Dr. Andreaclis suggested that I keep a journal of my thesis project, so here you go! My project, for clarification, is going to be a once-weekly, half-hour long news broadcast, centered on WMU news. Jan Kruse is acting as my faculty Chairperson, and my project is working alongside with her Advanced Broadcast Journalism class. It'll start in January, and go throughout the semester.

So far, I've already had a few planning meetings to get my project underway. At the end of last semester, Jan & I met with Dr. Rhodes to plan out the class aspect.
of the project, and then Jan and I met a \& week or so ago to start planning out more of the details. We both want all of the specifics planned out so we can hop right into production in January.

Next week Monday, I have a meeting with Thom Myers (the Director of Electronic Communication) to see if there is any way the University could help with the project, mainly by supplying resources and stories. So, hopefully that will go well. I have also contacted Bradley Morgan, to see if we can't get the production put out on Educable so it will be more widely viewed over campus. Jon VanderMeer
also wants to see if he can get a Webfeed up and running for it, which I think would be great. Now I'm waiting to hear back from Uncle Cutler and Dr. Farrugia to see if they would also like to be on my committee.

I'm so grateful that so many of the faculty and staff have taken an interest in my project. Hopefully, once January hits, it'll all be downhill from here!

That's all for now, updates to follow.

- M
I now have my committee set. Dr. Farrugia has agreed to help, as well as Dr. Machiorlatti. Wade Cutler offered to help, but didn’t know time-wise what he’d be able to commit, coming from Grand Rapids and all.

I called the general manager of Educable and worked things out so that I can broadcast my program in the Residence Halls. I have to go sign a paper at some point, and I can’t use copyrighted music, but everything else is pretty straightforward. It just needs to be submitted on a VHS, and all’s well.
This past week I had a meeting with Thom Myers and pretty much the entire Electronics Communications Office. That went really well, I'm now getting news releases in my email, and they offered I advised to me some great resources for finding stories. Since then, I've gotten in touch with the WSA President as well as CAB President, told them about my project, and gotten their contact information. I still need to contact Miller Auditorium. I'll probably find a few more people/groups to contact, so that'll help.

Next on my list: full committee meeting!

-M
Well I've managed to get a meeting with my whole committee, and the main point I got out was that I need to register for the Honors 4990 class, rather than signing up for the Advanced Broadcasting Com 3050. So I'm working with Dr. Mac in getting that registered.

Now, my duty is to learn how to use the camera and lavaliuer mics over Christmas Break.

I also have a better idea of the paperwork I need to complete for my project. Dr. Mac showed me a production folder.
That another student had made for a film project. So I can use that as an example for my project folder.

Hopefully I'll remember to update more the closer it gets to Spring Semester.

-M

1/10/09

First day of Advanced! It went rather well. Jan + I met on Wednesday to go over last-minute details, and I got to look over the syllabus and see what teams we'd be working with. I'm excited... I can't wait to see what they all came up
with. So, we pitched story ideas and the teams got to know each other. Jan handed out a number of things, including video log sheets and edit sheets. After class I emailed a few people for more contacts, and I started a Facebook group for the class so that everyone can have a place to pitch ideas and talk to each other.

Now, the real fun begins.

-M
So, Week 2... not as good as the first week. The classtime was really disorganized.

I guess I need to come up with a better agenda, or things for those groups who aren't due this week to do. I don't know what, though.

I know for sure I need to e-mail the class Talent Release Forms, I need to call Kanti again... I need to finish revising the news release and get that out (not necessarily this week, but next week probably).

I think I need to have a meeting with Jan or Dr. Mac to figure out exactly how I am supposed to help this...
class.
I know I need to start
reading the book Dr. Mae gave
me on Leadership in small
groups, that would probably help.

I am not doing well with
other class assignments keep getting
in the way, I think on
Friday I will use my office
hours time in the PSP office to
send emails and keep up to
date with all my stuff.

It scares me a little that
people have mentioned that they
want to drop science classes and
signed up for this as their "fun
class..." I hope they still take it
seriously! My grades/graduation
depends on it...

-M
Half of class today went really well, the other half was bad. Firstly, not one of the teams turned in their scripts on time. Only two stories are ready to be burned right now, when we were expecting 5. This group by far had it the easiest... they've had the most amount of time to get everything done. So that was disappointing.

On the other hand, the two stories that we do have ready are good, and Jon showed me the system in Brown that plays the program over the flatscreens. It was playing on Thursday, which is exciting.

So Jan and I had a chat today about
what comes next... mainly cracking down on slackers, reorganizing teams, and basically not taking excuses anymore.

So, next up: I've added the class to my email account (finally); now I can send them their requirements. Before the break, I'll have them submit their folders for review (with a prior email, stating what needs to be included and what to improve on). From here on out, it's all about task management, prioritizing, and making deadlines.

Also, note to self: email Dr. Mac a Friday memo, and finish revising the release to submit.

-M
P.S. - Submitted a story idea for me to cover - the goalball tournament coming up the weekend before Spring Break.

Also in the planning process for final thesis video: How to Create and Manage a Student News Program (or something similar - maybe do research on other schools' news programs?)

I don't feel like I'm doing thesis quality work so far. I think the researching of other schools will add to the quality of my project.

So: 1) Start getting footage for video, and 2) Start researching other news programs.
Update → folder check went fairly well, now they all have an idea of what to turn in at the end.
No real grading, just to make sure work's being done
OOPS

Update → Finally got my own folder organized! Still in the works, but it's looking a lot better.
I've finally gotten a chance to do my own story! It's still in the production stage, but I'm glad that I finally am working on something that I can show. Now I just need an editor to help me!

We've re-assigned a few teams, since there have been a few problems with deadlines. So, Brad is now working with Ben K, and John will be partnered with Drue and Shelby. I hope it will work better than the past few deadlines.

Looking ahead, I need to look up Goalball videos on YouTube (I wasn't able to make it to the tournaments)... work on paperwork for the
story... plus I need to fill out the forms so I can plan my thesis defense.

Speaking of, I need to get cracking on that video... my "How to Start Your Own TV Program" ideally. So, pre-production for that would be a fabulous idea. Plus, if I want to do any research for it, like an other school's news programs or something. I just need effective time management, that's all. Gee, why didn't I think of that before...

Further updates forthcoming!

-M
3/20/09

By far best day today so far... almost everyone was done by the end of class today! I only had to stay after half an hour, and that was to burn the DVDs. Woohoo!

So we are running 7 stories next week. There are still a few groups who are having trouble, but for the most part Jan + I are handling it well. (At least, I hope so?)

Jan really liked my goalball story, so that's good. Now I need to do at least one more story before the end of the semester, plus my thesis video & defense.

It'll be a lot of work, but it will be nice once its all done.

-M
Crunch time has officially begun.

Class was ok today - 2 of the 5 stories were completed. *sigh* But the two are good, so that's nice.

So, I need to:

1. Type up my production folder notes

2. Email the class with production folder requirements and how to build a DVD

3. Write a script for the big news cast

4. Write a script for my thesis video

5. Edit thesis video

6. Type up class survey

7. Write thesis review essay.

I was hoping to do another stop, but I don't think that's going to work out. I just have too much else going on.
My thesis defense is set for Tuesday, April 21 at 2 pm.

I just hope it goes well, I'm so done with this! Yeah, it was fun, but I think I would have enjoyed it more being a member of the class rather than leading it. It just gets frustrating dealing with all of the excuses that people pull. Now I know I don't want to go into teaching... it. Oh well. It's been a good learning experience, for sure. Now I know how to better prepare myself for next year during grad school when I'll be teaching again.

So, a lot to do before this is done for good.

-M
Yesterday's class went pretty well. It's really too bad that I don't get the hang of this whole "class teaching" thing until the very end. Right now I'm working on typing up my notes from class, and I'm wishing I had been a bit more thorough. Not much I can do about that now, I suppose. Some of my notes don't have dates on them, so I have no idea when they're from... other days I've got practically nothing at all.

But, back to class... Jan and I met to talk about the suggestion that the class made from the survey I emailed out this week... most of
them had good suggestions, or
their thoughts echoed mine. Only
one person said they wouldn’t
recommend the class to others.
Jan & I have had to meet with
Raquel a few times the past few
weeks to discuss her grade in
the class... sometimes I have a hard
time figuring out whether she’s
being genuine or when she’s
making excuses to cover for her.
She & John often have very
different stories about the same
event, so it can get frustrating.
Brad was a no-show this week,
so I have no idea what’s up with
him.

Katie K was
having a lot of
problems with her stories.... for the past two weeks all of her interviews have either cancelled on her or stood her up (like the interview she had scheduled yesterday). She talked to Jan and I in tears... we told her that she needs to keep this story on Finals Finish, just to try to stalk out the woman who ignored her yesterday. So She and Emily are going to try to get her again early Monday morning.

We have all the teams and stories set for the last week of classes... so that will be a long DVD! I think that day we'll have
the teams work on building their DVDs too.

On Tuesday at 2, I'm meeting Jan and Shelby in Studio C to make our best-of DVD... with me anchoring. We had the reporters write intros for their stories, which I got yesterday. Jan is writing an intro for me to use on the teleprompter.

I can't believe this is almost over. I really hope my defense goes well. I really feel like I've learned a lot... I just hope I've done enough. We'll just have to see!

I've made a DVD for Dr. Mac and Dr. Farnugia to watch, just some
samples from the class. They're the stories from Friday, and they're really good. Hopefully they'll like them!

Time to get back to work... I have to start my Thesis Review/Summary/Essay/Reflection paper. Huzzah.

-M
4/12/09

This will probably be my last chance to update this before I submit it for viewing to my committee. I'm putting together some sample packets for Dr. Mac, Dr. Farrugia, and Jan, and updating my folder still.

I have to email the class again, and let them know that if they want to turn in their folder a week early, that's ok... but on the 24th we were considering going into the audio classroom + bringing breakfast and watching the "Best-Of" DVD. So we'll see if people are interested in doing that.
Fingers crossed that these last two weeks go well. I just have to be confident, present it as best as I can, and hope for the best!

Back to work now

M