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Sara Kate Burnett

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

Forever Ready Productions, Production Intern

June 2025 - August 2025

- Produced, filmed, and edited mission-driven video content for non-profit organizations to drive fundraising and enhance donor engagement through compelling visual storytelling
- Developed multimedia content including videography, motion graphics, and documentary-style narratives for fundraising galas, virtual conferences, and awareness campaigns
- Leveraged journalism-focused storytelling techniques to distill complex social issues into accessible, shareable content for diverse audiences

Columbia Missourian, Visuals Team Member

January 2025 - May 2025

- Collaborated with photographers and videographers to produce compelling visual journalism for news stories across print and digital platforms
- Captured and edited high-quality images and video content under tight editorial deadlines for publication in a professional newsroom environment

Freelance Photographer and Videographer

May 2024 - Present

- Manage all aspects of client projects, including scheduling, communication, creative planning, production and post-production
- Photograph graduation sessions and professionally edit image galleries in Adobe Lightroom, performing color correction, exposure adjustments and detailed retouching to deliver polished final products
- Capture, edit and deliver live video coverage for the annual Collierville Independence Day Festival, producing real-time content displayed on event screens while simultaneously creating edited videos for digital platforms

News Channel 3 Memphis, Live at Nine Morning Show Intern

May 2024 - August 2024

- Supported production of live broadcast television by writing scripts, coordinated with production teams, and conducted research for daily segments
- Adapted broadcast video stories for digital platforms, ensured content optimization for web audiences and social media distribution

Overton Park Shell Concert Series, Video Intern

May 2024 - August 2024

- Filmed live music performances at historic outdoor venue, operated multi-camera setups for both live display and post-production video content
- Produced comprehensive concert highlight videos and managed full show production operations for one evening performance

Campaign Volunteer, Chaz Molder for Congress

June 2026 - Present

- Assisted with grassroots campaign efforts including voter outreach, community events and constituent engagement
- Supported campaign initiatives focused on connecting with Memphis-area communities and sharing the candidate's platform
- Developed firsthand experience with local political organizing and campaign strategy

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Homecoming Tri-Director, University of Missouri

November 2024 - November 2025

- Co-led the nation's largest student-run Homecoming celebration, serving as official Mizzou Alumni Association representative at fundraisers, ceremonies and the MU Hall of Fame
- Directed record-breaking recruitment that generated the largest applicant pool in committee history
- Selected and supervised 35 committee members across nine subcommittees, providing strategic planning and event execution guidance
- Served as media spokesperson, conducting interviews with local news outlets and leading briefings with campus organizations, Greek life and organizations across Columbia

Parade Committee Director:

- Planned the largest annual parade in Missouri attracting 50,000+ spectators along 1.25-mile route through campus and downtown Columbia

- Coordinated cross-functional logistics with university departments, Alumni Association, and city agencies including MUPD, Columbia PD, fire services and state representatives
- Managed communications and logistics for 150+ parade entries including athletic teams, marching bands and community organizations
- Collaborated with Thompson Center to establish sensory-friendly parade area, promoting inclusive community engagement

Public Relations Committee Director:

- Produced multimedia content for social media account with 16.5K followers, showcasing all aspects of Homecoming programming
- Recruited and managed five-member creative team including videographers, photographer, graphic designer, and account manager
- Partnered with Mizzou Alumni Association to conceptualize and design official Homecoming theme logo
- Directed photo and video shoots with campus leaders including President Mun Choi and Head Football Coach Eli Drinkwitz

Traditions Committee Director:

- Developed and executed outreach strategies that increased Top 10 Royalty applications and broadened candidate diversity
- Coordinated comprehensive judging process including alumni and community judges for paper reviews, virtual interviews and in-person evaluations
- Managed all communications, scheduling, and media requests for Top 10 honorees throughout Homecoming week

University of Missouri Tour Team, Tour Guide

February 2023 - Present

- Deliver engaging, informative campus tours for prospective students and families, highlighting academics, student life and campus culture
- Communicate clearly and adaptively, tailoring messaging to diverse audiences while building rapport and confidence in the university experience
- Coordinate logistics and manage group flow, ensuring smooth, organized tours and a seamless experience for all visitors

Tiger Pantry Ambassador, Executive Team

December 2024 - Present

- Produce and edit multimedia content (photo and video) showcasing campus food bank programs, student impact stories, and community initiatives, enhancing storytelling and audience engagement
- Develop and execute social media campaigns, applying digital marketing, analytics, and content strategy skills to increase student participation and awareness of campus food security resources
- Collaborate cross-functionally with staff and student teams to align messaging, plan initiatives and drive measurable community impact

Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority Executive Board, New Member Experience Director

January 2024 - December 2024

- Planned and executed large-scale events for 300+ participants, ensuring seamless logistics and meaningful, engaging experiences
- Mentored and supported 100+ new members, providing guidance, encouragement, and personalized coaching to help them thrive socially, academically and within the chapter community
- Empowered members through hands-on leadership training, facilitating skill development in teamwork, communication and decision-making to prepare them for active chapter roles

Homecoming Steering Committee, Talent Committee Member

February 2024 - September 2024

- Directed live events for 2,000+ attendees per night, using public speaking, crowd management and improvisation skills to maintain high engagement
- Managed performer logistics, coordinating 20+ acts, Greek organizations and venue staff to ensure on-time transitions and flawless execution
- Crafted and executed scripted content, applying event production, timing and storytelling skills to deliver a polished and memorable show
- Implemented operational workflows, including stage cues, technical coordination and communication protocols, improving efficiency and reducing errors during live events

HONORS & AWARDS

- Mizzou '39 Award Recipient – Award honoring the top 39 students in the 2026 Mizzou Senior Class (2026)
- Omicron Delta Kappa – Leadership society recognizing undergraduate leaders (2026)
- Griffith's Leadership Society – Selected for honor society recognizing top women student leaders (2024 - Present)
- University of Missouri Honors College (2022 - Present)
- True Tiger Network Scholarship Recipient (Awarded 2025)
- Memphis Alumni Chapter Returning Student Scholarship (Awarded 2025)

- Outstanding Member, Kappa Kappa Gamma Pledge Class 2022 (Awarded 2024)
- University of Missouri Mark Twain Scholarship Recipient (Awarded 2022)
- Indie Memphis Youth Film Festival – Finalist in competitive youth film festival showcasing short film (2021)