

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Catch up with past Tigers

By Robert Loeffler



John Baetz is a 1999 English graduate who over the last couple of decades has built himself a sports magazine called Kansas Pregame. Using his English degree and his love for sports, Baetz launched his statewide website for his magazine that originally only covered football but has expanded to basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball, and track & field.

Fifteen years ago, Baetz started the only statewide sports magazine, though at the time was only publishing about football.

“Growing up in Smith Center, Kansas, is what likely most influenced my decision to launch my sports publishing career with coverage of football,” says Baetz. “I played football in Smith Center and at Garden City Community College and have coached at three different high schools in Kansas as well. However, I love all sports and was

excited when I was able to expand into other sports and have enjoyed covering them as much as, if not more than, football.”

His favorite memories post-graduation, centers on family: “My marriage to my wife of 17 years, Bree, the birth of my daughter, Sloan, seven years ago,” says Baetz.

Like many professors, Baetz feels English students are versatile and should look into other fields like business management or technology. He encourages English students to not limit themselves when career searching.

Darian Housworth is a May of 2019 English graduate. Only six months after her graduation she has started a career in a brand-new country. Housworth has been working as a teacher for First Leap in Dalian, China. She teaches a variety of subjects from English to math to global leadership. She works with students from 3 ½ to 8 years old.

Housworth teaches at a training school. “The children at First Leap are either attending training school after Chinese school, or they are too young to attend Chinese school, and they only attend training school. Training schools aren’t elementary or preschools— they’re kind of like ‘extra’ school that the kids go to.”

Housworth credits FHSU and two key members of the faculty for encouraging her to pursue an ESL career. “Dr. Cheryl Duffy and Dr. Lexey Bartlett in particular,” says Housworth, “I wrote essays on this topic, and the feedback I recieved from them taught me more about teaching.



Dalton Steinert is a 2018 graduate who actually got his degree in accounting but minored in English.

Currently, Steinert works for Koch Industries as a media buying specialist. He originally thought he would climb the managerial ladder in the accounting world. But he has found love for his current career, in which he writes surveys for researching brands, writes scripting code for analytics, and determines efficient ways to yield the best results for target campaigns.

“Writing eloquently is a skill I think almost anyone could benefit from,” says Steinert. “Focusing my minor on editing and creative writing courses allowed me to understand the complexities of great writing.”

Using the Portuguese word *saudades*, which has no direct translation to English, “the cloest understanding is an extreme sense of nostalgia, but that doesn’t fully encapsulate,” says Steinert. He remembers his time with friends, the lack of “full on” adult responsibility and the college atmosphere. “Almost any memory brings *saudades* to me. Both good or bad.”