

JayMac

Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication Alumni Association



GAYLORD ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“Keep going. Chase those dreams sooner...and when it gets tough, just push through.”

SARAH HILL

CEO and Co-Founder, Bookstr
New York, NY

Sarah Hill is a reader and a leader. A 2010 professional writing graduate of Gaylord College from Fort Worth, Texas, she is the CEO and co-founder of Bookstr. This online platform “connects books with people,” per its website. “We make discovering books entertaining, informative and socially engaging. and, most importantly believe that the best recommendations come from people you know and trust.”

Sarah was recently named the 2017 Gaylord College Distinguished Young Alumna. We asked her some questions about her life, Gaylord memories, and aspirations.

Who was your favorite faculty/staff member or mentor from Gaylord College?

This is impossible to answer. I love Mel Odom, former Dean Foote, Warren Vieth,

You are obviously doing incredible things, so how has your Gaylord degree impacted your journey over the last seven-plus years?

In Gaylord I was able to come right out of school and know what I wanted to do, and have practice doing it. Most universities don't allow you to have as much hands-on work I learned, so when I graduated I was very much ahead of the curve. I feel like I graduated and was four years ahead of the other people who didn't come from a university like mine.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Hopefully running a company I have full ownership of, or working in a digital arm at a large digital publisher.

What advice would you give to current students seeking jobs in the JMC industry?

Bob Dickey – really all of them were incredible. That has really set me apart in the real world. The staff was so special.

What is your favorite memory of Gaylord College?

Every day working on OU Nightly. It was a lot of work, but we had so much fun. We felt so accomplished.

How did you get your current position as the CEO and co-founder of Bookstr?

It was offered to me by an investor out of Australia who had invested in a company I was previously involved with. They asked me to take it on, and I did.

Follow your passion. It takes time to land your dream job. Hustle...hustle...make yourself irreplaceable when you get the opportunity...Keep going. If I could give myself a pep talk my senior year of college, I would say, chase those dreams sooner...and when it gets tough, just push through.

What do you do for fun outside of work?

I love to travel, and my idea of fun is a beach with nothing on it except who I'm with and maybe some drinks. I like to write and to paint in my spare time. Also, reading!



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