



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# LA V ENT ANA



# A Window of Opportunity

She arrived to her meeting just in time, her staff awaiting her to take action. Before they dove into their work, the adviser requested everyone to share a fun fact about themselves. While the majority of the staff described somewhere they had traveled or a crazy pet they once had, Kymbre Kupatt had a unique fact compared to all of her fellow co-workers. "I love agriculture," she said with pride.

Her peers stared with confused expressions on their faces. Without hesitation, Kupatt jumped at the opportunity to share a little of her background with her fellow staff members and where her love for agriculture all began.

Kupatt's passion for agriculture started in her hometown of Sagerton, Texas, an unincorporated community in Haskell County surrounded by farmland. It was not out of the ordinary for her to see a friendly farmer driving his tractor down the middle of the highway at any hour of the day.

At the time, Kymbre did not realize that a vast majority of people her age had never even seen a tractor, let alone one passing in front of their house on a regular basis.

"Growing up in such a small town was not always ideal and certainly not the norm, but it's who I'll always be," Kupatt said.

Her love for agriculture grew even fonder when she entered high school and became active in her FFA chapter. She developed a love for public speaking and sharing with others the importance of agriculture to the world. However, Kymbre managed to find another passion upon entering high school. Journalism.

Upon graduation, Kupatt's decision to pursue a degree in agricultural communications was simple. The degree allowed her to unite her passions for agriculture, public speaking and journalism all into one.

"It was the only way I knew how to combine all the things I loved together," Kupatt said. "I didn't have to give anything up."

Little did Kupatt know, before she even stepped foot on the Texas Tech campus, she would have a window of opportunity to leave her mark on the university forever.

Thanks to two of her high school teachers, Jill Druesedow and Pam Thigpen, Kupatt decided to apply for the editor-in-chief position for the La Ventana yearbook at Texas Tech.

"At first I was kind of leery about it," Kupatt said with a shrug. "I thought 'I can't do that,' and 'I'm not good enough,' but they really pushed me to apply, and I'm glad they did."

The summer before her freshman year at Texas Tech, Kupatt was awarded the title as new editor-in-chief of the La Ventana yearbook.

From creating templates to making photo assignments and even finding unique content to cover, Kupatt said she has a vast number of duties in her position and manages around 15 staff members on a daily basis.

"The busier I am, the more organized I am, and the more I get done," Kupatt said.

Andrea Watson has had the privilege of being Kupatt's media adviser since the day she was hired a little over a year ago, and said it has been a fun and exciting adventure thus far.

*"It was the only way I knew how to combine all the things I loved together."*

"She is so outgoing with our staff, and she's in a good mood all the time," Watson said with a smile. "I think she genuinely wants to improve the staff morale and cohesion, and I think she has some really good ideas to do that."

So where does Kupatt's agricultural background play into her new position as editor? According to Kupatt, her job and major go hand-in-hand in terms of writing, photography, designing and editing.

"The things I do in the classroom are the same things I do at work, and vice versa," Kupatt said. "It's really nice because it's always fresh in my brain."

Kupatt said she also has her agricultural background and major to thank for her ability to communicate well with her staff at work.

"I believe that I've learned how to speak in public and communicate effectively from my degree," Kupatt said with confidence. "That has helped me with my communications within my staff at work so much."

Kymbre is not the only one to think her communication is helping with staff relations. Her adviser, Watson, said that Kupatt's outgoing personality is a refreshing change of pace from previous editors.

"Our last couple of editors had a lot of really good qualities that made them successful, but speaking to groups wasn't really their thing," Watson said. "Kymbre doesn't have that problem though. She is



willing to go talk to any organization or class at any time, and that's been great."

As for her favorite part of her job, Kupatt said the staff's motto says it all. Accountability and legacy. Kupatt is confident that this slogan is a great representation for not only this academic school year, but for many years to come. She especially connects to the last word of the motto — legacy.

"I like that I'm recording history of the school year for Texas Tech University as a whole right now," Kupatt said with a smile. "It's really neat to think about."

Although Kupatt is involved in multiple organizations throughout campus, she feels as though her editorial duties will be her big mark on Texas Tech.

From an adviser standpoint, Watson said she always wants the staff, and particularly the editor, to view the La Ventana as a legacy on campus, and Kymbre has illustrated just that.

"If we ever get to a place where we don't have editors for any of our publications, we're in trouble. So we obviously want them to work with people on staff that show potential and show interest, and that's exactly what she has done." Watson said with a smile. "It's fun to hear her talk about her ideas and vision for the program."

It doesn't take long to realize Kupatt has already done a remarkable job of leaving her mark on the Texas Tech campus in more than one way. She not only contributes her talents to the La Ventana, but also to a variety of agricultural organizations on campus including Agri-Techsans, Ag Ambassadors, and Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow. Kymbre says that balancing her time between all of her activities is not always easy, but that is how she likes it.

As for her future plans, it's easy to assume that the sky is the limit for Kymbre no matter where her career path leads. Her plans include reapplying for the editor position again next year, and then after graduation attend Law school at Texas Tech.

"She is going to be one of those that 10 years from now, we are going to see her and she is going to be ridiculously successful, happy and well adjusted no matter what she is doing," Watson said with a smirk. **T**

*Jordan Burson*  
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