

## Brill Named Interim Dean; Search to Continue in Fall



**P**rovost David Shulenburger announced April 20 the appointment of Associate Professor Ann Brill as interim dean

of the J-School. Brill will begin July 1 and serve for one year. After seven years as dean, Jimmy Gentry will step down to return to teaching and research.

Brill, a faculty member since 2000, is head of the News and Information track. Before coming to KU, she taught at the University of Missouri-Columbia for eight years. She has worked at newspapers in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Montana.

Brill is active in the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, and the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications.

Brill earned a B.A. in journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; an M.A. in journalism at Marquette University; and a Ph.D. in mass communication at the University of Minnesota.

Two candidates for dean were interviewed this year. The school's search committee will continue its search for a full-time replacement in fall. □

## New J-School Alumni Communications Coming Soon

**C**ommunicating with you, our J-School alumni and friends, is a top priority. We are making major changes to improve this.

We have created an Annual Report that will be mailed this summer.

The Jayhawk Journalist alumni magazine now will be published in the fall by Jennifer Kinnard, the School's communications coordinator, with assistance from student writers.

J-Links will be refocused from a general newsletter to a publication for the J-School's Dean's Club donors.

We also are working on a major redesign of the J-School's Web site ([www.journalism.ku.edu](http://www.journalism.ku.edu)), to be unveiled this fall. These efforts are designed to provide consistent and high-quality information.

Following are a few of the stories we are preparing for the upcoming Annual Report: news from the two tracks and grad program; technology update; the Bremner Center for writing and editing; international projects; regional activities; and a Roll of Honor recognizing our generous donors. □

## J-School to Open Multimedia Newsroom in Fall

**P**icture this: Reporters and editors buzz about a glassed-in room packed with high-definition video monitors and computers. One editor watches a wall with nine plasma television screens on it, each tuned to a different newscast. Another gets an e-mail news tip on her wireless laptop. She places a conference call to editors and producers in another building.

It all happens in the blink of an eye. The newsroom, a nerve center that sends out messages to print, online, television and radio reporters, is in constant motion.

This high-tech news center is not part of CNN in Atlanta or the Tribune Company in Chicago. Rather, it will be built on the University of Kansas campus at the School of Journalism.

This summer, crews will demolish the second floor lobby and a classroom in the Dole Center and begin construction of a state-of-the-art, multimedia newsroom. The new facility is an



Dick Nelson, KUJH-TV newsroom supervisor, and Professor Rick Musser discuss plans at the site of the future Multimedia Newsroom in Dole.

integral part of the J-School's effort to develop a curriculum that prepares its students for the new reality of media, a reality in which journalists are increasingly expected to be fluent in both electronic and print production.

The newsroom will give journalism students who have been trained in the fundamentals of multimedia

*(Multimedia Newsroom--continued on page 2)*

*(Multimedia Newsroom--continued from page 1)*

editing and reporting a chance to apply the skills they have learned in a real world, cutting-edge environment.

“Now we are going to have a place where we can take students and say, ‘Here is where it all comes together,’” said Ann Brill, who will take over duties as interim journalism dean in July. “We hope it is going to be a showroom and that there is going to be a certain ‘wow’ factor to it. But also it is going to be producing serious journalism.”

While the main offices for the University Daily Kansan will remain in Stauffer-Flint Hall, part of the construction plan includes the installation of high-capacity networking equipment that will link the Kansan office to the new newsroom. This will allow all of the School’s news outlets to confer with one another on news production and to share and cross-promote content.

“In some ways, what we are talking about is putting a smorgasbord out there for all the media that are in the School of Journalism,” said Rick Musser, professor of

journalism, who will manage the newsroom and teach a multimedia reporting class in the new facility. “We want the television station, radio station, Kansan.com, and the Kansan to be able to pick from the content our classes and other outlets produce, in addition to what they are already doing.”

Though ideas for the newsroom had been tossed around for a few years, a \$200,000 donation from Stan and Madeline Stauffer turned what might have been a dream into a feasible plan. That donation will help the Journalism School take a crucial step in continuing to establish itself as one of the cutting-edge programs in the nation.

“The newsroom will give us a chance to produce truly cross-platform media out of one center,” said Jimmy Gentry, who will step down as journalism dean July 1. “According to Quill magazine, the School of Journalism is considered a national leader in curricular innovation. The newsroom lets us extend that innovation to the application stage.” □

*By Jay Senter, Prairie Village graduate student*

## Student and Faculty Achievements: 2003-04 Highlights

### ⇒ Student Highlights:

The School of Journalism placed 10th overall in the **William Randolph Hearst writing competitions** this year, with four individual winners.

Journalism students received 14 awards, six of them first places, in the **Society of Professional Journalists Region 7 Mark of Excellence** competition.

Students won 14 awards, seven of them first places, in the **Kansas Association of Broadcasters** student competition.

**Michelle Burhenn Rombeck** placed first in the **Roy Howard Public Affairs Reporting** contest for her story on the date rape drug.

KU students swept the **AEJMC magazine startup competition** in August—first went to **Jegen Mcdermott**, second to **Maggie Koerth** and third to **Lindsey Hodel**.

**Jennifer Overstreet**, a senior in strategic communications, was named outstanding woman student in partnership at the KU Women’s Recognition Ceremony.

**Jennifer Byrd**, a graduate student, has been selected as one of 13 interns in the Washington Center for Politics and Journalism fall semester program.

**Laura Dakhil** received the Caryl K. Smith Student Leader Award for her academic achievement and involvement in and commitment to her sorority, the KU Greek community, KU and the Lawrence community.



Laura Dakhil with Dean Jimmy Gentry.

### ⇒ Faculty Highlights:

**John Hudnall** is president of the Scholastic Journalism Division of AEJMC this year and next.

**Ann Brill** is vice chair and will become chair in August of the AEJMC Professional Freedom and Responsibility Committee, a major standing committee. She also is chair of the KU Faculty Executive Committee’s Research Committee.

**Susanne Shaw** is on the membership committee of the Association of American Law Schools in Washington.

**John Broholm** chairs the Standing Committee on New Degrees and Degree Program Changes of the KU Graduate Council.

**Kerry Benson** and **Malcolm Gibson** were honored at the Center for Teaching Excellence Celebration of Teaching reception.

## New Faces in the J-School

**B**arbara Barnett and Barrett Sydnor joined the faculty this year as tenure-track assistant professors. Barnett teaches Media & Society and Research & Writing. Sydnor teaches Sales Strategy and Research & Writing.

Jack Schwartz has also joined the team as the KU Endowment Association's development director for the School of Journalism.

We are continuing to grow to meet our students' needs with the hire of two new faculty members. Douglas Ward, editing, and Kristen Swain, science journalism, will join us in August 2004.

For more details about new J-School faculty and staff, check out the J-School's Annual Report this summer.



Jack Schwartz, Barbara Barnett and Barrett Sydnor

## New Journalism Course Offerings: Broadening the Student Education Experience

**T**he J-School is offering students more opportunities to gain experience with campus media and to work with professional newspapers in Kansas.

Magazine students now have the opportunity to work on a weekly lifestyle magazine called Jayplay, which is inserted in the University Daily Kansan.

Magazine Writing replaced Advanced Magazine Production last fall, and instead of producing one issue of the Jayhawk Journalist, the class produces Jayplay each week. The Jayhawk Journalist alumni magazine will be produced by Jennifer Kinnard, the School's communications coordinator, with assistance from student writers.

"More students have the opportunity to participate, and students have the chance to recover from their mistakes. It is a much better learning experience," Carol Holstead, associate professor and Jayplay instructor, said.

Students write a department of the magazine every two weeks, an essay and one long article per semester. The magazine has a student editor, and the students use their own ideas for stories and designs each week.

For the first time this spring, Science Reporting is being offered as an advanced media course. Rick Musser team-teaches the course with Rex Buchanan, associate director for public outreach at Kansas Geological Survey, and Roger Martin, research writer for KU Center for Research.

Students write stories for Kansan.com, cover the science beat for the Kansan and have material published on the KU Center for Research Web site. Kristen Swain, a new faculty member who will specialize in science and medical reporting, will teach the course in the fall.

Susanne Shaw's Community Journalism students also gain experience working at the Lawrence Journal-World. Students work two four-hour shifts each week at the

newspaper. Most of the students work as reporters, but two are copy editors. Students are expected to publish stories each week and write for three different special sections. "This course complements the Kansan and gives students the opportunity to work on a professional newspaper," Shaw said.

Students said they enjoyed the opportunities the class has opened for them. Three students in this semester's class will have internships at the Lawrence Journal-World or Channel 6 News this summer. Jennifer Byrd, graduate student, thinks her experience in the class helped her get an internship in Washington, D.C., next fall.

Peggy Kuhr teaches Community, Media and Credibility. It is the second semester the course has been offered, but it is the first time it has been open to undergraduates. The class examines the credibility problems of the news media today, and the strategies news organizations are using to improve credibility.

This semester the class is working with the Junction City Daily Union to research the media needs of two different groups in the community. One group of students held an afternoon forum on May 4 with Junction City High School students. The goal of the forum was to learn where high school students receive most of their news and the students' opinions of the Daily Union. Another group of students held a May 4 forum with soldiers from Fort Riley about news, their lives at the post and the Daily Union.

As part of their final project, students will develop a report with recommendations for the editor of the Daily Union. "One goal of the forums is to give KU students real experience listening to members of the community – to promote a discussion with people not as sources but as consumers of news," Kuhr said. □

*By Lindsey Scott, Emporia junior*

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A publication for alumni and friends of the University of Kansas William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications



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## Online Journalism Class Creates Brown v. Topeka Board of Education Web Site

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the monumental Brown v. Topeka Board of Education Supreme Court case decision that led to nationwide school desegregation. Opponents of segregation used the 14th Amendment, which provides equal protection under the law to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, to argue that school segregation was unconstitutional. They won.

Associate Professor Ann Brill wanted to give students, faculty and anyone interested in learning more about the case an accurate representation of it and the people involved, as well as to commemorate the event by creating a dynamic Web site to celebrate the anniversary.

Brill, Staci Wolfe, graduate teaching assistant, and the

Online Journalism students designed a Web site from start to finish. The case originated less than 30 miles from the University of Kansas campus, so it was fitting that the class take an active role in the anniversary by creating an online resource for Internet users.

“This case changed the lives of people throughout the

country,” Brill said. “The students learned a lot about the lives of those involved and the changes that took place because some people stood up for what was right. This site tells those stories--that’s what good journalism does.”

The class was divided into two teams: one to manage content and one to oversee design. Team members were responsible for either research and writing content or the architecture and design of the Web site. In addition, students wrote individual stories about key figures, which are featured in the profile section of the site.

“The students learned a lot about what goes into developing a Web site from the ground up. It was a great learning experience for them,” Wolfe said.

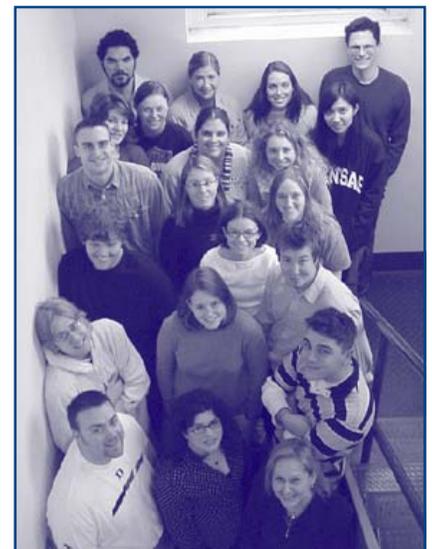
The Monroe School in Topeka, where the events of the case took place, is being turned into a National Historic Site. This site is set to open to visitors this month.

To find out more about the case and upcoming events or to visit the Web site, go to [www.ku.edu/~ojclass/brown](http://www.ku.edu/~ojclass/brown). □

By Ashley Arnold, Omaha, Neb., senior



Web site: [www.ku.edu/~ojclass/brown](http://www.ku.edu/~ojclass/brown)



Brill's Online Journalism class