

M.A.ven Hour

Spring & Summer 2022 Graduates

A maven is “a person who knows a lot about a particular subject,” as described by Merriam-Webster.



Jonus **Cottrell**

Thesis – A Multilingual Analysis of YouTube Comments Posted to Science Communication Videos

The aim of my thesis is to analyze post-video comment sections of YouTube videos published by popular science communication channel, Kurzgesagt. Kurzgesagt publishes content in English, Spanish, and German. My analysis will compare the topics discussed in the comment sections and emotional engagement to see what differences appear across languages.



Taylor **Haelterman**

Professional Project – Reviving the Food Fix Podcast

For this project I am reviving and enhancing the Food Fix, a podcast focused on food innovation, research, and how to better feed the world. The first episode launched in 2015 and the podcast produced content off and on afterward until the last episode in 2019. Along with producing, hosting, and editing weekly episodes, I am working to boost the podcast's social media presence, audience engagement, and overall production value.



Yue Jiang

Professional Project – Neo-Communicator: The Voice from ENGOs in Michigan

There is a prominent phenomenon that NGOs begin to play the role of communicator in the U.S. This project based on the website zooms into the statewide environmental nonprofit organizations, which is also known as ENGO, in the Michigan state and seeks to explore the ways in which they have been able to produce and distribute their own information. By interviewing different ENGOs in Michigan, the project includes three stories to show their routine on communication. The other parts of the project website are background information of ENGO, guidance that concludes from the findings of interviews and my opinion. The highlight of the opinion page is that I refer to the connection between ENGOs in the U.S. and China since as a Chinese international student I am able to see both of their development. The audience may have a deeper understanding of how ENGOs specifically play the role of communicator via this project.



Soojeong Kim

Thesis– An Investigation of Alternative News Publication Comment Forums as Civil Spaces: A Study of Minority News Commenters

Aggressive and uncivil user comments in mainstream news sites are a growing problem, so it is unsurprising that numerous studies have explored the various aspects of online comments. Still, we know little about the alternative news publications' online comment forums and the marginalized group users' perception of those comment forums as safer spaces or not. This thesis seeks to investigate perceptions on smaller publications by interview how marginalized commenters (i.e., LGBTQIA group) perceive online comment forums on alternative news publications. In other words, this study aims to know how marginalized people perceive comment forums and how they engage with comments.



Chioma **Lewis**

Professional Project – Black People Can't Get COVID: Medical Mistrust, Misinformation, and Monoliths

In the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic, online claims circulated that Black Americans were immune to the COVID-19 virus, along with a conspiracy theory that the COVID-19 virus was created by the government in a lab. These claims provided a false sense of security for Black Americans who have disproportionately experienced COVID-19 cases and deaths. This project aims to better understand medical mistrust, misinformation and monolithic ideas and attitudes amongst Black Americans regarding COVID-19 through narratives of their COVID-19 experiences.



Lindsay McCoy

Professional Project – The Fruition of the Seventh Fire Prophecy

A brief summary of the Seventh Prophecy is that New People will emerge to resurrect the Anishinaabe Nation and culture. Additionally, the “light skinned race” will have to choose between two paths; one that is green and inviting, the other that is black and charred. In the prophecy they choose neither and instead turn around to reclaim the wisdom of those before them (the Anishinaabe). If they choose the correct road, it will light the Eighth and final Fire, resulting in a life of peace and brotherhood among Turtle Island’s people. If not, then the destruction they brought to this country will come back and cause suffering and death to all of Earth’s people (Native Harvest/Jagiello 2019). For my project, I would like to tell stories of millennial and Generation Z Native Americans in Michigan specifically that are actively trying to connect with and preserve their traditional cultures. The stories will be supplemented by portraits of those I interview.



Danneisha **McDole**

Professional Project – The Pathways to Successfully Overcome the Challenges for Black Woman Broadcast Journalists

Black women broadcast journalists have faced numerous of challenges before reaching the peak of their careers. In doing research, it has been stated of the challenges faced including, racial discrimination, lack of proper mentorship and limited opportunities with camera time, (Meyers & Gayle, 2015; Punyanunt-Carter, 2008). Those challenges are also not discussed and highlighted for aspiring Black women broadcast journalists, before starting in this workforce. To avoid more underrepresentation and missed opportunities, those in higher positions could prepare young Black women broadcast journalists, before entering the newsroom, (Meyers & Gayle, 2015). In this study, I will be conducting interviews with current and former black women broadcast journalists in a form of a short documentary film, by highlighting their struggles and expectations of the newsroom. This will be beneficial for upcoming and aspiring Black women broadcast journalists as this will give them insight and to be fully equipped before going into this field to look back on.



Lea Mitchell

Professional Project – Images Matter

Throughout the centuries, Black people have faced many challenges in the United States and are still facing many of the same issues today. These challenges may look different from the early 1900s, but they still have an enormous impact on this ethnic group. One pervasive challenge facing them currently is negative portrayals in broadcast news media and the lack of representation. “Images Matter” is a project about the news media’s portrayal of Black people and the absence of Black women in legacy news media like NBC, CNN, FOX, MSNBC, ABC and CBS. The news media has a huge space in society and draws public attention easily and quickly. This project will dig deeper into the minds of those affected and will use a qualitative inductive approach while providing real-life examples. The purpose of this project is to get an insight into the frames people have in their heads using different techniques like sampling and studying research analyses. The big question that will be answered is: “how do Black people feel they are portrayed in the news media in the United States?”