



**Katie den Daas, '07**  
**London Bureau Chief, ABC News**

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Katie den Daas is making history. Starting in early September, the 2007 journalism graduate will start work as the London Bureau Chief for ABC News – the first woman to serve in the role in 40 years. Recently, den Daas shared some about what the opportunity means to her, her journey in television so far and more.

**What is your favorite memory from your time at Gaylord College?**

There are too many to count. But if I am being honest, the best memories happened after graduation. There is no comparison to the joy I get from watching my friends from Gaylord succeed in their careers and getting to cheer them on. It is a special bond that's unlike any other.

**Do you have a favorite faculty/staff member at Gaylord?**

Dr. Dana Rosengard (who has since returned to being a working journalist) changed my life. After taking Television News (3773), he told me I had the

for ABC News Live, our 24-7 streaming channel (shameless plug: you can access it wherever you stream, including the ABC News app). Before that, I was lucky enough to work at Good Morning America in the control room, as a field producer in the Northeast Bureau, and as a senior producer for World News Tonight and Special Events.

After Labor Day, I'll transition to a new role, London Bureau Chief. I'll be the first woman in the post in four decades - and I can tell you that no one is as shocked as I am. While doing OU's Honors at Oxford, I bought a children's book called "Katie in London." Never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd get the chance to actually become 'Katie in London.' I can't wait to get to work with the best international journalists in the business every day.

**What do you consider to be the most significant moments of your career so far?**

genes to be a producer. I asked him what that meant and he responded "show up in August, work for OU Nightly, and I'll teach you." To this day, he's my first call to debrief a tough story, work through a professional challenge or share exciting career news. Nearly 15 years later, he's never stopped being my professor, mentor and friend.

**How did your career path lead you to ABC News?**

The first step was becoming a producer at OU Nightly. That led to a full-time job at KWTU/News 9 in Oklahoma City which then led me to KXAS/NBC 5 in Dallas-Fort Worth. While in Texas, I applied for dozens of jobs at the network level with very little success. Eventually, I leveraged connections I made up and down Interstate 35 to land interviews at CBS and ABC. Once that happened, I called (ok - kind of stalked) OU Alumni Mike Boettcher - who without hesitation, picked up the phone to call his former colleagues in New York and helped get me to the next interview phase. I'll never forget him vouching for me and to this day, he continues to cheer me on. Now I'm doing my best to pay it forward!

**Describe your role at ABC News –current and former.**

Right now, I'm an Executive Producer

I've been lucky to have a front row seat to history so many times in my career, including the historic 2016 presidential election. But by far the most significant story I've helped tell is that crisis we're just coming out of now - the pandemic. Covering the heartbreaking loss of life and upheaval in our everyday lives while living in one of the first epicenters (NYC) was a challenge on every level. But I'm incredibly proud of the work my colleagues and I have done over the past 16 months and we aren't done with this story yet.

**What advice would you give to current students aspiring to a career in mass communication?**

There's just one word you need to know: YES. The greatest experiences in my career have come from saying "yes" when people asked me to do just about anything. It helped me learn new skills, meet presidents, travel to incredible places and most importantly, it has helped me become a well-rounded journalist.

**What do you do for fun outside of work?**

Pre-COVID, I loved going to the theater, traveling, and finding new restaurants in NYC. I made it my mission to find the best queso and tortillas in the city (Javelina in Union Square, if you ever visit NYC).



OU Gaylord College of Journalism & Mass Communication  
(405) 325-2721 | [gaylordalumni@ou.edu](mailto:gaylordalumni@ou.edu) | <http://www.ou.edu/gaylord/jaymac>  
395 W. Lindsey Room 3000, Norman, OK 73019

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