He has written professionally since 1976 when, as an 18-year-old college student, he began doing freelance reviews and profiles for SOUL, a national black entertainment tabloid. He was its editor two years later.

Pitts’ work has appeared in such publications as Musician, Spin, TV Guide, Reader’s Digest and Parenting. In addition, he wrote, produced and syndicated “Who We Are,” an award-winning 1988 radio documentary on the history of Black America.

Pitts was awarded the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for commentary and was a finalist in 1992. In 1997, he took first place for commentary in the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors’ Ninth Annual Writing Awards competition. He has been honored by the Society of Professional Journalists, the National Association of Black Journalists and the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and is a five-time recipient of the National Headliners Award.

In 2001, he received the ASNE Award For Commentary Writing and was named Feature of the Year Columnist by Editor and Publisher magazine. In 2002, the National Society of Newspaper Columnists awarded Pitts its inaugural Columnist of the Year award and GLAAD Media awarded Pitts the Outstanding Newspaper Columnist award.

Photos from the “Bridging the Gap: A Military Experience for Journalists” workshop, hosted by the J-School and Fort Leavenworth, with a grant from the McCormick Foundation.

Barnett tackles new role as associate dean

By Kayla Regan, Wichita, Kan., senior

Whether they had her as a teacher in J101 or they listened to her give a guest lecture in one of their classes, most J-School students probably know who Prof. Barbara Barnett is. Now, as the J-School’s associate dean for undergraduate studies, she is working to make a positive impact on journalism students both outside and inside the classroom. She schedules classes, helps J-School Dean Ann Brill launch special programs, looks at admissions and does her own research, on top of it all. Here, Barnett answers questions about what this position means for her.

Why did you want to be associate dean? “It was something I wanted to do in my career — to learn some new job skills. I enjoy teaching and doing research, so this was an opportunity to have a positive impact on the Journalism School in an administrative role, as well as in the classroom.”

Can you describe the different roles you play now with your new position? “In my new job as associate dean, one of my roles is to plan our class schedules, so I’m trying to think about where classes will be, when they’ll be held, who will teach them and how many students will be enrolled. I’m also trying to think about details, such as whether we need to add a class because so many students are interested in the topic or cancel a class because we didn’t have enough student interest this semester. I also work with our admissions committee to help select students who are entering the J-School. I work with the dean on any special projects she might have — for instance, writing grants for special programs we might launch. Also, I teach one class, and I work on my own research projects. My areas of research interests are media, gender and violence. I still do a lot of work with Fort Leavenworth for our media and the military class and journalist workshop.”

What are the greatest rewards and challenges of your work in the School? “The most fun part of my job always is working with students. The greatest challenge is trying to find time to do all the things I have to do in a day.”

What do you hope to accomplish as the J-School’s associate dean? “One of the best things about working in a university is that you learn all the time. I learn something new every day from the students. I learn from preparing to teach and from the research I do. This new job is a chance to learn, too. I want to help make the Journalism School a great place for the students who come here and the faculty and staff who work here. Before I was a professor, I worked as a journalist and in public relations. I want to help students see that these can be fascinating jobs, that they can practice them with integrity, and that the work they do can make a real difference in people’s lives. Those are my main goals in this new job.”

Are there any nice perks that came with your new position, like a better parking spot or nicer office? “Parking — nothing changed there. I did get a larger office, so that is good for meetings with faculty, students or other guests.”
**2009**

**Cori Ast** is the communications and event coordinator for the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at KU.

**Hali Baker** is a management trainee for Uhlig Advanced Publishing Systems in Overland Park, Kan.

**Toni Bergquist** is an interactive media consultant for the Wichita Eagle in Wichita, Kan.

**Rachel Burchfield** is pursuing her master’s degree in higher education administration at The University of Mississippi. She also is a part-time graduate assistant for Ole Miss Greek Life.

**Kyle Carter** is a product support specialist for Garmin International in Olathe, Kan.

**Abby Cunningham** is a marketing assistant for the Newcomer Funeral Group in Topeka, Kan.

**Morgan Dreyer** is an executive administrative assistant for Kim Schmidt/ Schmidt Design Group in Lawrence, Kan.

**Victoria Endersbe** is an employment marketing coordinator at Ameriprise Financial Inc. in Minneapolis, Minn.

**Krista Fisher** is a marketing specialist for KC SmartPort, Inc., in Kansas City, Mo.

**Andy Greenhaw** works as a marketing coordinator/Web designer for Triad Media, Inc. in Parkville, Mo., which helps clients build, maintain and promote e-commerce Web sites.

**Kendra Hall** is a media relations coordinator for Adventist Healthcare in Rockville, Md. She works to enhance video and social media capabilities for the company by shooting and editing video, managing and expanding social media sites, writing blogs and monthly newsletters.

**Christine Hartigan** is a marketing coordinator for the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park, Kan.

**Emily Hendricks** is an intern at MS&L Worldwide in New York City.

**Rachel (Schulteis) Hodgson** is the development and marketing coordinator for the Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas.

**Steven Karlin** teaches English in Nantes, France, for the French Embassy.

**Jackie Kostek** teaches preschool for Teach for America in Washington, D.C.

**Kendall Matous** works in advertising sales for Inspired Koncepts in Wichita, Kan.

**Wendy McCart** is an assignment editor at KAKE-TV in Wichita, Kan.

**Batya Meyer** is account director and vice president of media for MCC Communication in Dallas, Texas.

**Courtney Montle** is a producer for KMBC-TV in Kansas City, Mo.


**Andrew Newbauer** is a security forces officer for the United States Air Force.

**Megan O’Malley** is pursuing a graduate degree at Northwestern University in integrated marketing communications.

**Yelena Pavlik** is a producer/reporter for KSNT-TV in Topeka, Kan.

**Lauren Ponchur** is an account executive for Village Voice Media in Kansas City, Mo.

**Joseph Preiner** is an overnight producer/Web producer for the Lawrence Journal-World in Lawrence, Kan.

**Matthew Roberson** is an account executive for Command Transportation in Overland Park, Kan.

**Wendy McCart** is a marketing coordinator for Eiko Ltd., a lighting manufacturer in Shawnee, Kan.

**Jessica Shannon** is a first-year KU Law student this semester.

**Cory Sims** is an operations specialist at Cerner Corporation in Kansas City, Mo.

**Jesse Temple** is a sports reporter for the Muncie Star Press. Temple worked for MLB.com this summer covering the Chicago White Sox.

**Leah Thrasher** is a marketing consultant for Sales Focus, Inc. in Overland Park, Kan.

**Sarah Waldschmidt** is the emerging media coordinator for InTouch Solutions, a digital marketing company in Overland Park, Kan.

**Kristen Watkins** works for Teach for America as a high school social studies teacher.

**Colin Weber** is a technical writer for Herzog Communications in St. Joseph, Mo.

**Kimberly Westphall** is a junior art director for Rapp, in Irving, Texas.

*Photos from the “Bridging the Gap: A Military Experience for Journalists” workshop.*

*ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES Where are they now?*

*News & Notes – continued on page 9*
Thanks to our Deans Club members

As the holiday season is upon us, I can’t think of a better time to thank those donors who give back to the School of Journalism. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a special group of contributors, our FY 2009 Deans Club (July 1, 2008 — June 30, 2009).

Deans Club donors are those alumni and friends who contribute $1,000 or more annually to the J-School. State support for the University is a little more than 20 percent, so these gifts are crucial to our success and help us go above and beyond in the classroom. Deans Club contributions assist with scholarships, technology, travel for students and faculty, alumni events and so much more.

Thank you, Deans Club, for your investment in higher education and outstanding loyalty to KU and the School of Journalism!

We’d be honored to have your support at the Deans Club level for FY 2010! If you’d like to join, please complete and mail us the enclosed gift card. You also can contribute online at www.kuendowment.org/donate, or contact me at cmoore@kuendowment.org or 785-832-7352.

All the best for a happy and healthy holiday season!


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Brea Ziegler works in marketing and strategic communications for Marche Design, a product development company in Lawrence, Kan.

Sarah Neff is a technical writer for Keys for Networking in Topeka, Kan.

Sarah Nelson is an account coordinator for Two West, Inc., in Kansas City, Mo.

Scott Oswalt is a graphic designer at the Hutchinson News in Hutchinson, Kan.

Katherine Pitt works for Northwestern University handling communications and outreach for the Argonne-Northwestern Solar Energy Research Center. The center is one of 22 energy frontier research centers funded by the U.S. Department of Energy dedicated to advancing solar energy fuel opportunities. Previously she was the metro account executive for the Arizona Republic.

Chris Raine is a copy editor at Energy Intelligence Group, a publisher of energy industry newsletters, in New York City.

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

Megan Hirt is an assistant editor at Mother Earth News magazine, an Ogden Publication, in Topeka, Kan.

Brittany Jeter is a territory sales associate for Specialty Medical Services in Kansas City, Mo.


Thomas Seymour is an executive team leader of logistics for the Target in Edwardsville, Ind.

Hanna Soltys is a marketing associate for Joel Warady Group in Evanston, Ill. Previously she was a copywriter in Phoenix, Ariz.

Jessica Stelzer is a program assistant in the learning and organization development division of human resources at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

Meghan Sullivan is an interactive project coordinator at MMG Worldwide in Kansas City, Mo.

Lauren Tevis was accepted into the Washburn School of Law in Topeka, Kan.

Amanda Wright is an associate at ISNetworld, a petrochemical/manufacturing/biopharma and health and safety company in Dallas, Texas.

2008

Karen Blakeman is an editor for the U.S. Department of the Army at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Brian Brewer is a financial advisor/portfolio analyst for the Prosperity Advisory Group in Overland Park, Kan.

Sean Craven is a broker associate for RED Brokerage, LLC in Kansas City, Mo.

Mallory Gaunce is an account coordinator for MMG Worldwide. She started working at the Kansas City advertising agency in January.

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

Megan Hirt is an assistant editor at Mother Earth News magazine, an Ogden Publication, in Topeka, Kan.

Brittany Jeter is a territory sales associate for Specialty Medical Services in Kansas City, Mo.

Etienne Laubignat works in sales for Shaw Industries, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway company in Omaha, Neb. She has worked there since January.

2006

Daniel Berk is a sports editor for the Arizona Daily Sun in Flagstaff, Ariz. His previous position at the Sun was sports reporter, which he had held since October 2007.

Sarah Connelly works in real estate advertising for the Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk, Va. She was just admitted to the Mason School of Business at The College of William and Mary where she will pursue an MBA.

(News & Notes – continued from page 11)
Eric Morgenstern: an ever-rising star in the public relations world

By Sonya English, Overland Park, Kan., senior

Thirty years ago, an undergraduate Eric Morgenstern read a note scribbled in his portfolio that advised: “Eric, please go into PR. You can’t write a straight news story to save your life. Every story has a positive slant to it.”

Though that fact remains, a few things were different then: A portfolio was called a string book and convergence was a new idea that Morgenstern was working out in his mind.

“I knew in high school that I wanted to work in the space where all of these disciplines (news, public relations, advertising) come together,” Morgenstern said. “Everything was kind of in different buckets...and I knew that that made no sense; that the audiences look at an organization from an integrated standpoint.”

His professor, Rick Musser, who retired in 2008, had him pegged. He now runs a successful business helping companies tell their stories. He started Morningstar Communications, based in Overland Park, Kan., in 1997. He refers to himself and his colleagues as “strategic integrated counselors” because, he said, they are more like a consulting firm than a PR firm.

“We are experts at helping a company figure out how to tell their story in a compelling, concise and audience-focused manner,” he said.

He is, in other words, doing exactly what he thought he’d do. “I’m an anomaly in the sense that I went to KU to do what I’m doing,” he said. “I put the four-year plan in place and I did it and graduated.”

Morgenstern’s inclination to make plans in the long-term (he met his wife when he was 15) has been useful in an industry where people more often think in 20-minute increments.

“I think we should all go through life with what I refer to as bifocal vision,” he said. “Keep our eye on the horizon and watch each next step.”

That’s what people close to Morgenstern call an “Ericism.” They’re brief life philosophies that he recites often. Some are his own and others are pieces of wisdom he’s borrowed from the likes of Mark Twain and Plato. He said he has dozens on reserve.

“I will use these kinds of philosophies as a way to make a point, as a guiding principle and as a teaching tool,” he said. “Those ‘isms’ are rampant in our world here.”

A former coworker, Bob Featherston, said in a video tribute to Morgenstern that Ericisms still “ring in his head from time to time.” Now an entrepreneur himself, Featherston said he often hears himself give Morgenstern’s advice to his own employees.

The Kansas City chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators made the video this year when Morgenstern won its highest honor, which recognizes excellence, achievement and civic involvement.

The successes that Morgenstern and his company have enjoyed lead many to ask him whether he wished he’d have started it sooner. During the 20-year interim after school and before Morningstar, he worked for several companies and in different communications positions, starting at an architecture firm creating business materials and including a five-year tenure at Hallmark Cards. It was during that time that Morgenstern acquired the business philosophies behind Morningstar.

“I waited until I felt like I had received a ‘doctorate’ degree in how to run an agency before founding Morningstar Communications,” he said. “I ran a big agency for a long time and got to learn from a lot of mistakes before founding our firm.”

It was in the J-School that he developed an appreciation of each and every word. He credits the editing class he took from John Bremmer, former professor and namesake of the J-School’s Bremner Editing Center.

“The discipline of precise word choice has stuck with me forever,” Morgenstern said.

(Morgenstern – continued on page 11)
“He’d be the first to say don’t use a quarter word if a nickel word will work,” Morgenstern said.

For the 31 years since he took classes in the J-School, he has remained connected to it. It’s not just through the Jayhawk paraphernalia that fills his basement, or his son Jarrod, who recently attended the J-School.

Morgenstern was the featured speaker at the J-School’s fall graduate recognition event on Dec. 13. He also visits often as a guest lecturer and Morningstar materials are used on campus. He was the featured speaker at the J-School’s fall graduate recognition event.

For the 31 years since he took classes at the J-School, he has remained connected to it. He said Morgenstern helps students understand PR — that it’s more than glad-handing and press releases.

“Most students instinctively know what reporting is and what advertising is, but they have only a nebulous idea of what PR is,” Guth said. “He is good at breathing that life into PR. He has a great enthusiasm for what he does and he likes to share that enthusiasm and passion with students.”

In 1997, he also helped create the J-School’s master’s program in integrated marketing communications at the KU Edwards campus.

And the J-School comes to him as well. Many of Morningstar’s interns are J-School students who often become employees.

“The people that I get from KU are outstanding,” Morgenstern said. “Thirty years later, the School is still turning out people that meet our standards of excellence.”

And to those graduated from the J-School he offers the same advice he’d give to anyone, in any discipline.

“I think it’s important that people recognize what they’re great at and what they love to do,” he said. “If you can combine what you’re great at and what you love to do you’ll be successful in any endeavor.”

Lisa (Tevis) Fulbright was promoted to business development manager within the marketing department of Capitol Federal Savings Bank in Topeka, Kan.

Colleen Grosch manages member engagement for the National Society of Collegiate Scholars in Washington, D.C.

Haley Harrison is a 6 and 11 p.m. anchor for WHSV-TV in Harrisonburg, Va.

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

Derek Klaus manages communications for the Kansas City Convention and Visitors Association.

Malinda (Osborne) Larkin is a news reporter for the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Hailey Metzger is the marketing coordinator at Team Housing Solutions in New Braunfels, Texas.

Adam Sechrist moved from KAKE-TV in Wichita, Kan., to KDVR-TV in Denver, Colo., where he will produce the 9 p.m. newscast.

Beth Martino is the communications director and press secretary for Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson.

Kellis Robinett has joined the Wichita Eagle in Wichita, Kan., on the sports staff and serves as the Kansas State beat writer for both the Eagle and the Kansas City Star. Previously Robinett worked for the Omaha World-Herald and the Idaho State Journal.

Jessica Solander is a regulatory specialist for Embarq Logistics.

Amy Sullivan is an event coordinator for Paula LeDuc Fine Catering (www.paulaleduc.com) in San Francisco, Calif. She represents venues in wine country and the San Francisco Ferry Building.

Anja Winikka is the editor of TheKnot.com and The Knot Weddings Magazine in New York. She is heavily involved in public relations, frequently making local and national TV appearances on behalf of The Knot. This summer she hosted a Webisode series, “Married on MySpace” (www.myspace.com/marriedonmyspace). She has been editor at The Knot for a year, working there since graduation, making her way up from the copy edit desk.

Paige Worthy is managing editor of three horticultural trade publications in Chicago, Ill.: Lawn & Garden Retailer, Greenhouse Product News and its supplement, Big Grower. She writes, edits, assigns, provides design ideas and travels as the face of the company (www.lgrmag.com).
2004
Carlos Centeno is a program officer for the United Nations World Food Program in Guatemala, and is a Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellow (2009-2011) for the Congressional Hunger Center.

Kristin Glover is a freelance producer for KABC-TV in Los Angeles, Calif.

Meghan Snyder-Gordon is the assignment editor at KWCH-TV in Wichita, Kan.

Emily Melnyk is a marketing coordinator at the law firm Polsinelli Shughart PC in Kansas City.

Amanda Wolfe is the managing editor at Advanstar Veterinary Healthcare Communications.

Joel Worthington is a senior analyst with Sg2, a healthcare intelligence company in Skokie, Ill.

Jessica (Chapman) Zemler was promoted to editor of E-Media at Advanstar Communications in Lenexa, Kan. She was recently awarded the 2009 Young Leaders Scholarship from the American Society of Business Publication Editors.

2003
Laine Baker is an anchor/reporter for KNWA-TV in Fayetteville, Ark.

Brooke Hesler and her husband Kyle Ramsey (2002 J-School graduate) have both been admitted to the Kansas bar. They graduated from Washburn Law School after working in journalism for a few years.

Emilee (Hermreck) Katzer is a senior consultant at Pennington & Co.

Chris Martin won an Emmy award for outstanding special effects work on the television series “Heroes.” In addition to working on “Heroes,” he has worked on several other top TV shows, including “24,” “Grey’s Anatomy” and “The Office.” At KU, he created two informational videos for the KU Libraries, “Library: Revolutions” and “Lord of the Libraries;” spoofing “The Matrix” and “Lord of the Rings.” He served as an officer in KU Filmworks, the student-run production club sponsored by the Department of Film, and produced a television series on KUJH-TV that screened local films.

Kristel K. Patton owns and operates Kristel K. Patton, P.C., a full-service estate planning law firm located in Chandler, Ariz. She is licensed to practice law in Arizona, Arkansas and Missouri.

Jana (Smoot) White practices law with Fowler Measle & Bell in Lexington, Ky.

2002
Matthew Bertholf manages channel marketing for Assurant Employee Benefits.

Summer (Lewis) Henry owns Life Simplified, a lifestyle organization business, in Kansas City.

Michelle Sherwood is the 10 p.m. anchor at KSFR-TV in Springfield, Mo. Previously she was the weekend anchor.

Neil Sniffen teaches journalism and English at Grants Pass High School in Grants Pass, Ore.

2001
Stephen Adams is president of Adams Land in Tulsa, Okla.

Helen Lauen recently joined Risdall Marketing Group in New Brighton, Minn., as the strategic planning director.

Courtney (Kreutzer) Payne is a medical sales representative for Meda Pharmaceuticals in Dallas, Texas.

Vanessa Whiteside is a journalism and English teacher at Circle High School in Towanda, Kan.

1998
Brett Clifton is the assistant director of advancement and alumni relations for the Department of Aerospace Engineering at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, Ill. He does fundraising and alumni relations, including personal visits with alumni throughout the country.

Jennifer Conklin is the Bradenton Herald’s day and presentation editor in Bradenton, Fla. She joined the Herald in 2004 after stints at the Charlotte (N.C.) Observer and the (Columbia, S.C.) State. She is a member of the Asian American Journalists Association and a graduate of both the 2005 Maynard Media Academy at Harvard and the 2003 Executive Leadership Program, the latter two honors in the media world.

Zachary Morin is a territory sales manager for SAP America.

Matt Tidwell, APR, has joined Morningstar Communication in Overland Park, Kan., as vice president. He has a wide array of both corporate and agency experience across a variety of industries, including telecommunications, healthcare, energy, manufacturing and sports marketing. He earned a master’s degree from Syracuse University and has served on the adjunct faculty at both UMKC’s Bloch School of Business and Washburn University.

1997
Peg Coughlin is the Associated Press regional elections coordinator.
David Day is the executive editor and director of product development with Thinking Bigger Business Media Inc. in Kansas City, Mo.

Rebecca (Wick) Hengehold directs communications and group marketing at Marston in Ballwin, Mo.

1996
Bethany Pendleton is a business development consultant for Thomson Reuters.

Aaron Sumner coordinates projects for KU’s Center for Research on Learning. He lives in Lawrence, Kan.

1994
Marlene Neill had a public relations teaching assistantship at the University of Texas this fall. She will be pursuing her doctorate and will continue teaching at Baylor University.

Elaine (Barkley) Toto coordinates marketing for Arrow Truck Sales in Kansas City, Mo.

1993
Julie Denesha is a professional photojournalist. Her latest project “Roma: In the Eyes of a Woman” was on display at the World Bank Office to the European Union Institutions in Brussels, Belgium. She was based in Prague from 1996 to 2004, where she worked as a documentary photographer.

Her work has appeared in The New York Times, The Guardian, Time, Newsweek, The Economist and The Christian Science Monitor. Her project on the Roma has been exhibited around the world. In 2007 she was awarded a Milena Jesenka fellowship, as well as a Fulbright, to continue working on her Roma project in Slovakia. Her work also has received funding from the ArtsKC Fun and the Puffin Foundation. Her work on the Roma people, “Outcasts of Europe,” was on exhibit in the J-School’s second floor photography gallery in spring 2007. For more, visit www.juliedenesha.com.

1992
Shawna Rosen is a technical writer for Apple Inc. in Cupertino, Calif.

Sousa Williams oversees the Web team at KEYE-TV (CBS) in Austin, Texas. She was formerly a TV news producer.

1991
Linda Meierhoffer is a contributing writer for two Palm Springs, Calif., magazines, Palm Springs Life and the Desert Magazine. Her work includes features on architecture, lifestyles and healthcare. She is a resident of Leawood, Kan., and Palm Springs.

Jennifer Remsberg supervises accounts for Bernstein-Rein in Kansas City, Mo.

Ann Sommerlath is the senior vice president of Fleishman-Hillard in New York City.

William Bryan Swan works for UniCare Health Plan of Kansas in Topeka, Kan.

1990
Barbara Kollmeyer is a financial journalist for CBS Marketwatch in Madrid, Spain.

1989
Jenny (Byrd) Skillman works as managing director of KINETIK in Washington, D.C.

1988
Jerry Karasek is a surgery administrator at Kansas University Physicians, Inc.

Darren Richards is now a vice president of Tucker/Hall, a major public relations firm in Tampa/St. Petersburg, Fla. He left Gannett’s WTSP-TV, the CBS affiliate in Tampa/St. Petersburg, after four years as news director there. He spent almost his entire career with Gannett, including a seven-year stint as news director of the company’s WFLD-TV station in Greensboro, N.C. He also held news management positions with Gannett stations in Jacksonville, Denver and Phoenix. He also has worked in Ft. Myers, Fla., and Topeka, Kan.

1987
Jill (Hanslip) Miller is president of Digital Sinage Group in Poulsbro, Wash.

1986
John Egan manages accounts for Elizabeth Christian & Associates, a public relations firm in Austin, Texas.

John Heeney is principal of Echelon Management in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Brett McCabe manages customer service sales for Leer in New Lisbon, Wis.

1985
David Danner works for Keystone Freight Corp in Greensboro, N.C.

John Reimringer has written his first novel, “Vestments,” which will be published by Milkweed Editions in Fall 2010. He is a 2009 Loft-McKnight fellow and a college English instructor in Minneapolis, Minn.

1984
Charlotte (Burriss) Cool works for McCormick Co. in Kansas City, Mo.

Brian Levinson is vice president of marketing and public affairs for Nueterra Healthcare in Leawood, Kan.

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(News & Notes – continued on page 14)
Janet Murguía has joined five other Jayhawks on a list of the 100 most powerful women in Washington, D.C., according to Washingtonian magazine. The magazine has compiled an annual list for 27 years to recognize women leaders in Washington from the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Other honorees this year include First Lady Michelle Obama and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Murguía is president of the National Council of La Raza, the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S. She previously worked at the White House from 1994 to 2000 as a top aide to President Clinton. After serving as a deputy campaign manager for the 2000 Gore-Lieberman presidential campaign, she was executive vice chancellor for university relations at KU for four years. She earned a law degree in 1985 and bachelor’s degrees in journalism and Spanish in 1982 from KU.

Blake Gumprecht is an associate professor and the chair of geography at the University of New Hampshire, and the author of “The American College Town.” His unprecedented research on the topic of college towns was inspired by the time he spent in Lawrence as an undergraduate at KU.

Barbara Bichelmeyer was named associate vice president for academic planning at Indiana University in Bloomington. In addition to her journalism degree, she holds a bachelor of arts, a master of science in education and a PhD, all from KU.

Chris Cobler is the editor of the Victoria (Texas) Advocate. He was recently honored by the Texas Daily Newspaper Association with its Editorial Achievement Award, which was created to recognize courage and commitment to the newsroom and leadership in the community, in advocating and pursuing openness and accessibility to government. He also was recently elected to the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas board of directors.

Kelly Irvin is the public relations manager for the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department. Her debut romantic suspense novel, “A Deadly Wilderness,” will be published in January 2010.

Jeff Sjerven is the news editor at the Finance and Commerce Media Group in Minneapolis, Minn.

Samuel Johnson is president and chief executive officer of DRSTJ3 Consulting Group in Tinton Falls, N.J.

Paul Witwer is a certified financial planner for Bell Investment Advisors in Oakland, Calif.

Mark Olson is chief executive officer of LTO Ventures in Henderson, Nev.

Rob Rains, former Cardinals beat writer, was named sports editor and baseball writer for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, an online-only newspaper. He is the author of several books, including his most recent books, “James Naismith: The Man Who Invented Basketball” and “Tony La Russa: Man on a Mission.”

Julie Johnson Staples recently opened J. Johnson Staples & Company in New York City to provide specialized strategic communication services.

Bonita Gooch owns TCV Publishing Inc., which publishes the Community Voice, a tabloid printed twice a month that serves Wichita’s African-American audience. She previously worked in public administration in Texas and Florida before moving back to Wichita, Kan., in 1996.

Michael Aurbach is a professor of art at Vanderbilt University. A solo exhibit of his sculptures will be on display at the Wichita Art Museum June 13-Oct. 17, 2010.

David Croake is editorial director for Florists’ Review Enterprises in Topeka, Kan.

Bruce Erickson is the director of communications at Sam Houston State University. He is a former associate vice president for university communications and marketing at California State University, Fullerton, a former executive director for marketing and communications at Wichita State University, a former director of public relations at California State University, Northridge, and a former director of university relations at The University of Texas-Pan American. He is the recipient of numerous awards from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. He was awarded the Public Communicators of Los Angeles’ inaugural Most Valuable Professional Award for his work and visibility as California State Northridge’s spokesperson following the Northridge earthquake in 1994.
Louise Henry is the principal/president of PRISM Advantage, a public relations and innovative strategic marketing agency in Addison, Texas.

**1974**
Lydia Beebe received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the KU School of Law. She lives in San Francisco, Calif., where she works for Chevron. She serves on the KU Law Alumni Board of Governors.

David Hunke is the president and publisher of Gannett’s USA Today. Previously he was CEO of the Detroit Media Partnership and publisher of The Detroit Free Press.

Mike Jerrick cohosts a daily morning show called “Good Day Philadelphia” on Fox29. He was formerly a cohost of “The Morning Show With Mike and Juliet,” which aired on Fox television stations around the country from a New York City base.

Bob Marcotte has been the “Just Ask” columnist for the Democrat and Chronicle in Rochester, NY, for more than a decade. He went to Rochester in 1976, working first as a beat reporter, editorial writer and layout editor for the Times-Union, then as layout editor for the Democrat and Chronicle. He is the author of two books, “Where They Fell,” which tells the story of Rochester area soldiers during the Civil War, and “Birds of the Genesee,” which looks at the diversity of wild birds in the region.

**1973**
Kathleen (Swiderski) Saunders is vice president and general manager of KDFW Fox 4 in Dallas, Texas.

Rita (Haugh) Oates is vice president of education for ePals Inc. She lives in Coral Gables, Fla.

Sam Cook has been covering the outdoors for the Duluth News Tribune for nearly 30 years. He has authored six books and won multiple awards for his writing.

Sandra Smith owns Smith Communications and is a senior lecturer at the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management.

John Krueger retired in 2006 after working 36 years in education, during which time he taught journalism and English, was an assistant principal and principal in a junior high school and a senior high school principal in both the Shawnee Mission and North Kansas City, Mo., school districts.

**1968**
Bob Dotson won two Murrow Awards for Best Writing and Best News Series for NBC’s “American Story with Bob Dotson.” The show has won the Murrow for Best Writing three years in a row, and a total of five times since the award began in 1999. In the past decade, Dotson has won half of all the Murrows handed out for writing. Murrow Award recipients demonstrate the excellence that Edward R. Murrow made a standard for the electronic news profession. NBC News was honored with five 2009 Edward R. Murrow Awards, more than any other television network.


Patricia (James) Baker is currently at work composing hymns, both words and music. Her latest project is a cantata for choral singing entitled, “Glad Tidings of Christmas.”

Allan and Marian Cromley are former University Daily Kansan editors and have been married 60 years. Allan writes news and profiles for a community newsletter. Marian is on the advisory committee of the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, based in Oklahoma City, Okla.