

UnderGrounds

Miller Arts Scholars, Rising Fourth-Year Award, Outcome Report
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The University of Virginia offers a collegiate experience unlike any other, with a language and many long-standing traditions that are unique to Mr. Jefferson's University. Never referred to as a "campus," the university Grounds are rife with history and secrets. Thanks to the generous donors of the Miller Arts Scholars program, I have been able to create *UnderGrounds*, a documentary that seeks to reveal secrets that UVA students have come to discover during their time at the University. Moreover, it explores how someone may define a "secret," and how these various meanings differ and connect us within the community.

I initially entered the University of Virginia as a Miller Arts Scholar for Drama, with every intention of pursuing the subject as my major and filling my time outside of classes with theatre clubs and productions. However, I was also interested in taking a few Studio Art classes to explore how I could combine my artistic skills with technology. I decided to enroll in New Media and Cinematography, and ended up enjoying it so much so that I made it my minor. Furthermore, I declared myself as an interdisciplinary major, with concentrations in Arts Administration, Media Studies, and Studio Art. As an interdisciplinary major, I was required to complete a thesis project to apply all that I have learned from my diverse range of classes. Given my passion for story-telling from my theatre background, along with my interest in artistic expression through technology, I ultimately decided that I wanted to create a documentary film for my thesis. I knew that if I applied for and received the Rising Fourth-Year Award through the Miller Arts Scholars program, I could make my vision a reality.

Upon receiving the grant last May, I was eager to get started gathering equipment that I would need for filming in the fall. Having taken film classes at UVA, along with joining and being involved in the Filmmaker's society, I learned what equipment I would need to create the documentary. Although there is equipment available to rent/borrow at school, I wanted to use this grant to invest in my own personal equipment not only for this project, but also for other class projects, future internships/jobs, and other personal projects. I was excited to purchase my first DSLR camera, along with a lens that will make every angle and shot possible for the film. I also needed to purchase a tripod to stably shoot the interviews, and an external hard drive to store all of the footage on. Lastly, I wanted to purchase a year long student membership for the Adobe Creative Cloud, allowing me to have essential programs like Photoshop, Premiere, and After Effects for post production and editing for my documentary.

My budget broke down as follows:

Canon EF 70-200mm f/2.8L IS II USM Lens	\$1,800
Canon EOS 70D DSLR Camera Body	\$800
Slik Pro 340DX Tripod Legs	\$90
Adobe Creative Cloud 1 Year Membership	\$240
WD Elements 2TB USB 3.0 Portable Hard Drive	\$85
TOTAL = \$3,015	

I spent my summer in California interning at the San Diego Film Festival as the Assistant Production Coordinator. In my free time not working at the festival, I began to learn how to use my equipment. I watched YouTube videos, got advice from my coworkers, and tested it out making small practice films all summer. I stayed in communication with Professor Sampson over the phone and email throughout my time in San Diego.

When I returned to school in the fall, I began finalizing my concept for my film. After experimenting with different types and styles of film, I have come to find documentaries to be a compelling and fascinating way to not only captivate an audience, but also to expose the audience to something unknown. I was excited for the challenge, and be able to push my creative boundaries and add to my portfolio. I knew that I wanted the documentary to be based on the UVA as a way to commemorate and honor the knowledge and skills I've obtained during my time here. Spreading across 1,700 acres of land, housing over 16,000 students, and having almost 200 years of history and traditions, the University of Virginia has more to offer than almost any one person can explore. With every person that I meet at UVA, I learn something new about this amazing university, and this led to deciding the focus of my documentary. Everyone here has discovered their own "secret," such as a favorite study spot, a tasty local meal, an inspiring professor, or a shortcut to get to their next class. With the skills from my cinematography and digital media classes, along with the Arts Scholars award, I was prepared and inspired to reveal these hidden secrets on our campus in a documentary titled: "*UnderGrounds*." I planned to record interviews of UVA students discussing and revealing the unique secrets they have discovered during their time at UVA, along with footage of these special places.

By mid-September, I had several UVA students that were interested in being in my film. However, the filming got pushed back until January, since another film project came up that took up 2 months of my time. In my New Media class last semester, we were assigned to create a final project that would take 8 weeks to create. Since I had all of my new equipment, I thought it would be a great opportunity to make a short documentary for practice. I ended up spending the majority of the semester creating *Hello*, a mockumentary-style film "revealing an unhealthy obsession that's sweeping the pop music

nation.” In short, it focused on three people and how much they loved the music artist Adele. This film, made with my equipment I purchased with the award money, can be viewed on my online digital portfolio: www.hrcklock.com/cinematography.



Screenshot stills from *Hello*

In January, I kicked it into high gear for *UnderGrounds*. I immediately began filming interviews and B-roll of each person’s secret space. By mid-March I had wrapped all of the filming, and started the editing process using Adobe Creative Cloud. With the entire film adding up to almost 20 minutes, I unfortunately am not able to reveal the final product at the Award Presentations. However, I spent several weeks editing the full-length version down to a 5-minute “trailer” to give people a sneak peak of the entire documentary. I am currently in the process of reducing the full-length file size so that I can upload it onto my online portfolio for public viewing.



Screenshot stills from *UnderGrounds*



Screenshot stills from *UnderGrounds*

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