

FEBRUARY 2023

MILLER MINUTE

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

DR. JACOB GROSHEK LAUNCHES INSTITUTE FOR REPRESENTATION IN SPORTS AND MEDIA WITH WORKSHOP ON AI AND ANALYTICS



Dr. Jacob Groshek is the Executive Director of the recently formed Institute for Representation in Sports and Media (IRSM), a non-profit research organization that produces original knowledge on race and gender in sports and media, and provides publicly available training in media literacy and engagement. The institute's board members include college athletes, political activists, military, and scholars at leading research organizations such as Harvard, the University of Minnesota, Boston University, Indiana University, and K-State. A common thread that unites them all is a dedication to making the world a better place through facilitating and expanding the reach of expert research for better representation.

The IRSM is announcing its launch workshop on **Analytics In Media Literacy (AIML)** to be held Saturday, May 20, 11AM – 3PM CDT, at the K-State Olathe campus (22201 W Innovation Dr 22201 West Innovation Drive Olathe, KS 66061). Participants can earn a badge in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning systems for Analytics In Media Literacy and also gain access to cutting edge tools. The workshop is dedicated to exploring contemporary notions of media literacy, particularly through the lens of artificial intelligence and its consequences. During this event, attendees will learn how to use AI and ML for media literacy, as well as explore new directions for research in a continuously evolving field, considering artificial intelligence and its intersections with critically important issues such as extended reality, algorithmic justice, and computational literacies.

Faculty and staff who are interested in contributing as speakers, panelists, or in any other capacity are invited to reach out to **Dr. Groshek**. Rob Eschmann from Columbia University is slated as the keynote speaker, but there are many opportunities to be involved.

Upcoming events & deadlines

February 13 - 17

Attend K-State Social Media Week



March 15

Apply for A.Q. Miller School scholarships

CONGRATULATIONS!

SMC instructor and Leadership Communication doctoral student **Sakshi Bhati** conducted WEB AIM computer automated analysis of web accessibility to assess the general accessibility of online environmental web pages. The study, co-authored with Dr. Alicia Mason (Pittsburg State University) and Dr. Josh Compton (Dartmouth College), was published this winter in the Western Journal of Communication.

Dr. Huyen Nguyen's research titled "Blockholdings across Publicly Traded News Media Firms in the United States" has been accepted for presentation by the Scientific Committee of the World Media Economics and Management Conference, May 15-18, in Seoul, Korea.

Master's student **My Nguyen**'s paper titled "The Former President and January 6 U.S Capitol Attack - How Trump Weaponized His Rhetoric" was accepted for publication in the Southwestern Mass Communication Journal.

DR. GREG PAUL'S TRAINING IN DIALOGUE AND ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION INFORMS HIS LEADERSHIP AS WELL AS HIS SCHOLARLY PURSUITS

Faculty Spotlight

Why should a prospective student, graduate or undergraduate, choose the A.Q. Miller School of Media and Communication?

"The A.Q. Miller School is home to outstanding and caring faculty experts who are at the leading edges of their fields, who are committed to student success, and who are teaching and researching in areas that are making an impact in our communities, workplaces, industries, and relationships. If students are looking for programs and people that will help them to be life ready, that will empower them to make change, that can be personalized to fit their interests, and that will prepare them for what's next, the A.Q. Miller School of Media and Communication is the community for them. This is in addition to all that K-State and Manhattappiness have to offer."



Dr. Greg Paul serves as the director of the A.Q. Miller School of Media and Communication since June 2022.

What school initiatives or undertakings are you most excited about in the coming year?

"I'm especially energized by the strategic planning work we're doing as a School. We have so much to offer through our academic programs, our research, and our engagement. Our faculty, staff, and students are, in a word, excellent, and they bring so much to the table. The plan we'll be laying out together will build on our shared and unique strengths, our commitment to career and community readiness, and our aim to empower people and relationships to thrive."

Tell us about your research interests and the kind of projects you'd welcome students to reach out to you about.

"My training is in restorative justice, conflict transformation, dialogue, and organizational communication. I'm curious about how people work through differences and how we set up systems in our relationships, workplaces, and communities that foster support, transformation, and learning. I appreciate the many ways we use communication to make our worlds and to make progress in making those worlds better. It is no surprise that much of the fracturing and strain we see around us can be traced to breakdowns and differences in how we communicate and make sense of ourselves and each other. I'm passionate about building structures and processes that enable all of us to experience growth, learning, belonging, and support."

What graduate course are you teaching next fall?

"I'm teaching Communication Theory. Looking forward to it!"

What do you like to do outside of work?

"I love all the time I have with my wife and two kids. We stay pretty busy between the kids' activities and our family groups! In my downtime, I enjoy being able to walk outside and read nonfiction."

Any advice for graduate students?

"Take time to explore new ideas! Talk with your peers and your professors, read with curiosity, and take advantage of the different opportunities you have to connect and develop."

MASTER'S STUDENT EARNS COMPETITIVE GRANT AND REPRESENTS K-STATE AT SEVERAL CONFERENCES

On February 17th, second-year master's student in communication studies **Aaron Trujillo** will be presenting a paper titled "Corporate Backlash As Postfeminism" at the Cultural Studies & Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Graduate Student Organization Symposium hosted by the University of Pittsburgh. He has also been awarded a 2023 Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences Small Grant by the K-State Graduate School.

As part of his thesis research, Aaron will travel to Maryland and gather information on early political campaign efforts of The National Organization for Women. Aaron presented at the 3-Minute Thesis competition at K-State on February 8. On January 26th, he traveled to the University of California Davis to for the *Decolonizing the Representation of Muslim Women in the Media Training Institute*. He will apply what he learned as he interviews newly elected representatives for a narrative podcast series on Muslim identity and political agency.



JOURNALISM STUDENT SELECTED TO PRESENT AT KANSAS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAYS



In December 2023, a [special Channel 8 News report](#) by Eden Brockman examined political polarization through a series of interviews, surveys, and round tables.

Mass communications senior **Eden Brockman** was selected to present her research on political polarization among Gen-Z Kansans at the 2023 Kansas Undergraduate Research Days. The Kansas Regents institutions jointly host this event. Eden is one of 40 students presenting during the March 1-3 virtual event and one of only five students representing K-State.

Brockman found in her research that in-person conversations about politics with those of differing political ideologies led to decreased polarization among participants. Brockman also created a [video special](#) for Channel 8 News that outlines her study in more detail, interviews faculty experts, and discusses democracy internationally.

Professors **Andrew Smith** and **Raluca Cozma** helped advise Eden in her research. Beyond her research, Eden participates in Snyder Leadership Legacy Fellows, Wildcat Watch, and The Collegian Media Group. Eden is passionate about solutions journalism, being involved in her community, and lifelong learning.

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Joyce Glasscock

Second-year master's student **Joyce Glasscock** earned a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Missouri. Her experience spans government and politics and includes service as Chief of Staff to the Kansas governor and as a state cabinet official. In Washington, DC, she worked on Capitol Hill as press secretary for a House member, and correspondent for a U.S. Senator. Her campaign involvement includes leading a successful gubernatorial campaign in Kansas and serving as press secretary for a U.S. Senate campaign and field representative for a presidential campaign. Joyce also provided government relations support for nine years to Boys & Girls Clubs of America. This semester, Joyce is teaching two sections of public speaking at K-State.

Why did you choose K-State and SMC?

"I came back to advance my education at K-State and SMC because of my desire to use my experiences to write about and educate others about government and politics. My goal is to use both my experience with government and with youth to teach government in high school."

What are your research interests?

"My areas of scholarly interest and professional experience include campaigns, elections, and federal and state government. My thesis analyzes gendered campaign communications in the 2022 Kansas governor's race between Governor Laura Kelly and Attorney General Derek Schmidt and undertakes quantitative content analysis and interviews with the governor and her campaign staff. This work also has been accepted as a chapter in an upcoming book *Media Messages in the 2022 Midterm Election: Division, Deniers, Dobbs, and the Donald*, editors, John Allen Hendricks and Dan Schill."

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

"Over the last two years, I've had the opportunity to attend K-State with both of my sons—one graduated in 2022, and one is a freshman this year. Go K-State!"



HONORS STUDENT HEADED TO THE WESTERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS RESEARCH CONFERENCE



Communication studies senior **Chase Jordan** turned their 62-page undergraduate honors thesis written during the fall 2022 semester into a paper that was accepted for presentation at the Western States Communication Association Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference. The conference is scheduled to take place February 17-20 in Phoenix, Arizona. Titled "Developing Interculturally Responsive Pedagogy for Public Speaking Courses in Higher Education: A Mode of Addressing Cultural Centrism through Instruction," Chase's paper explores the cultural centrism of public speaking instruction in higher education by (1) reviewing the academic literature pertaining to interculturally responsive pedagogies (IRP), (2) providing exhibits for integrating more progressive instructional models, and (3) discussing logistical and sociocultural implications with recommendations for future research.

The purpose of this research is to contribute to intercultural pedagogical studies by producing a tangible example of IRP application for the college public speaking course.

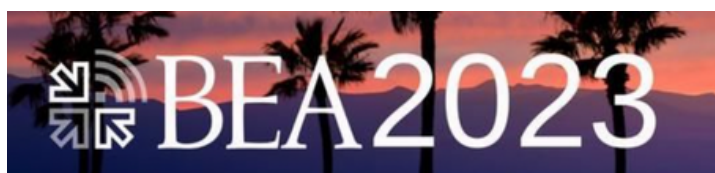
A.Q. MILLER FACULTY TO ATTEND BEA

The Broadcast Education Association (BEA) is an international academic media organization driving insights and excellence in media production and career advancement for educators, students, and professionals. BEA's annual convention traditionally produces more than 250 sessions on media pedagogy, collaborative networking events, hands-on technology workshops, research and creative scholarship and the Festival of Media Arts. It is co-located with the NAB Show, this year celebrating its 100th anniversary, each April in Las Vegas.

This year, **Tom Hallaq** serves as the inaugural chair of the Graduate Student Competition in the BEA Festival of Media Arts. Dr. Hallaq will be presenting awards to outstanding graduate student media producers. He will also be attending various pre- and post-Festival leadership and planning meetings.

Nikhil Moro, who serves as the vice chair of the Law & Policy division and coordinated the solicitation, submission, and review of the division's research paper competition and panel discussions during the conference, will speak at a panel on current issues in law and policy, oversee the annual division meeting, and moderate the top research presentations session.

Andrew Smith is a member of several interest division groups, including the News and Sports division. He will be attending sessions to catch up on some of the latest developments in media education, build partnerships with other university journalism programs, and research new tests and educational strategies. He will also be seeking election as an officer in division leadership.



SMC FACULTY AND STUDENTS TO PRESENT AT THE AEJMC MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

The February 24-25 conference will take place in Norman, Oklahoma, and will feature the following K-State presentations:

- **Sakshi Bhati, Nancy Muturi, & Raluca Cozma** - "Examining the Determinants of Social Media Engagement and Online COVID-19 Information Sharing based on Social Cognitive Theory"
- **My Nguyen & Uyen Diep** - "Academic Twitter's Doomsday? A Social Network Analysis of The Academic Community on Twitter After Elon Musk's Takeover."
 - **My Nguyen** was awarded an Arts & Sciences Travel Scholarship to attend the conference.
- **Jana Thomas** - "Development of a Social Media Citizenship Scale for Middle School and High School Students: A Media Use-Centric Approach."
- **Jana Thomas** - "Predicting Adolescent Social Media Behavior: Social Media Use Motivations Among Middle School and High School Students and their Connection to Positive and Negative Social Media Behaviors."
- **Maddie Wilson & Huyen Nguyen** - "VR Video Genres, Immersive Characteristics, and Audience Engagement on YouTube VR Channel."
 - **Maddie Wilson** was awarded an Arts & Sciences Travel Scholarship to attend the conference. The research paper is her Honors project.

DR. NANCY MUTURI AWARDED CARNEGIE FELLOWSHIP



Dr. Nancy Muturi is spending her Spring 2023 sabbatical conducting research on health and risk communication in Kenya.

Dr. Nancy Muturi was awarded a fellowship by the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program to travel to Kenya to work with Daystar University on collaborative research and graduate training and mentorship. Dr. Muturi will visit Kenya this semester as part of her sabbatical.

As a Carnegie Fellow, Muturi will contribute to the communication studies department at Daystar University through mentorship of master's and Ph.D. students who are in the process of writing their theses and dissertations. She will also facilitate research seminars for faculty and graduate students. "This is a great opportunity for me to collaborate with colleagues in African institutions. It's quite fulfilling to share my African-based research where it matters most and to know that I am making a difference," Dr. Muturi said.

Dr. Muturi and her host, Dr. Evonne Mwangale, a lecturer at the school, will also facilitate a day-long workshop on health communication in the African context. The goal of the workshop, which is also supported by the Carnegie Foundation, is to bring together health communication scholars and practitioners from other institutions and local organizations to discuss ongoing projects in the country. "We hope to select some of those projects in a proposed health communication case studies book that can be used for teaching purposes," Dr. Muturi said.

This is the second time Dr. Muturi is awarded the fellowship. In 2016, she visited the United State International University-Africa (USIU) for curriculum development and graduate training and mentorship.

"African students are very hardworking, and they like to know how they compare with American students. I learned a lot from them too, so I'm sure it will be an exciting visit," Dr. Muturi said. The Daystar University project is one of 63 new projects that pair African Diaspora scholars with higher education institutions and collaborators in Africa to work together on curriculum co-development, collaborative research, graduate training, and mentoring activities in 2023.

The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program, now in its tenth year, is designed to strengthen capacity at the host institutions and develop long-term, mutually-beneficial collaborations between universities in Africa and the United States.

SMC PROFESSOR AND STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE AT CONFERENCE ON COMPUTER-ASSISTED REPORTING

A.Q. Miller School journalism student and ambassador **Kelsey Volk** was awarded an IRE (Investigative Reporters and Editors) Fellowship to attend the 2023 National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting (NICAR) Conference taking place March 2-5 in Nashville, TN.

The *Collegian* staff writer will be joined by **Carter Schaffer** (Editor-in-chief, *Collegian*) and **Zoe Schumacher** (page chief designer, *Collegian*), who also had their registration fees waived. Together with **Dr. Huyen Nguyen**, the K-State team will participate in a panel session titled "AI Art Creation: From the Classroom to the Newsroom" on March 4 at the NICAR 2023 conference.



Miller Minute editors:

Raluca Cozma
Aaron Trujillo