

# Interdisciplinary Innovations Fund Report

## Making Waves Youth Radio | September 2018

Submitted by Kelsey Kupferer, Michaela Tucker and Kathryn Fishman-Weaver

### **MAKING WAVES AUDIO STORYTELLING PROJECT (Gen Hon 1030-H)**

Making Waves, a hands-on course designed for non-journalism majors, guides students through the process of producing radio journalism pieces by building their skills in writing, interviewing, editing and voicing. Throughout the semester, each student wrote, reported, edited and produced a four-minute feature story about a social issue that is important to them. These stories were published online and broadcast on KBIA, our local NPR member station. We had 11 students enrolled in our course during the two semesters we taught.

Our course encouraged students to explore personal identity and community social issues, and to understand how they can use storytelling as a tool for positive social change. During each class, students engaged in conversations about journalism, identity, truth, vulnerability, and empathy. Students left the course with hard skills in writing, editing, interviewing, using audio recording equipment, and using audio editing software. The Making Waves curriculum is rooted in [feminist pedagogy](#) and aims to promote [self-authorship](#) through engaged, student-focused, [experiential learning](#).

The course was hugely successful. Our students had fun, and were allowed a safe and productive space to have tough discussions about national and campus politics and race relations as young people (mostly first-year students) on campus.

### **CAMP TRUE/FALSE (True/False Film Fest Partner Project)**

Making Waves partnered with the True/False Film Fest to bring University of Missouri undergraduate students and local high school students to the True/False Film Fest. Making Waves developed an immersive, six-month documentary exploration program for high school and college students. The program involved 16 MU students and 35 CPS high school students. The 16 MU students were trained as “counselors,” and led the high school students through the program. The program culminated with all students attending three full days at the True/False Film Fest. This program was designed as a recruitment tool for MU. High school students took an MU campus tour and participated in storytelling workshops with MU faculty members.

### **THE HOPE PROJECT (Missouri Scholars Academy Partner Project)**

Making Waves led an audio project with 15 Missouri Scholars Academy scholars. The students interviewed their peers, and created an audio project that answered the question: “What is hope?” The Missouri Scholars Academy is a statewide program for gifted high school students, and also serves as a recruitment tool for MU.

### **SUMMARY**

In its three years as a program, Making Waves has provided intensive storytelling, technical journalistic skill-building, and empathy-building programming for 27 MU students and 67 Columbia Public Schools high school students. All high school student programming focused on

University of Missouri recruitment through campus tours, campus meeting spaces, and interaction with faculty. All programs emphasized learning from community members, engaging with diverse perspectives, holding multiple truths, and practicing empathetic and critical civil discourse. We believe these skills are invaluable on our campus and in our community.

### **EXPENDITURES**

Our funding went toward audio recording tech, meeting spaces and supplies, and staff wages. We bought 10 audio recording kits, which we used with all three programs. These kits are also utilized by students in the MU Digital Storytelling Department. We paid for meeting space on the MU campus, as well as meeting supplies and copy services.

Staff wages	\$17,988.33
Staff benefits	\$738.47
Equipment	\$4,608.14
Meeting space	\$403.34
Meeting supplies	\$356.66
Print/copy services	\$89.28
Intra-divisional rev transfer	\$681.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,865.22</b>

### **THANK YOU**

We are so grateful to the Interdisciplinary Innovations Fund for allowing us the opportunity to grow our program in size, quality and rigor. While we do not directly impact an overwhelmingly large section of campus, we truly believe our programs can (and will) shape the way our students think about identity and social justice as they make their way through college. We know it's possible because we've had classes at the University of Missouri that changed our lives, and ultimately changed campus for the better.

If you have any questions about the program, direct them to Kelsey Kupferer, at [kupfererk@missouri.edu](mailto:kupfererk@missouri.edu).

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### ATTACHMENTS:

- Budget
- Curriculum

### THE PROJECT

Making Waves, a hands-on course designed for non-journalism majors, guides students through the process of producing radio journalism pieces by building their skills in writing, interviewing, editing and voicing. Throughout the semester, each student will write, report, edit and produce a four-minute feature story about a social issue that's important to them. These stories will be published online, archived with MU libraries, and broadcast on KBIA, our local NPR member station.

This course encourages students to explore personal identity and community social issues, and to understand how they can use storytelling as a tool for positive social change. During each class, students will engage in conversations about journalism, identity, truth, vulnerability, and empathy. Students will leave the course with hard skills in writing, editing, interviewing, using audio recording equipment, and using audio editing software. The Making Waves curriculum is rooted in [feminist pedagogy](#) and aims to promote [self-authorship](#) through engaged, student-focused, [experiential learning](#).

### PROGRESS

Since we received the Interdisciplinary Innovations Fund grant last year, Making Waves has shifted from a program for high school students to a program for college students. We revamped our curriculum and proposed our course as a class for the MU Honors College. It was accepted. Making Waves is now a two credit hour class (course number 1030H section 3) geared toward first year students in the Honors College. This semester we have six students. We were supposed to have eight, but two of our students accidentally signed up for the wrong class section (they were both pre-pharmacy, and 1030H section 2 was a drug design class). We're on track to teach the course again next semester, hopefully with 8-10 students. Offering academic credit for participation in the Making Waves program solved our college student recruitment and retention problem.

Part of our mission is to provide students with a supportive space for discussions about social issues. We have stayed true to this part of our mission. Just this week, we dedicated half of our class to a conversation about an overt act of racism on campus. We talked about how we can

work toward racial justice. It was an extremely intelligent and powerful student-directed conversation. Our students said they wished they had the opportunity to have discussions like it in more of their classes.

One exciting challenge we've faced is that one of our students is deaf. On the first day of class, she asked us if we thought she could be successful in this class, since it's focused on audio storytelling. We said "YES!" We reworked parts of our curriculum to make it more universally accessible, which has significantly improved our class as a whole. First, we typed out transcripts for all of our audio pieces. (For some reason, not all podcasts post transcripts.) Giving all of our students access to the transcripts has allowed them to more actively engage in the stories because they can take notes as they listen, and engage through reading and listening simultaneously. Second, we used part of our IIF funding to reserve a conference room to hold class in. That way, we can sit around a round table, and our hard of hearing student can lip read what her classmates are saying. The round table has made class discussion much easier and more productive for everyone. Third, we've been brainstorming ways for our class to produce audio pieces that are all accessible to our hard of hearing student. We've found an organization out of London called Radio Atlas that specializes in subtitles for radio. Ultimately, our hard of hearing student has made us all think about sound, listening and speech in a new and more complex way than we had before, and our whole class is better for it.

### **OUTCOMES**

Since the beginning of the Making Waves program, we've measured our success by assessing student development along eight learning outcomes (see course syllabus). Since we're in the middle of our first semester with college students, we don't have assessment data yet for this semester.

Our students have completed their first big project, which is a recorded personal essay. They're currently working on their second project, a four-minute reported feature story. All their work is housed (with their permission) on our class website.

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

In addition to our existing partnerships with KBIA and the University of Missouri Honors College, we've piloted two new partnerships. This summer, we partnered with MU's Missouri Scholars Academy to produce an audio project with current MU students and Missouri high school students. We're also currently working with the True/False Film Festival to develop the True/False Boot Camp, which is a media literacy program for Columbia high school students and first year college students, led by MU college student counselors. We haven't solidified our partnership with the MU Library archives yet, but we're working on it.

### **EXPENDITURES**

Our budget is attached. Our primary expense was purchasing 10 audio kits. We have partnered with the Digital Storytelling Department to manage our finances. Should the Making Waves program ever end, the Digital Storytelling Department will be able to use our equipment to continue our mission.

The majority of our funding is going toward staff salaries. We also pay for a space to hold class in and class materials.

### **THANK YOU**

We are so grateful to the Interdisciplinary Innovations Fund for allowing us the opportunity to grow our program in size, quality and rigor. While we do not directly impact an overwhelmingly large section of campus, we truly believe our class can (and will) shape the way our students think about identity and social justice as they make their way through college. We know it's possible because we've had classes at the University of Missouri that changed our lives, and ultimately changed campus for the better.

If you have any questions about the program, please direct them to me, Kelsey Kupferer, at [kupfererk@missouri.edu](mailto:kupfererk@missouri.edu). Please let me know if you need additional information. We're also excited to receive ideas or feedback, so don't hesitate to reach out.