Sara Kate Burnett

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EDUCATION

University of Missouri – Columbia Graduated May 2026

Bachelor of Journalism, Photojournalism and Documentary Emphasis | Minor in Political Science
Murray Center for Documentary Journalism | MU Honors College | Cum Laude

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Congressional Digital Media Intern, Office of Rep. James Walkinshaw (VA-11) September 2026 - Present

- Create photography and video content communicating the congressman's work, priorities and constituent engagement.
- Film congressional events, meetings and public appearances, capturing visual moments for the office's digital communications.
- Edit short-form vertical video and adapt visual content for social media platforms.
- Support content creation and day-to-day management of social media accounts with a combined audience of more than 250,000 followers.
- Assist with press and communications efforts in a fast-paced congressional office, responding to evolving priorities and deadlines.

Freelance Photographer and Videographer May 2024 - Present

- Past clients include Electing Women National Capital Region, Congresswoman Haley Stevens and the Jamie Raskin campaign.
- Produce photography and video content for political events, campaigns and other clients, managing projects from filming and photography through editing and final delivery.
- Capture event coverage and create visual content for digital platforms and other client needs.
- Photograph individual and group photoshoots and edit image galleries in Adobe Lightroom, including color correction, exposure adjustments and retouching.

Production Intern, Forever Ready Productions June 2025 - August 2025

- Supported video production for nonprofit clients through on-location filming, event coverage and post-production editing.
- Shot and edited video content using professional camera equipment and Adobe Premiere Pro, shaping raw footage into polished visual stories.
- Contributed to documentary-style storytelling by capturing interviews, events and supporting footage for client projects.

Photojournalist and Video Journalist, Columbia Missourian Newsroom January 2025 - May 2025

- Worked as a staff photojournalist and video journalist for a community newsroom, covering news and feature stories through photography and video.
- Photographed assignments and produced video content, capturing compelling visuals to support local reporting and storytelling.
- Collaborated with reporters and editors to develop visual coverage and deliver polished content on deadline.

News Intern, News Channel 3 Memphis, Live at Nine Morning Show May 2024 - August 2024

- Supported live broadcast production by writing scripts, conducting research for daily segments and coordinating with production teams.
- Adapted broadcast video stories for digital platforms, optimizing content for web audiences and social media distribution.

Video Intern, Overton Park Shell Concert Series May 2024 - August 2024

- Filmed live music performances at a historic outdoor venue, operating multi-camera setups for live display and post-production.
- Produced concert highlight videos and supported show production operations for evening performances.

Campaign Volunteer, Chaz Molder for Congress June 2026 - August 2026

- Assisted with grassroots campaign effort including voter outreach, community events and constituent engagement.
- Supported campaign initiatives focused on connecting with Memphis-area communities and communicating the candidate's platform.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Homecoming Tri-Director, University of Missouri Alumni Association November 2024 - November 2025

- Led public relations, traditions and parade planning for Mizzou's student-run Homecoming, managing 35 students across nine subcommittees.
- Led digital content strategy for an Instagram account with 16,500+ followers, coordinating photography, video production and graphics to promote Homecoming events.
- Produced multimedia content featuring University President Mun Choi and Head Football Coach Eli Drinkwitz to promote university traditions and engagement.
- Coordinated publicity and parade operations for an event featuring 150+ entries and drawing 50,000+ spectators, including sensory-friendly viewing accommodations through the Thompson Center.

Campus Tour Guide, University of Missouri Tour Team February 2023 - May 2026

- Represented the University of Missouri as a campus tour guide, delivering engaging tours and presentations to prospective students and families.
- Developed public speaking and interpersonal communication skills while answering questions, sharing university traditions and tailoring information to diverse audiences.

Tiger Pantry Ambassador, Executive Team December 2024 - May 2026

- Produced and edited photo and video content highlighting campus food pantry programs, student impact stories and community initiatives.
- Developed and executed social media campaigns to increase awareness of campus food security resources and encourage student participation.
- Collaborated with staff and student teams to coordinate messaging, plan initiatives and strengthen community engagement.

Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority Executive Board, New Member Experience Director January 2024 - December 2024

- Led new member programming and coordinated educational and social events for a new member class of 300+ women.
- Planned and facilitated new member orientation for 104 members, managing event logistics, programming and communication.
- Collaborated with chapter leadership to create an engaging and organized new member experience, strengthening communication and team coordination.

HONORS & AWARDS

- **Mizzou ’39 Award Recipient** | 2026
  Selected as one of 39 outstanding students in the graduating senior class.
- **Omicron Delta Kappa** | 2026
  National leadership honor society.
- **Griffith’s Leadership Society** | 2024–Present
  Selected for a society recognizing outstanding women student leaders.
- **Kappa Kappa Gamma Outstanding Member** | 2024
  Recognized as an outstanding member of the 2022 pledge class.
- **Indie Memphis Youth Film Festival Finalist** | 2021
  Selected as a finalist in a youth film festival showcasing short films.
- **University of Missouri Honors College** | 2022–2026
- **Scholarships** | 2022–2025
  - True Tiger Network Scholarship
  - Memphis Alumni Chapter Returning Student Scholarship
  - Mark Twain Scholarship

SKILLS

- **Editing & Post-Production:** Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe After Effects, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Lightroom, video editing, color correction, photo retouching
- **Production:** Camera operation, videography, digital photography, interview filming, live-event coverage, multi-camera production
- **Digital Media:** Short-form vertical video, social media content production, visual storytelling, multimedia content strategy
- **Communications:** Social media management, digital content planning, public speaking, audience engagement