

# Facing a New Challenge

**For several years, Laura Schopp has developed and honed her communication skills as a writer, editor and public relations professional. That's when she realized she was ready for a new challenge.**

"After working in the 'real world' for a couple of years, I realized I missed the camaraderie and intellectual stimulation provided by a classroom experience," she says. "So I spoke with friends and colleagues and ultimately chose KU based on flexibility of the program and nature of the coursework."

The classes and the people have well exceeded her expectations.

"The support I received has been outstanding from my advisor and professor. In addition, the classes are generally comprised of students who have been working for a number of years and have experiences to apply to the coursework. It's interesting to hear their stories, compare them to my own, and learn how to apply our studies to reality," Schopp says.

The content material has also been rewarding, personally and professionally.

"Classes focusing on rhetoric have been most relevant to my work, and several classes emphasizing written and oral presentations have been especially interesting and helpful to me," she continues.

Schopp, who holds a highly demanding position, highly recommends the program for its flexibility.

"Being able to work at my own pace has helped me balance multiple responsibilities and commitments. Most professors are very aware that Edwards Campus students are trying to maintain full-time jobs and family expectations, so they are relatively understanding."

When asked about the rigor of coursework, Schopp admits there are challenging times, but says "they usually lead to rewarding moments and a great sense of accomplishment."

*Laura Schopp, Press Secretary,  
Kay Barnes, Kansas City,  
Missouri Mayor  
Graduate, Communication Studies, 2004*

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