COM ART SCI

School of Journalism MA Program

M.A.ven Hour

Spring & Summer 2025 Graduates

Delaney Rogers
Plan B – Professional Project

Donte Smith
Plan B – Professional Project

Ruth Thornton
Plan B – Professional Project

Wednesday, April 30 | 10:30AM-12:00PM
Room 191

College of Communication Arts & Sciences
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

M.A.ven Hour
Spring & Summer 2025 Graduates

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

Delaney **Rogers**

Professional Project – Navigating the Newsroom: Focal Point "How-To" Guide

This project is an in-depth guide to all aspects of Focal Point News, one of MSU's news capstone classes. The hope is for this manual to be utilized by students in the class as a frame of reference when they need it., especially when things feel busy on show days and are trying something new like being the Live Shot Coordinator for the newscast and/or when an instructor or other student is not available to provide further training. People also learn in different ways and a written, visual manual may be appealing to those who want to study aspects of Focal Point to feel more prepared (either current student or incoming students who want to know more about the program!)

Donte **Smith**

Professional Project – “Beyond the Barbell”

In a world of early classes and late-night lifts, two MSU students chase strength beyond the barbell. This short documentary steps inside the weight room and beyond, capturing how they push through injury, juggle school and training, and find purpose in a tight-knit powerlifting club that’s more like family.

Ruth **Thornton**

Professional Project – Saving the Poweshiek skipperling: bringing a prairie butterfly back from the brink of extinction

The Poweshiek skipperling, a small prairie butterfly, was once widespread in the prairies of the Midwest but has vanished from most of its former range. It is now arguably one of the most endangered species in Michigan, yet the public is hardly aware of its disappearance or why it matters. Its plight is not an isolated case – pollinating insects are declining globally, among them several other prairie butterflies. Now Grand Rapids' John Ball Zoo, in partnership with other Midwest zoos, is raising it in captivity for release into the wild. My professional project will tell the story of the Poweshiek skipperling, the zoos, conservationists and a local township working to save it from extinction and explore the reasons for the decline of pollinators in the Midwest.