

M.A.ven Hour

Spring & Summer 2023 Graduates

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



Finn Hopkins

Professional Project – The Pit Project

The Pit Project (TPP) will be a series of articles published in the Petoskey News Review or online that revolve around a failed urban development located in my hometown of Petoskey, Michigan. The project will use an engaged journalism approach, connecting with the audience by forming trusted relationships with community members, actively participating in the public and reporting *with*, rather than *on*, the community itself. By committing to fundamental tenets of engaged journalism such as transparency and accurate representation, I will create a series of articles that share the perspectives of all parts of the community.



Adanma Mbonu

Professional Project – “Can You Hear the Music” an Exploration of the Emergence of Digital Media and Rap Music in Detroit, Michigan (Motown)

For my professional project, I will be making a short film documentary that will examine how digital media has changed the trajectory of the emerging rap/hip-hop artists and circulation of music. To do this, we will examine the digital footprint of rap artist and their connection with social media. Our focus will be based on rap/ hip-hop music and will take place in Detroit, Michigan. This film will consist of interviews with local and mainstream artists, producers, and prominent people that play a role in the rap music industry, and they will be asked various of questions based on the influence that digital media has had on the music industry and artists work ethic socially and culturally. There will be footage added into the film that will showcase Detroit in the 1990’s to present day.



Barbara **Bellinger**

Professional Project – The Daily Lives of Michigan Latin American Immigrants and the Impacts of Mainstream Media Narratives

A website of stories from and about Latin American immigrants, their journeys, the barriers they face and how mainstream media narratives of immigrants from our southern border have impacted (and differ from) their daily lives.



Hannah **Brock**

Professional Project – MiCOVID Reflections: Insights from Michigan's Local Journalists on Early Pandemic Coverage

This project examines in-depth discussions with 17 Michigan journalists who detailed their early pandemic experiences on a personal and professional level. The pandemic tapped into journalists' sense of duty, prompting an intense dedication to health crisis coverage that caused burnout for some. The COVID-19 crisis brought journalists' mental health, work-life balance and professional identity to the forefront of industry conversation. The project includes a long form article and a podcast miniseries that details how Michigan's local journalists reflect on the biggest story of their career.



Madelyn Darbonne

Professional Project – Mediating the Media Maze: Enhancing Media Literacy in the Social Media Age

Social media has become one of the main ways people consume news and information. However, given the algorithmic nature and lack of regulations surrounding these platforms, social media has also facilitated the increased spread of false information. While journalists and media professionals often obtain the knowledge and training needed to conduct fact-checking and verify where information may be coming from, the public may not have the necessary media literacy to differentiate fact from falsity online. My project aims to create media literacy resources that raise awareness of how misinformation and disinformation circulate on social media and the impact this can have on journalistic practices.



Aziza Kultaeva

Professional Project – International Journalists' Perceptions of Employment and Experiences in the U.S. Media

A short documentary film covers non-citizen journalists' professional and employment experiences in the US. Research shows journalists and other media specialists are not issued work visas as much as other professionals from tech companies and STEM fields. However, American journalism schools are interested in attracting more international students who don't always return home after graduation and strive to secure jobs in the US.



Katie Reichel

Professional Project – From Print to Digital: A Journey Through Sports Journalism

A Journey Through Sports Journalism focuses on the crucial role of design in creating effective sports media content. The use of clear, visually compelling graphics is essential in newspaper design to guide readers through stories. Graphic design is also vital in creating engaging visuals, from logos and branding to social media content. In web design, a user-friendly and visually appealing design optimized for different devices is critical. Staying up-to-date with trends in sports media is also necessary to create relevant and effective content that resonates with audiences. This project contributes to the ongoing conversation about the impact of sports media on society, including how media coverage shapes public perceptions of sports and their broader social implications. Understanding trends and gaps in sports media coverage can help ensure that the media continues to inform and responsibly report on sports.



Vladislava **Sukhanovskaya**

Professional Project – Non-Harmful Media Coverage of the Transgender Community – Educational Unit for Students

An educational unit for students and journalists on how to cover the trans community in a non-harmful way in partnership with trans journalists and allies. The unit will be based on the interviews with them and on professional guidelines.