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First issue of undergraduate interdisciplinary journal published; A profile in generosity: The Kirmsers

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FIRST ISSUE OF UNDERGRADUATE INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL PUBLISHED

By Karin Westman

The inaugural issue of "Crossing Borders: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Undergraduate Scholarship" was released in February 2015. This new publication encourages multidisciplinary research and enables students to share their discoveries with a wider community of scholars.

"Crossing Borders" is a partnership between K-State Libraries, the English department, the University Honors Program and Frontier, an interdisciplinary program involving undergraduate students at K-State and a number of other universities.

It will be published twice a year online by New Prairie Press, an online imprint of K-State Libraries.

Jason Coleman, undergraduate and community services librarian, serves as one of the three faculty editors for the journal.

"The editorial team for 'Crossing Borders' is delighted by the quality of the articles in our first issue," Coleman said. "The essays exemplify what undergraduates can accomplish when they are passionate about contributing to intellectual discourse and when they are open to constructive feedback."

The launch of this journal underscores the importance of undergraduate research in the university's plan to become a Top 50 public research university by 2025.



THE JOURNAL MAY BE VIEWED AT
NEWPRAIRIEPRESS.ORG/CROSSINGBORDERS.

A profile in generosity:

THE KIRMSERS



Philip and Jeune Kirmser were strong supporters of education and shared a love of music, languages and traveling. Philip was a professor of civil engineering at K-State for some 60 years, and Jeune was an English teacher, a school social worker, a poet and longtime school board observer.

"My parents were strong believers in the power of education," said

Sandy Chastan, the Kirmsers' daughter. "They remembered how much they had to struggle in the beginning, so they felt the need to help future generations. K-State played an important part in their lives, and this gift was a token of their affection and appreciation."

The Kirmsers left nearly \$1 million to be divided evenly between the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, the Department of Modern Languages and K-State Libraries. The Libraries' used part of the gift to create the Kirmser Undergraduate Research Award. The award is part of a larger initiative to further undergraduate research, a component of K-State's vision to be a top 50 public research university by 2025.

"THIS YEAR'S CEREMONY WAS A REVELATION: I WAS BLOWN AWAY BY THE AMAZING, DIVERSIFIED RESEARCH THAT THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DOING. MY PARENTS WOULD BE VERY, VERY PLEASED WITH HOW THE LIBRARY IS USING THEIR GIFT."

- SANDY CHASTAN