Brett Akagi, media director and content strategist, judged National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Emmy entries for the National Capital/Chesapeake Bay, Pacific Southwest and MidAmerica High School chapters, the Associated Press New York State Broadcast contest, and the Nebraska Collegiate Media Awards.

Akagi attended the Kansas Association of Broadcasters Student Seminar in Topeka with instructor Chris Bacon and students Tomas Hoppough, Allison Hammond, Madison Coker, Cailey Taylor, Harrison Drake, Emma Hogg and Amy Follmer. More than 140 Kansas high school and college students and instructors attended the event. A panel discussion with a variety of broadcast managers interacted with the students on how to prepare for the market and what jobs were most in demand. Akagi critiqued the work of high school and college students in two different roundtable discussions.

Akagi also spoke to more than 50 Kansas high school and college students at the Kansas Collegiate Media awards conference in Wichita. Akagi's topic was about the problems with news coverage in traditional and digital media and some solutions to be a better journalist.

Student Recruitment & Retention Coordinator Ashley Anguiano and The Journalism Student Ambassador Program hosted 23 students from 21st Century Journalism Class at Wyandotte High School on Thursday, Oct. 16. The class was able to sit in on a student panel, hear from Professor Peter Bobkowski, and take an extended tour of our facilities.

Anguiano traveled to Baldwin High School on Nov. 12 with Assistant Professor Peter Bobkowski for a faculty workshop visit. Bobkowski discussed methods for creating story ideas with Intro to Journalism high school students.

Anguiano hosted 25 students from Grandview High School on campus for a visit Nov. 13. The students heard from a student panel, watched “Good Morning KU,” participated in a press conference reporting activity led by Brett Akagi, got a full tour by J-School ambassadors, and were treated to lunch by the Dean’s office.

Anguiano spent a couple of weeks in February traveling to some of the J-School’s key feeder areas to meet with prospective students. The recruitment events were in Chicago, Minneapolis and Dallas. Each event included a lunch for high school counselors during the day and a program for students and families in the evening.

Professor Barnett was interviewed by WIBW radio and television in Topeka on media coverage of the protests in Ferguson, Mo.

Barnett was also interviewed for an article in American Journalism Review on women in journalism management. The link to the article is http://ajr.org/2014/08/06/women-managers-in-journalism/

A team of Bob Basow's Campaigns students traveled to Washington, D.C. with their clients, Dan Partridge (director) and Charlotte Marthaler (associate director) of the Lawrence/Douglas County Health Department (LDCHD). The team visited the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for training in how to brand a community health department. The team also visited the office of Sen. Jerry Moran and interviewed the senator's communications director and press secretary.

Associate Professor Genelle Belmas and Bremner Center coordinator Lisa McLendon attended a kickoff meeting with faculty and staff working on "Big Tent Open Access" at Watson Library. This working group is planning initiatives to increase awareness about and participation in open access and alternative copyright issues. Among the possibilities being evaluated: an open access conference at KU and other campus events on the subject of open access.

Belmas will co-chair a joint College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and School of Journalism steering committee to plan a campus-wide symposium on new media. This event, which will be in late fall 2015 or early spring 2016, will bring together many of KU's renowned scholars with expertise in health
communications, social media, media and popular culture, public communications on environment and climate change, digital humanities, and visual communication of big data. The committee also hopes to host a visiting speaker series before the symposium.

Associate Professor Tim Bengtson's Strategic Campaigns students are working with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to create a campaign to help attract high school seniors and transfer students to the program. Kristi Henderson, director of communications for the College, and Christi Davis, assistant director of communications, visited with Tim's students on Wednesday, Sept. 17. Both Henderson and Davis have KU journalism degrees.

Lecturer Kerry Benson discussed the portrayal of girls in the media with 250 middle school girls in Wyandotte County as part of the first ever large-scale local celebration of International Day of the Girl on Oct. 10.

Benson facilitated a workshop on motivation and authentic storytelling at the Kansas Dental Project coalition's fall meeting in Topeka on Oct. 16. The Kansas Dental Project is working to bring mid-level providers to the Kansas dental team. More than 50 organizations are part of the KDP coalition.

Benson presented on persuasively communicating with different kinds of people at a fall meeting of the KC Healthy Kids organization in Wyandotte County on Oct. 21. KC Healthy Kids is a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing obesity and improving the health of Greater Kansas City's children.

Benson facilitated a workshop on persuasion for the Kansas Health Foundation in July. The Kansas Health Foundation, based in Wichita, KS, has developed a $2.5 million initiative to partner with five not-for-profit organizations in Kansas. The mission of the three-year partnership is to develop policies that improve the food and beverage environment across the state, making healthy choices easier for all Kansans.

Assistant Professor Peter Bobkowski will be a Fall 2014 Faculty Seminar participant for the Center for Civic & Social Responsibility. Faculty from across campus will discuss and develop creative strategies and diverse partnerships for defining and pursuing the common good.

Cal Butcher, director of Media Crossroads, was the announcer at the 88th Kansas Relays. Watch the video here: http://bit.ly/1yHI81A

Assistant Professor Yvonnes Chen welcomed two representatives Kansas Action for Children, her Strategic Campaigns client, to her class on Sept. 4. Kansas Action for Children is a non-profit organization shaping policy that puts children first. Communications Director Lauren Beatty and Health Policy Director Hilary Gee shared their pivotal state-wide initiatives aimed to address childhood obesity in Kansas. With Chen's expertise in health promotion and students' strategic communication skills, they look forward to embarking on a journey that will provide meaningful solutions to improve the well-being of Kansas children.

Chen welcomed Marie Treichel from Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas to her Jour 640: Strategic Campaigns class on Sept. 11. Treichel, the provider services manager shared her decades of child development experience with Professor Chen's students. Specifically, she provided best strategies to educate and engage child care providers in an effort to change the food and beverage environment in child care settings.

KCTV 5 Reporter Lisa D'Souza interviewed Chen to comment on a study written by doctoral student Hannah Kang. Kang's research reveals that online advergames teach kids unhealthy eating habits. In this interview, Chen talked about the complexity of regulating online advergames targeted to children. http://www.kctv5.com/story/27470821/study-online-games-teaching-kids-unhealthy-eating-habits

Assistant Professor Jerry Crawford was a panelist for the Nov. 12 Lunch and Learn: Student Engagement Outside of the Class Using Blackboard Collaborate, held in the Centennial Room at the Kansas Union. Crawford was asked to talk about his experience as one of the beta testers for Collaborate during last
summer's session. The panel was hosted by KU's Center for Online & Distance Learning. The video of the panel discussion will be housed on CODL's site: http://codl.ku.edu/lunch-and-learn-library-0.

Crawford spoke March 26 to sixth- and eighth-graders at Northwest Middle School in Kansas City, Kansas. Crawford was asked to address the journalism, speech and theater students on the importance of the media and college preparatory skills and expectations.

Crawford has been asked by KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little be a part of the Chancellor Achievement Banquet in Wichita on Thursday. The KU Office of Admissions, Office of Multicultural Affairs and Gray-Little are hosts of the banquet as a unified commitment to multicultural recruitment in Wichita. The banquet honors multicultural high school juniors and admitted seniors from the Wichita area on their achievements, celebrates the seniors' admission to KU, and outlines keys to success for their transition to KU.

Jerry Crawford spoke recently to the Howard University Preparing Future Faculty Program. He addressed doctoral students from several disciplines, including history, physics, pharmacy, education, journalism, mathematics and engineering regarding how to best make the decision to enter academia at Research I or teaching institutions. As KU's Faculty Fellow for Diversity & Equity, Crawford was asked by PFF to facilitate possible collaboration between KU and several PFF institutions. Crawford shared with PFF KU's Bold Aspirations strategic plan and provided contact information for all schools and units on campus.

Associate Professor Joseph Erba's Strategic Communication client, University Theatre, and Research Methods client, University Career Center, visited his classes last week to meet the students and formally introduce their projects.

Fallik was hired by the Mayo Clinic to create a video series for the public on complementary and alternative medicine. It is based on interviews, published studies and medical texts.

Knight Chair in News, Leadership and Community Pam Fine, cochaired the first combined convention of the American Society of News Editors (ASNE) and the Associated Press Media Editors (APME) in Chicago this month. She was elected vice-president of ASNE.

Fine was a member of the selection panel for the Rocket Grants Editorial Engagement project, which is funded by the Charlotte Street Foundation to encourage and mentor critical art writers in the Kansas City region.

Fine also participated in a discussion on the future of the news media as a guest advisor to the Interactivity Foundation in Madison, Wis. The Foundation has been convening journalists and citizens to discuss issues and policy options with the goal of developing materials to promote and aid discussions in communities and schools throughout the country.

Fine was a judge for the annual American Society of News Editor awards, which were announced last week. The judging took place at the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Fine was the moderator of a panel discussion during the Free State Festival in June about what happens to American culture when traditional newspaper journalism and the hard work, professionalism and ethics that go with it loses its prominence.


Associate Professor Mugur Geana was interviewed about media depictions of chronic pain for an oncoming feature article for Women's Health magazine. Meghan Rabbitt, the writer of the story, reached out to Dr. Geana after reading the article published on Sept. 22 in KU Today about the collaboration between CEHCUP and the Center for Practical Bioethics to address public's attitudes and beliefs about people

Geana participated in the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Cancer Alliance on Sept. 19. The event, held at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center, brought together oncologists, administrators, support staff and researchers from Kansas and Missouri to discuss about advancements in cancer treatments, best practices for clinical trials and best approaches to engage communities with supporting local and regional efforts to find a cure for cancer.

Geana also met with physicians and researchers from Truman Medical Center to build the foundation for future collaboration on increasing recruitment for cancer clinical trials on Sept. 26. The Midwestern Cancer Alliance funds the project, which is a joint effort with the Health Communication Research Shared Resource (HCRSR) from the KU Cancer Center. Dr. Geana is the director of the HCRSR.

Geana, M.D., is managing a capacity building and community-intervention project in partnership with scholars from the University of Costa Rica that is making lifesaving changes in two small communities in the province of Limon, Costa Rica. Focused on addressing the high incidence of dengue in the region, the project used community-based participatory research to identify major problems and engage the community in decreasing the breeding grounds for the aedes aegypti mosquito, the principal vector of the disease. A recent communication campaign (above) addressing the value of limiting open garbage and promoting recycling has been positively embraced by the communities, including the establishment of the first recycling collection program in the area.

Geana also has been invited to collaborate in a 10-year longitudinal study of 10,000 subjects exploring incidence and causes of cardiovascular disease and cancer in a central region of Chile. Geana will provide training and mentoring to Chilean researchers on the use and development of community-based research projects and interventions, and he will assist the international team working on this project in developing strategies for participant recruitment, retention and outreach.

Geana, M.D., and Assistant Professor Joseph Erba conducted focus groups with physicians, nurses and staff at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center in Salina and the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Center and Truman Medical Centers in Kansas City. This formative research is aimed at informing the development of patient-centered research, funded by the Midwest Cancer Alliance, to identify communication strategies to improve access, recruitment and retention of rural and inner-city patients into cancer clinical trials.

Geana, M.D., visited Sacred Heart University in Connecticut last week. He met with faculty and administrators from the John F. Welch College of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the College of Health Professions. His meetings focused on sharing some of the national and international community engagement projects heralded by CEHCUP and explored potential partnerships for future research or intervention funding opportunities. Geana learned about the relationships that departments and colleges have with major financial, biotech and information technology businesses on the East Coast and how the university is successful in integrating top-of-the-line industry practices in everyday instruction, preparing students for a dynamic and challenging professional marketplace.

Professor Jimmy Gentry will teach "Finance and Budgeting for Communicators" online for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Iowa this summer. This will be his third summer to teach for Iowa's master's in strategic communication program.

Mark Johnson filed a brief today at the U.S. Supreme Court in favor of the court hearing a case on the Wisconsin Voter ID law. Johnson represents a group called ColorofChange.org, which advocates for the rights of minorities and low-income Americans. He took on this representation about two weeks ago and hopes it will lead to a Supreme Court decision clearly defining the types of photo IDs that the states can require when voters appear at the polls and the accommodations that the states have to afford individuals who object to photo IDs for religious or philosophical reasons.
Johnson is also one of the two principal lawyers for the plaintiffs in the ongoing litigation about same-sex marriage in Kansas. Johnson is a member of the Kansas ACLU Board of Directors, and he is working with the ACLU's legal director on this case. The plaintiffs have won the right to marry, but the state is now fighting over the claim that the state should grant all rights to same-sex couples that are extended to heterosexual couples. The state has appealed the federal court's allowance of same-sex marriage to the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, while the claim on rights is still pending in the District Court in Kansas City, Kansas.

Johnson is working with one of his law partners to write the rules for the selection of delegates from Democrats Abroad (the organization of Democrats who live outside the United States) to the 2016 Democratic Convention. Johnson has been invited to present the new rules to the annual convention of Democrats Abroad in the Dominican Republic in May.

Professor Chuck Marsh discussed the "NBC News" and Brian Williams situation on the Lawrence Mid Morning Show with Eric Holcomb (KLWN) on Feb. 12.

Assistant Professor Jonathan Peters is delivering a talk ("Thy Brother Came with Subtlety: Journalism and Its New Privacy Problem") this week in Lawrence. Co-sponsored by the Lawrence Public Library and the local Nerd Nite affiliate, it will be Feb. 11 at Pachamama's Alton Ballroom. The doors open at 7:30 p.m., the talk begins at 8 p.m., and there's a $1 cover. Peters will explore the idea that in a digital world almost everything you do leaves a trace, and how that's a problem for journalists who need to protect confidential sources and information.

Lecturer Michael Price and Associate Dean Barbara Barnett participated in the panel, "Media and the Military: A Tentative Alliance." The panel was held Oct. 13 at the Watkins Museum in Lawrence, and the two professors spoke on the pros and cons of embedded reporting. Other panelists were Steven Boylan, a retired Army colonel who worked as a public affairs officer with Gen. David Petraeus in Iraq, and Tyler LaMarr, a retired Marine and actor in the "Basetrack" performance at the Lied Center. Mike Denning, a retired Marine colonel and director KU's graduate military program, moderated.


Price is also working on a five-minute film for KCPT about Medicaid in Missouri that will be shown in the next month or so.

Associate Dean Scott Reinardy discussed the role the media plays in reporting war with KTWU's Janet Thompson Jackson last month for an "I've Got Issues" piece, "Commemorating Vietnam."

Assistant Professor Hyunjin Seo will participate in the Freedom House New York review meeting for its annual Press Freedom Index on Feb. 13. Seo serves as an Asia-Pacific analyst for the Press Freedom Index, contributing to its reports and attending review meetings.

Eric Thomas, director of the Kansas Scholastic Press Association, attended the winter meeting of the Scholastic Journalism Division of AEJMC at the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Florida. At the conference, Thomas participated in a panel discussion about the participation of scholastic journalists as unpaid journalists for professional publications. He also acted as discussant for three papers presented at the meeting.

Associate Professor Max Utsler is presenting a two-day writing workshop for the seven-person corporate communications staff at ServiceMaster in Memphis. ServiceMaster owns and operates Terminix, Merry Maids, American Home Shield, Furniture Medic, AmeriSpec, ServiceMaster Restore and ServiceMaster Clean.

Utsler, Associate Professor Scott Reinardy and Media Crossroads Director Cal Butcher participated in the Athletes in Journalism and Communications community meeting March 9. The event allowed athletes to
talk with academics and professionals about career options. About 40 athletes participated. Utsler helped coordinate the event, which was also attended by retired professor Sharon Bass, and J-School alums David Johnston, Roger Twibell and Marty Raskin.

Utsler and doctoral student Chris Bacon visited with Kansas AudioReader volunteers about the ins and outs of reading sports, including where to find name pronunciations and how to interpret statistics.

Utsler attended the Broadcast Education Association Convention in Las Vegas April 12-15. He moderated a panel on “We’ve Added Sports Curricula: Can Our Students Get a Job?” He also was a participant in the Past Presidents Panel, which reflected on the history of BEA as a way to mark its 60th anniversary. Utsler also was elected chair of the Sports Division for 2015-2016.

Associate Professor Doug Ward led a focus group on things that help and hinder student progression toward degrees at KU at the recent Student Learning Symposium. Two journalism students, Katie Kutsko and Emma LeGault, also participated. Ward also created a parody video called Adventures in Assessment for the opening session of the symposium.