



## **Rachel Santschi, '12** **Morning Anchor and Reporter, KMBC**

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When deciding where to attend college, Rachel Santschi settled on the University of Oklahoma after seeking advice at a local news station in Dallas. That decision has turned out well for the 2012 broadcast journalism graduate, who was also on the OU rowing team and an Alpha Chi Omega during her time at OU. Santschi recently shared about her professional journey, from Kansas City to San Antonio and back, and how Gaylord College prepared her for her on-air roles.

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

The best part about Gaylord College was that it gave me actual on-air, live broadcasting experience. It was so beneficial to actually have the chance to take what I was learning in my classes and put it into practice.

a few years ago when I got to cover the Country Music Awards for KMBC. I was on the red carpet interviewing these country music legends that I grew up listening to. When Garth Brooks came by, I don't think I could keep my jaw from hitting the floor. It was definitely one of the most unbelievable moments of my broadcasting career.

**How did Gaylord College prepare you for your future career?**

When I was in high school in Dallas and I was trying to decide on colleges, I called a local news station. I asked them, "If you had the same resumes in front of you, but one was from this school, that school and the University of Oklahoma, which would you chose solely based on that?" Of course, they quickly said, Oklahoma. The reason - they said that the students that come out of Gaylord College are experienced.

**How did your career path lead you to KMBC?**

A month after graduation, I landed a job in the NFL with the Kansas City Chiefs. It was just initially a part-time role that turned into a full-time position. I was the team's sideline reporter, host of the pregame and offseason show on CBS, wrote articles daily and emceed events. After three seasons with the Chiefs, I moved to San Antonio to work for the Spurs and Fox Sports Southwest. My role there was very similar - sideline reporter, co-host of the pregame game show, produced and hosted daily episodes of Spurs Update, interviewed the team and emceed events. I covered the Spurs for two seasons before moving to Kansas City to work for KMBC, an ABC affiliate.

**Describe your role at KMBC.**

At KMBC, I am a morning anchor and reporter. That means I'm up dark and early at 3 a.m. and need lots of coffee to be ready to go on-air for 4.5 hours each day. My role is unique because I have two jobs for the show - for the first two and a half hours I am reporting and doing traffic, then for the last two hours I anchor the show and host live in-studio interviews. After the newscast, I produce content for the evening show. So, I either go out on a story to gather interviews, work on a package, or I host satellite interviews from the studio. I'm also very involved in the community and often emcee events on the weekends for charities, galas or fashion shows.

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

A few moments stick out, ones that I'll never forget, like when I was on the field at the Superdome for the first time, about to go live (for the very first time since Gaylord) and interview the Chiefs star linebacker Derrick Johnson. It was so surreal. Another amazing moment was when I got to travel to Toronto to cover the Spurs in the NBA All-Star game and I had the chance to interview some of the top players in the league. I soaked up every second. But I think what may be the best moment yet was

They know how to shoot, edit, write, produce and can be a one-man band. That's when I knew that Gaylord was going to give me the best opportunities to succeed. From the rigorous classes, to the beat reporting assignments, to the live on-air shows, I felt well equipped for a broadcasting job upon graduation.

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

Get involved, do as much as you can, and meet everyone! Take advantage of every opportunity offered, meet people who are on the same career path and get involved in one of the shows. From writing, producing, anchoring, just get your foot in the door. Outside of what you can do at Gaylord, get internships. It's the best way to get practice and be prepared for your first job.

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

Outside of my job, I also manage a lifestyle blog with my sister-in-law, [GraceAndRachel.com](http://GraceAndRachel.com). It's such a fun, creative outlet for both of us. Then in just a few months my husband and I will become new parents and welcome our first baby to the family, so we've been busy preparing the nursery and reading all the parenting books! Wish us luck!

**Since you live in Kansas City and used to work for the Chiefs, we can't help but ask - what have the past few weeks since the Super Bowl been like?**

Incredible! This city lives and breathes Chiefs, so it has been unbelievable to see our team titled champs! Everywhere you go people are wearing their red and gold with pride or flying their Chiefs flags. My husband works for the team (that's actually how we met), so we had the chance to go to the Super Bowl and witness history in the making! It was one of the most amazing experiences of our lives. I had tears streaming down my face when time expired. Plus, because my husband is a Chiefs employee, he got to be IN the victory parade too, which was also an unforgettable moment for our city.



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