

During the month of October, the J-School participated in the campus-wide food drive as part of KU Fights Hunger Month. Donations supported Just Food and the Douglas County Food Bank.

Media Director and Content Strategist Brett Akagi participated in the Kansas Association of Broadcasters Student Seminar in Salina, Kansas. Akagi viewed and critiqued video projects from four Kansas High Schools. The students learned about visual concepts, graphics, shooting, writing and editing.

This year's military and the media workshop, "Bridging the Gap: A Military Experience for Journalists," coordinated by Barbara Barnett and Tom Volek, included 14 journalists who interacted with officers at Fort Leavenworth and enlisted personnel at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. This workshop marks the sixth year that the J-School has helped facilitate communication between journalists and the military, with funding provided through a grant from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Bob Basow's Campaigns class is conducting a survey for its client, KU Information Technology, to assess student technology needs and opinions.

Lecturer Kerry Benson discussed health crisis communication on Oct. 3 to the Midwest Transplant Network, the organ procurement organization for the state of Kansas and the western two-thirds of Missouri. MTN professionals deal with all potential organ and tissue donors in that service area and are also highly involved with health care providers to advise on organ and tissue donation. Benson presented as part of the organization's annual review and education for its regional staff.

Benson served as a judge for SUA's Dancing with the Stars (KU version) on Oct. 18. Journalism student Michael Garrett served as emcee for the annual contest that combines student dance majors with prominent KU personalities.

Benson served as a judge on March 7 for the Business Marketing Association's Fountain Awards, a national strategic communication competition that rewards excellence in business-to-business advertising and public relations.

Benson spoke on persuasion in communication to the Leawood Chamber of Commerce's Young Professionals on April 23 and to the KC Freelance Exchange on April 24.

Benson was the keynote speaker on May 2 at the annual spring conference for the International Public Management Association for Human Resources. She spoke on persuasion. The IPMA-HR Greater KC Chapter is a non-profit organization comprised of human resource professionals from area cities, counties, state, federal and non-profit organizations throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Assistant Professor Yvonne Chen recently provided a peer review of an online course (Research Methods in Human Development) created by Dr. Kee Jeong Kim of the Human Development Department in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech. Dr. Kim, who won a university-wide teaching award in the spring, uses the Quality Matters model to evaluate course instruction. An award from the Virginia Tech provost funded development of her course.

Assistant Professor Jerry Crawford was invited to be part of a panel on HBCUs and Networking held by the American Educational Research Association (AERA). He was invited by Dr. Ivory Toldson, deputy director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The panel discussed how HBCUs can play a major role in expanding college access to school-age Black males. Check out more information on the project - <http://sites.ed.gov/whhbcu/2014/03/14/hbcus-are-my-brothers-keeper/>.

Visiting Professor Dawn Fallik live-blogged the opening and closing Olympic ceremonies for The Wall Street Journal's culture section. Fallik also wrote an article for Al-Jazeera America about the True/False Film Festival in Columbia, Mo. Check it out here.

Pam Fine, Knight Chair in News, Leadership and Community, was a judge for two national journalism contests recently: the ASNE Writing Awards and the Scripps Howard Foundation Awards. Fine joined

editors from around the country at the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, FL., for each of the judging sessions. Fine also brought Mike Ventura, managing editor of DNAInfo/New York, to the J-school as part of an AEJMC/Scripps Howard Social Media externship she was awarded last year. Fine spent two weeks last summer at the news site. In return, Ventura visited classes to share his experiences and expertise.

Associate Professor Muger Geana participated at the meeting of the Technical Advisors for the Hispanic and Latin American Affairs Commission in Topeka, KS. Geana advised on communication strategies addressing health disparities and proposed that community-based research on health topics should be discussed during the Hispanic Day at the Capitol in March 2014.

Geana has been asked to serve as a panelist at the 2014 Joan Berkley Bioethics Symposium on April 25, 2014. The event, organized by the Center for Practical Bioethics, brings together clinicians, patients, patient advocates, researchers and non-profit organizations to discuss about promoting continuous improvement in quality of care and about ethical issues linked to the transformations that the US health care system is currently undergoing. Dr. Geana will talk about how public health and mass media research can be used to better inform journalists, clinicians and the general public about important health care issues.

Lecturer Patty Noland served on a panel for Communications Studies 330 – Effective Business Communication – on May 8. The purpose of the panel discussion was for the students to learn more about how the job search process works and how to obtain a first job.

Associate Professor Scott Reinardy hosted “Inside the Writer’s Room: A Conversation with Sports Illustrated’s Gary Smith” as the public event for his 2014 Budig Writing Professorship. The event was Tuesday, April 22, in the Clarkson Gallery and was preceded by a hotdog luncheon for attendees.

Assistant Professor Hyunjin Seo gave a 3-hour workshop on social media and integrated communications on Friday, January 17 for KU Ph.D. students holding the Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellowship. The Self Fellowship is aimed at identifying, recruiting and providing development opportunities for "exceptional Ph.D. students" in different fields. Seo’s workshop covered how scholars and scientists can use social media to better manage their professional reputation online, effectively communicate research activities with journalists and the public, and enhance research collaborations.

Seo visited Beijing, China from February 21-25 as part of a three-person U.S. delegation from the U.S.-DPRK Scientific Engagement Consortium. During her visit, she met with counterparts from North Korea’s State Academy of Sciences giving a presentation on digital media use and presentation skills and discussing bilateral exchange projects. The meetings were funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.

Seo participated in a review meeting for the Freedom House's annual Press Freedom Index in its New York office on February 28. Seo serves as an Asia-Pacific analyst for the Press Freedom Index contributing to its reports and attending review meetings.

Seo chaired a Communication Technology Division session on government involvement in communication technology networks.

Associate Professor Max Utsler worked at the Kansas Speedway in the press box for the Camping World Truck Series and the NASCAR Sprint Cup Race.

Utsler served as chair of the University Senate Athletic Committee for the coming school year.

Students in Associate Professor Doug Ward’s intersession class created a mobile website for the School of Journalism. The site focuses on recruiting, with such elements as video tours of StaufferFlint and Dole, information about academic programs, and a convenient way to use a mobile phone to schedule a visit. Students also created a social media and marketing plan, along with suggestions for expanding the site to include mobile access to services like lab signups, equipment checkout, and advising appointments. Check out the site (from your mobile device) here - <http://j500.drupal.ku.edu/>.

Ward led a session called Teaching One-on-One at the Center for Teaching Excellence last week. The session was for new graduate teaching assistants from eight university departments.

Ward and Sarah Crawford-Parker, director of the Office of First-Year Experience, led a panel discussion at the Center for Teaching Excellence titled What Freshmen Have to Say About Their Transition to College. Two journalism students, Mackenzie Eckman and Dani Malakoff, were part of a panel of students who talked about their first semester at KU. Ward also led a session titled Teaching One on One for graduate teaching assistants from education and speech-language hearing.

Ward co-led a session at the national conference of the American Copy Editors Society. The session, "Words of Respect," focused on writing about people with disabilities. Val Renault, communications coordinator of the Research and Training Center on Independent Living at KU, joined him in leading the session.

Ward led a workshop at the summer symposium of the Hybrid Learning Consortium at the Barstow School in Kansas City, Mo.

Ward gave a workshop on using iPads for teaching and learning to the faculty of Bishop Seabury Academy in Lawrence.