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Above & Beyond: Celebrating outstanding employees and undergraduate research

Kansas State University Libraries

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ABOVE & BEYOND

K-State Libraries honored several employees at its annual recognition ceremony on March 14, 2017.

Tara Coleman, web services librarian, received the Brice G. Hobrock Distinguished Faculty Award, which recognizes outstanding librarianship.

Coleman has been a librarian since 2005. She currently manages the Libraries' web presence and is chair of the K-State Book Network (KSBN). She received her master's in library and information science from the University of Oklahoma.

Julie Bell, systems administrator, received the Dean's Award, which recognizes a non-tenure track professional staff member.

Bell has been responsible for the upkeep and configuration of the organization's hundreds of computers since 2013. She recently took on an additional load when she served as interim department supervisor. Bell received her bachelor's in agriculture with a minor in business from K-State.

Duncan Robak, Library Assistant III, was chosen as Support Staff employee of the Year.

Robak manages day to day stacks operations; his duties include searching for requested materials and shifting the collections as necessary, among numerous other tasks. He received his master's in library and information science from Syracuse University.

THE KIRMSER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

The Kirmser Award recognizes and promotes outstanding undergraduate scholarship. Every year, submissions come from a diverse range of academic fields, from agricultural engineering to children's literature. Applications are evaluated based on use of library resources, and winners receive a $1,000 prize.

Emma Brase, a freshman in psychology from Manhattan, won the Individual Freshman Category with "Visual Neglect and Mental Representations: Current Status and Issues." She completed the project for honors credit in PSYCH 110: General Psychology, taught by Jessica Williamson, instructor of psychology.

Noelle Doty, a senior in communications studies from Fort Collins, Colo., won the Individual Non-Freshman Category with "Caught in the Middle: Empowerment in Middle Managers," her project for COMM 550: Senior Colloquium, taught by Greg Paul, associate professor of communications studies.

The winners in the Group Category were **Tia' Gamble**, a senior in economics and business management from De Soto, Tex.; **Connor Knutson**, an entrepreneurship major from Overland Park, Kan. (not pictured); and **Caitlyn Webb**, a senior in accounting and economics from Manhattan. They completed "First Watch Franchise Expansion Proposal," for ENGL 417: Written Communication for the Workplace, taught by Maggie Borders, instructor of English.

THE MORSE SCHOLARSHIP

The $3,000 Marjorie J. and Richard L.D. Morse Family and Community Public Policy Scholarship is awarded to support an undergraduate project that involves community service and has the potential to impact public policy.

The 2017 winner is **Katelyn Bohnenblust**, Clay Center, a freshman agricultural education major. She will work with Training the Next Generation of Kansas Water Advocates, a conservation initiative for teens.
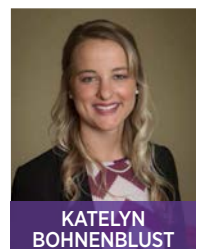
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