



the comm-unity newsletter

Journalism & Media Production Class Collaborating on New Project

by **Analia Santana**

During the spring 2023 semester, media production students in COMM 419: Advanced Television Production taught by Dr. Michael Grabowski, Ph.D. are working with journalism students in COMM 330: The Journalistic Tradition taught by Dr. Nicholas Gilewicz, Ph.D. on an assignment that showcases community events and how they impact the Manhattan College student body. The teams working on the assignment together consist of two to three students with one of the students from the journalism class.

The assignment asks that the groups produce a two to three-minute news package with a 30-second to one-minute VO/B-roll story that will play within the piece. Journalism students need to write a two-column script using the footage they collected in the field as well as a script for the entire piece. Students were given the freedom to choose which stories they pursued.

“I’m really excited for [the project], and getting to know stuff around our campus,” McCann said. “You get to know more people and more connections and I think that’s cool.”

Jovanni Rodriguez, a journalism student, says they are able to report on anything substantial that is happening in the community. “[We are] reporting on the community and how it is affected by certain things,” Rodriguez said.

Even though the groups are in the early stages of production, one group has already started working on their stories and getting b-roll footage. Becky McCann and Victoria Correia, who study media production, are working with journalism student Kyla Guilfoil to create a story about International Women’s Day, Open Mic Night at An

Beal Bocht Cafe and a new coffee shop opening in Riverdale.

Correia also finds this new assignment cool and unique.

“You would never really expect a crossover between the advanced production class and the journalism class,” Correia said.

“It will help us to be able to have clients who have their own ideas, who want to be in control, and have us take a step back and show us, yes we can be in control but other times we can listen, understand, and learn,” Bryce said.

She finds it exciting that she gets to collaborate, share ideas with other students and put the group’s knowledge together to make something unique.

The students taking this course are seeing how this class can have real-world applications and prepare them for their future. Media production students Shamar Bryce and Gregory Greion are working with journalism student Angelica Niedermeyer on a news package that focuses on International Women’s History Month at “I’m really excited for [the project], and getting to know stuff around our campus,” McCann said. “You get to know more people and more connections and I think that’s cool.”

Bryce said that working with classmates from other COMM classes is similar to working with clients in a business setting and he like many of the other seniors taking this class will soon have to work with clients who have ideas and opinions that will need to be followed. This cross-class collaboration will allow him to practice useful skills and teach new things.

Overall, this new cross-course project has students excited and optimistic, and they see this as a step towards unification within the major. Collaboration projects like these give students a chance to learn how to work with clients with the idea they can use these new skills straight out of college. Cara Fitzgerald finds this project important for both concentrations since it gives a new platform for journalism students to use and the chance for media production students to work in teams.

“It’s a vehicle for journalism outside of writing,” Fitzgerald said.

