

APRIL 2023

# MILLER MINUTE

The Newsletter of the A.Q. Miller School of Media and Communication



## A BANNER YEAR FOR K-STATE STUDENT MEDIA

### Upcoming events

**May 3**

*End of Semester Celebration  
@ 2 p.m.  
Alumni Center*

**May 12**

*Graduate School Commencement  
@ 1 p.m.  
Bramlage Coliseum*

**May 13**

*College of Arts & Sciences  
Commencement  
@ 8:30 a.m.  
Bramlage Coliseum*

#### Miller Minute editors:

Raluca Cozma  
Aaron Trujillo

**Wildcat 91.9**, the country's oldest student-run radio station, received four national awards at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Awards in February, including Best College/University Station (Over 10,000 students category) and the Abraham and Borst Award for Best Radio Station in the Nation, the equivalent of a national championship in radio. Graduate Teaching Assistant **Kolby Van Camp** (pictured above, on the right) won the Best Graduate Assistant Award, and Programming and News Director **Dawson Wagner** was recognized for the Best News Feature Story.

Wildcat 91.9 Adviser and Chief Operator **Dr. Ian Punnett** credits his team of talented and dedicated students for these achievements. "Students are learning on five different levels, the community is engaged, and K-State's reputation as one of the premier media schools in the country is growing," he says. For a list of all award winners from all the categories, visit this [page](#).

At the Associated Collegiate Press conference in March, the 2022 **Royal Purple** yearbook won the national Pacemaker award for best college yearbook in the country. The Pacemaker is considered the Pulitzer of college journalism. **Hallie Everett** (pictured above, left), a Miller School alumna who served as the yearbook's 2022 editor-in-chief and is the current advisor, led a team of around 25 student writers, photographers, page designers and copy editors toward realizing their fullest potential. Collegian Media Group director **David Levy** praised the talented staff and reminded students that majors from across campus are welcome to join the student media operations at K-State. The Collegian is looking for both a talented page designer and website editor for the 2023-24 academic year. "Opportunities abound here," professor Levy said. **The Collegian** won Second Place for Best Newspaper at the College Media Association's National Spring Conference in New York City in March. **Manhappenin'** magazine won an Honorable Mention.

**Inhabiting the planet:  
Challenges for media,  
communication and  
beyond**

## SMC FACULTY TO PRESENT RESEARCH AT IAMCR

The annual conference of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) will take place in Lyon, France, July 9 - 13.

Several scholars from the A.Q. Miller School of Media and Communication had research papers accepted for presentation:

**Nancy Muturi** - Perceptions of Business-Community Partnerships in Addressing Climate Change Issues in Suburban Kenyan Communities.

**Sam Mwangi** - Environmental Accountability: Creating A Training Program for Community Journalists in Kansas to Help Build Consensus on Climate Change and Take Action.

**Sam Mwangi** - Open-Source Media Project: Community Attitudes after Five-Year Organizational Evolution.

**Huyen Nguyen & Katie Olsen** - The Impacts of Women Leadership on Gender Pay Gap and Firm Performance Within the Media Industry.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Master's students  
**Joyce Glasscock**  
**Grant Guggisberg**  
**Ngoc Yen My Nguyen**  
**Thuy Vu Vi Tran**

and **Dr. Sean Eddington**

for being inducted  
into the K-State chapter of Kappa Tau Alpha  
this spring.

The initiation ceremony will take place May 3  
at the Alumni Center  
during the SMC End-of-Semester Celebration.

# DR. KATIE OLSEN'S RESEARCH ON CAREER DEVELOPMENT EARNS COLLEGE AWARD

## Faculty Spotlight

**Dr. Katie Olsen** worked in the account management and strategy side of a marketing firm in Kansas City before moving to Manhattan and starting her career at K-State in 2010. She was an instructor for eight years, a Teaching Assistant Professor for two years, and is currently a tenure-track Assistant Professor. Her favorite aspect of the job is working with students. Dr. Olsen loves watching them grow and providing them support and guidance as they prepare to enter the PR/Advertising industry.



### • What are your research interests?

"My research explores diversity in the creative communication fields as well as the intersection of higher education and the industry as it relates to professional identity development of early-career professionals. My most recent project with Dr. Danielle LaGree was published in *Gender in Management* - "Taking action in the first five years to increase career equality: the impact of professional relationships on young women's advancement." The manuscript focused on organization and industry-wide professional relationship development as a key way to support early-career females; this is incredibly important because we found that a majority of our interviewees learned more about advocacy, leadership opportunities and work-life balance modeling from those around them rather than from any formal mentor."

### • Congratulations on receiving a Faculty Enhancement Program Award from the College of Arts & Sciences! What can you tell us about that project?

"The FEP Award will support my work on a project titled "Examining the DE&I experiences and perceptions of Latino/a/x students in PR leadership, mentorship, and career development." I'm excited about this project because it involves collaborating with researchers (Dr. Rosalynn Vasquez at Boston University and Dr. Adrienne Wallace at Grand Valley State University) who are equally passionate about uncovering ways that public relations leaders can improve diversity within the industry."

### • What do you like to do outside of work?

"I have three little boys (Connor, 8; Crosby, 5; Callen, 2) who keep us busy with all kinds of activities. For self-care I enjoy working out with friends and reading - historical fiction is my favorite genre!"

### • Any advice for graduate students?

"Take advantage of the community - the town of Manhattan has so much to offer if you look in the right places, and loving where you live can do so much for our mental health. Also - getting out of town to write was key to me finishing the big projects."



# GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Nicholas Aranda

Second-year master's student from Hereford, Texas. Double major in Peace Studies & Conflict Resolution and in Philosophy, Regis University in Denver.

### Why did you choose K-State?

I chose K-State because it made the most sense for me; though, outside of debate I had no real prior connection to communication studies and communication departments. Sometime around my spring semester senior year I realized that so many of the authors writing about the questions that interested me were housed in Communication departments. Kansas State offered me the competitive Donoghue Grant, which made the financial aid packaging extremely competitive and really made me feel valued; in fact, it gave me the sense that K-State had the resources and infrastructure to push me and help me grow. I was also really energized by the prospect of continuing my work with debate. Debate has always tethered me to the academy in a productive way and comforting way. The debate assistantship made K-State feel familiar before it really was. Among the different things I could have done after undergrad, coming to K-State felt the most right for me.

### What are your research interests?

My thesis occupies the majority of my intellectual bandwidth right now. My thesis develops a theory of attunement, the kind of attunement that makes best communicative practices with the non-human world possible or operationalizable. In the current climatic regime, we have an environmental and material imperative to de-center the human and craft experimental approaches to democratic practice. An environmental or material imperative necessitates that we take our kinship with the environment and non-human world seriously. I am especially interested in how the concept of attunement can help bridge the gap between posthumanist theories and practices of deliberative democracy. This work builds off conference presentations and papers I have been developing for the past two years, such as at the "'Strange Intimacies' International Affect Conference" at the University of Estonia. I chased a parallel project on how posthuman theories could share common interest with practitioners of deliberative democracy - this paper ultimately won best student paper at the Public Dialogue and Deliberation Division of the National Communication Association. I am always thinking about fascism, and what my research interests might be able to say about the fascist political challenges of our time. I also have sustained interests in war and security studies, and the effects of executive rhetoric on war onset.

### What are your long-term plans?

Right now I am keeping my options open. I take a lot of refuge in the process of discernment, which takes a lot of time and wrestling. I am weighing a few options ahead of me, from coaching and teaching to diversity and equity work. In the near future I may pursue law school.

### Any hobbies or fun facts about yourself that you'd like to share?

I am a big fan of sitcoms. I like to watch sitcoms to relax. I enjoy cooking and reading. I really enjoy playing tennis or pickle ball. My favorite animal is a bear.



In mid March, Nicholas participated in the Holbrook Championship for the Holbrook Cup at MetroState University in Denver, Colorado. The Holbrook Cup brings debaters from the United States in the Rocky Mountain Region into exhibitionist competition with the Irish National Debate Champions on the Irish tour as a part of the larger Irish Times Debates. Nicholas participated with a debater from Regis University on a hybrid K-State-Regis team and won the Holbrook Cup.

## SMC STUDENT WINS BEA AWARD



Channel 8 News / Wildcat Electronic Media reporter **Jacob Hall**, who graduated last year, was honored with an Award of Excellence (4th place nationally) with the Broadcast Education Association for his story "Opera Play-by-Play" about SMC master's student **Kolby Van Camp**'s unique touchdown call on the radio.

This is the first national placement for one of our students since 2016. You can watch the winning piece [here](#). Jacob joined the WGAL News 8 team in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in December 2022 as a Sports Anchor/Reporter.

## K-STATE REPRESENTED AT CENTRAL STATES

**Monica Reeves**, Leadership Communication PhD student and SMC instructor in communication studies, discussed her research and teaching of deliberation as part of a panel at the Central States Communication Association, held March 29 - April 2 in St. Louis.



# DR. ANAN WAN PUBLISHES STUDY ON SOCIAL COMPARISON AND COMPULSIVE BUYING

**Dr. Anan Wan** has recently co-authored an article titled "Processes underlying social comparison with influencers and subsequent impulsive buying: The roles of social anxiety and social media addiction," which has been published in the Journal of Marketing Communications. The research was conducted in collaboration with Dr. Juan Mundel from Arizona State University and Dr. Jing Yang from Loyola University Chicago.

Drawing on social comparison theory, the study explores the link between social comparison to influencers on social media and impulsive purchase behavior. The findings reveal that negative social comparison with influencers is positively associated with consumers' impulse buying, with anxiety and social media addiction acting as mediating factors. The article not only makes significant theoretical contributions to the fields of marketing communications and consumer well-being but also provides practical insights for social media marketers and advertisers.



## K-STATE DEBATE TEAM SIGNS NEW RECRUIT

March 2nd marked a big recruiting win for the Debate Team. Team Director **Dr. Alex McVey** was invited to Lawrence High School to do a "signing day" for an incoming debate recruit.

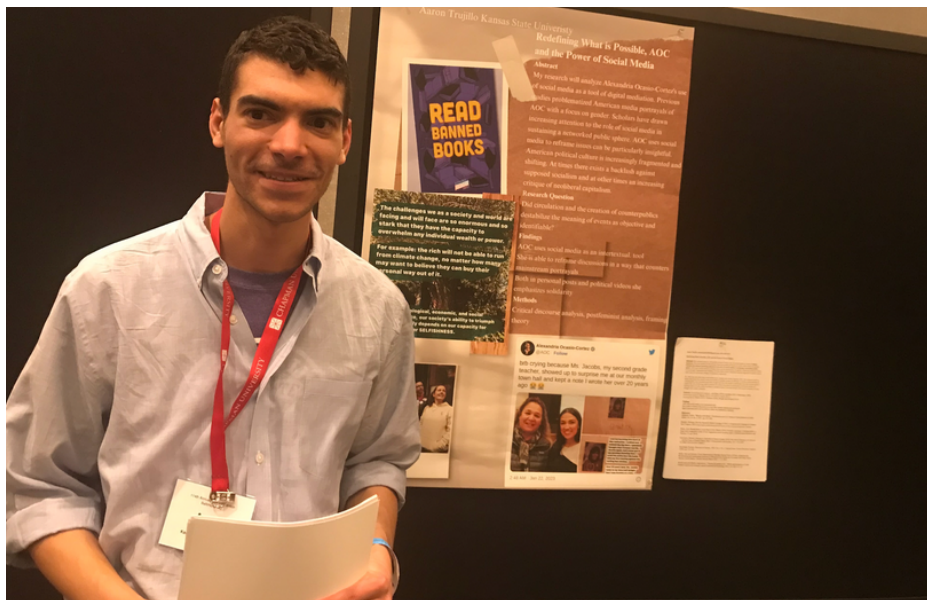
**Caitlin Sand** is a graduating senior for Lawrence High who will be coming to K-State to do debate. She is part of the first team from Lawrence High to ever receive a bid to the High School Tournament of Champions, a prestigious national championship tournament hosted by the University of Kentucky. Her debate partner is going to KU, and she is going to K-State, so they organized an event to celebrate each of them committing to their respective universities.

The parents and coaches wanted to use this event to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of students in debate in the same way that we celebrate the accomplishments of student athletes, and recognize the value of high school debate in Kansas as a pipeline to our state University system.

## AARON TRUJILLO REPRESENTS K-STATE AT EVENTS IN BALTIMORE AND TAMPA

On April 1st, second-year master's student **Aaron Trujillo** represented the A.Q. Miller School at the Eastern Communications Associations Conference in Baltimore. He received the Graduate Student Council Travel Award to present two papers. His first one was entitled "'Not Now, not ever' Situating Julia Gillard's Speech Against Misogyny on the Floor of Australia's Parliament." It was based on his work in Rhetorical Theory class in which he used gender to reconsider Lloyd Bitzer 1968 article, "The Rhetorical Situation." His second one, titled "I'm Not a hero... I'm Whatever Gotham Needs Me To Be," involved a visual rhetorical criticism of the 2008 film 'The Dark Knight.' He also organized and partook in a panel on "Expanding the Boundaries of Visual and Public Memory: Considering Baltimore Landmark." The photo features Fort McHenry, one of the sites visited and analyzed.

Aaron also received the K-State College of Arts & Sciences Student Research Travel Grant to attend the Southern Communication Association Convention in Tampa. He will serve as a discussant for a panel on "Co-Creating A Bright Future: Reducing Barriers to Equitable Graduate Student Experiences" and present a paper entitled "Much Ado About Gender: The Framing of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sexism." The paper analyzes American media portrayals of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's denouncement of Representative Ted Yoho on the House floor on July 22, 2020. By collecting and analyzing the newspaper coverage of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez after her speech against misogyny, Aaron sought to better understand how the media in the US exercises its role as an arbiter of gender norms related to political officials.





## CONGRATULATIONS!

Drs. **Dani LaGree** and **Heather Woods** on being promoted to associate professor with tenure!

MMC student **Nguyen Ngoc Yen My** on being admitted with funding to the doctoral program in Media and Public Affairs at theanship School of Mass Communication, Louisiana State University!

MCOMM student **Aaron Trujillo** on being admitted with funding to the doctoral program in Communication at George Mason University!



## DR. COLENE LIND LEADS K-STATE TEAM IN NATIONAL PROJECT ON DELIBERATION

This spring, K-State faculty and students participated in a national study of student deliberation alongside peers from the University of Houston and James Madison University. Sponsored by the Kettering Foundation, the large-scale, quasi-experimental study tests which of the following modes of communication is more effective for reducing polarization among young people: face-to-face, Zoom, or a text-based online platform called Common Ground for Action. To do so, undergraduates deliberated on “Youth and opportunity,” considering the pros and cons of policies on student aid, class sizes, minimum wage, and climate change.

More than 100 K-State students volunteered to be part of the study, benefiting not only scholarly knowledge but themselves through improved understanding of political difference. **Dr. Colene Lind** and leadership communication PhD student Keyhan Shams organized the K-State forums and are collaborating with the Kettering team on analysis.



## MASTER'S STUDENT MINA ANTWI RECOGNIZED BY INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES

On April 2, 2023, **Wilhelmina Antwi** was recognized by the International Student & Scholar Services for her hard work and dedication as an executive on the International Coordinating Council. Mina has served as a board member of the K State International Coordinating Council since May 2022. This semester, she helped organize six events (Fashion show, Talent show, Cultural exhibition, Panel discussion, a Parade and an International Dance lessons) for the International Week celebrations, which are a series of multicultural events that allow students and residents of the Manhattan community to showcase their diverse cultures. She also served as an MC for two of the events.

## JANVI AGGARWAL REPRESENTS K-STATE IN COMPETITIVE PROGRAM

PRSSA member and first-year master's student **Janvi Aggarwal** was one of 75 students nationwide selected to participate in Partners for Diversity: A PR & Marketing Career Preview, through FINN Partners and PRSSA.

FINN Partners is one of the fastest-growing global marketing and communications agencies in the world. Through the program, Janvi was paired with a mentor and participated in week-long programming and pitch brainstorming sessions that address diversity, equity, and inclusion issues in public relations. Janvi worked alongside other mentees to create a quick targeted media list, a short pitch, and follow-up tactics. As a graduate of the program, Janvi will have the opportunity to apply for upcoming internship positions at FINN.

