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Submitted to the Media Studies Faculty for COM 470: The Capstone Experience

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**Title of Project:** A Look Into the Past: A Capstone Experience for the New London Historical Society

**Medium:** For this media-studies capstone, I am determined to use the skills taught to me in COM 228 and 328, Video Production I and II courses, to create a video project. After careful consideration, I have decided to produce a ten-minute educational and picturesque video, with descriptive narrative, historic details and antique buildings from the historic Old New London Village and around the town of New London, New Hampshire, with a contemporary outlook.

**Project Description:** My client, Maggie Ford, the immediate past president of the New London Historical Society has informed me that they are in need of updating the video on the official website, <http://newlondonhistorical.wordpress.com>. On the website, a virtual tour video narrates the history of New London, while presenting artifacts and showing architecture and photographs, taken from the Old New London Village.

For my capstone experience, I plan to extend and enhance the virtual tour video, by taking a creatively historical and personal approach with added artifact detail, historical information, reenactments and stories of the past. My intent is to record the historic culture and perspectives of residents in New London, referring to books such as, "History of New London" by Myra Lord, "Our Voices, Our Town" by Ann Page Stecker and lastly, "Mirror to America" by J. Duane Squires.

The combination of narrative, reenactments, artifacts and visuals, will engage audiences in the historic culture of the small town, while gradually transporting them to the present day. The project will include, video footage of the Old New London Village, landscapes around New London, including the historic markers, as well as student-created reenactments. Additionally, the project will include audio to narrate and share details about the town in the past. The final footage will be edited and cut using Final Cut Pro X, then burned on DVD+R disks, given a professional disk cover and distributed to members of the New London Historical Society. I will also upload the video on the web, so it can be accessed at any time.

**Background Information:** The New London Historical Society was founded after the Civil War, in 1954, when the towns in New Hampshire celebrated Old Home Day. Old Home Day was a festival that marked the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town, New London's, incorporation into the community. A few years later, on July 31, 1954 a meeting held at the town hall, marked the first conference of the New London Historical Society. The society's purpose was to collect and preserve both artifacts and objects of historical significance, to educate audiences about the past. With little support, the society held meetings in the Baptist Church and Parish Hall. As the town grew, generous donations came foreword that would help restore many of the historical village exhibits and preserve the town history and culture for future generations.

Today, the historical society's exhibits date back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century; they also feature a wide variety of horse drawn carriages and sleighs. The New

London Historical Society not only collects and preserves artifacts from the past, but also, educationally engages audiences through the guided tour and host's seasonal interactive events. All of the buildings and artifacts still stand today in the Old New London Village, located at 179 Little Sunapee Road, New London.

**Project Goal:** With this video project, Mrs. Ford and myself hope to educate audiences about the rural lifestyles of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century and share how history has shaped the New London we know today. This video will give the historical society a chance to show its impressive old historic village, historic markers scattered around town and demonstrate their involvement in New London's past and present. Mrs. Ford and myself hope to share stories of the past, with added film and picture visuals, for visitors to gain a pictorial perspective while perusing the official website. We hope to encourage audiences to take a tour of the Old New London Village and visit quaint New London.

**Target Audience:** I selected this particular project, because I believe video and audio will best display and depict the historical artifacts of the Old New London Village and the surrounding mountainous magnificence of the small town. The video will provide audiences with reenactments and a narrative tale of the past, while incorporating a modern outlook, aimed towards the evolving town and events the historical society hosts annually. This video will keep inquisitive audiences informed in a multitude of ways and transport audiences young and old back in time to understand the evolution of the quaint New London town. The video will share old photographs, historical perspectives, reenactments, scenic past and present artifacts and, of course, share information about the small town to inquisitive school children, college students, residents and visitors. The video will be accessible online, through the society's website and will be enlightening, yet straightforward enough for people of all ages to understand.

**Medium Justification:** Video enables me to project a mixture of sights, action, sound, transitions and information consistently and persuasively to reach a specific audience about the history of the local community. A video can be promotional, educational and entertaining, as well as manageable and cost-effective. Visuals are important, because they can convey pictures with facts, emotion and sound and can easily and quickly convey messages that can be replayed multiple times. Visuals are creative and can present a summary of information. Additionally, creating a ten-minute video project will greatly enhance my filming and editing skills, while allowing me to work professionally with a client and use my creative ideas. Video is not only a visual medium, it can be highly informational and emotional; it can be used to clarify and connect the past to the present, to exhibit amongst tours and audiences, both in person and online.

**Potential Participants:** I will ensemble my video project with the help of a fellow media-studies senior, Melanie Corley. Miss Corley will focus on creating audio stories for their official website and print brochures.

I also plan to work closely with the historical society's immediate past president, Maggie Ford, to acquire informational references from books and past events, updates on upcoming events and access into the buildings in the Old New London Village.

**Resources:** For my project, I will be utilizing the Cannon XA10 camcorder and tripod, provided here at Colby-Sawyer College. Additional resources will be provided for me at the Old New London Village, located on Little Sunapee Road. Informational books about the Old New London Village buildings, artifacts and past tales of residence will be provided for me at the Susan Colgate Cleveland Library. I will be referencing historical film and other local historical societies for ideas. Furthermore, I will be utilizing Final Cut Pro X, Microsoft Word, Apple's Photo booth, Keynote and iTunes, along with Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop installed on my laptop.

**Budget:** The budget list is as follows:

#### Gas

I will be traveling to and from the Old New London Village, located conveniently on 179 Little Sunapee Road, New London, New Hampshire, approximately 0.9 miles away (two minutes). The fuel cost for a round trip will be about \$1.00.

I plan on meeting with Mrs. Ford, at least four times, to gain access to the historical village to film and obtain any additional references or information needed to complete the video project. The total gas mileage for the entire project will be about \$4.00. (Provided by MapQuest)

#### DVD+R Disks

I will need to distribute final copies of the project on DVD+R disks to the New London Historical Society members as well as the Colby-Sawyer College faculty. I will need to purchase one pack of the Memorex 100-pack DVD+R spindle. The cost of one spindle is \$22.22; this will allow me to have enough disks to distribute during my final presentation.

#### Props

I also plan on purchasing a few props for the reenactment scenes, mostly old parchment, writing papers, a diary and ink and quills. The total for these items should be less than \$60.00.

Budget Total: \$89.22

#### **Timeline:**

**November 4<sup>th</sup>**- First meeting with client

**November 7<sup>th</sup>**- Write capstone proposal

**November 12<sup>th</sup>**- Write capstone proposal

**November 14<sup>th</sup>**- Library research and background information

**November 19<sup>th</sup>**- Library research and background information

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>**- Edit Capstone Proposal and send to client

**November 25<sup>th</sup>**- Final Proposal due

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>**- Library research

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**- Library and online research

**December 7<sup>th</sup>**- Work on the storyboard

**December 9<sup>th</sup>**- Continue research and edit the proposal

**December 13<sup>th</sup>**- Continue research

**January 7<sup>th</sup>**- Edit proposal

**January 8<sup>th</sup>**- Finalize proposal

**January 9<sup>th</sup>**- Work on the shooting script

**January 13<sup>th</sup>**- Work on the shooting script

**January 15<sup>th</sup>**- Research and continue to work on the shooting script

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>**- Organize proposal with the shooting script

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>**- Finalize the shooting script

**January 28<sup>th</sup>**- Work on narration script

**January 30<sup>th</sup>**- Edit narration script

**February 6<sup>th</sup>**- Finalize narration script

**February 10<sup>th</sup>**- Start shooting list

**February 12<sup>th</sup>**- Finalize shooting script

**February 13<sup>th</sup>**- Finalize shooting script, narration script and shooting script

**February 14<sup>th</sup>**- Send shooting script, narration script and shooting list to client

**February 17<sup>th</sup>**- Research other historical society's videos

**February 19<sup>th</sup>**- Email feedback about sent scripts and preform necessary edits

**February 20<sup>th</sup>**- Print shooting script, narration script, shooting list and proposal and write in pauses/sound effects in shooting script and shooting list

**February 24<sup>th</sup>**- Library research

**February 26<sup>th</sup>**- Inquire about narration/ narrators

**February 27<sup>th</sup>**- Shooting day for still photos

**February 28<sup>th</sup>**- Inquire about props/ access to buildings

**March 3<sup>th</sup>**- Shooting day for still photos

**March 5<sup>th</sup>**- Record sounds

**March 7<sup>th</sup>**- Send email to possible narrator to set up meeting

**March 10<sup>th</sup>**- Film

**March 12<sup>th</sup>**- Film

**March 14<sup>th</sup>**- Film

**March 13<sup>th</sup>**- Film

**March 17<sup>th</sup>**- Edit video on Final Cut Pro X

**March 19<sup>th</sup>**- Film

**March 21<sup>th</sup>**- Film

**March 24<sup>th</sup>**- Record Audio

**March 25<sup>th</sup>**- Edit audio and video on Final Cut Pro X

**March 26<sup>th</sup>**- Film

**March 27<sup>th</sup>**- Edit on Final Cut Pro X

**March 28<sup>th</sup>**- Take still photos and continue to edit

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>**- Continue filming and editing

**April 4<sup>th</sup>**- Edit footage on Final Cut Pro X

**April 7<sup>th</sup>**- Edit

**April 9<sup>th</sup>**- Edit

**April 11<sup>th</sup>**- Edit and assemble final project

**April 12<sup>th</sup>**- Assemble the final video, documents and scripts and photos to print

**April 13<sup>th</sup>**- Assemble the final product

**April 14<sup>th</sup>**- All materials given to the client

**April 15<sup>th</sup>**- Final project due date!

**Qualifications:** As a Media Studies Major and Film Minor, I have been preparing and applying my skills throughout my college career at Colby-Sawyer College. I have taken introductory courses, such as Writing 105, Media Criticism, Introduction to Desktop Publishing and Journalism where we learned the basic forms of journalistic writing and how to write for television and radio. I continued to follow the curriculum, enrolling in courses such as, Internet Publishing and Digital Media, where I learned to work with Dreamweaver, In Design and Photoshop to create graphics and websites using HTML code. I have taken a number of film courses to fulfill my film minor requirements, including International Film, Woman in Film, Documentary and Film, Literature and Film, Movie Mavericks and Film Technology and Truth. I have enjoyed Video Production I and II, which taught me how to properly use video, audio and lighting equipment and edit projects on Final Cut Pro X. In Video Production, I have filmed shorts, music videos, interview and raw footage around the college that has greatly improved my camera work. I also enjoyed brainstorming creative ideas with my group when filming various shorts and music videos.

Furthermore, I have been committed to the Media Studies field since freshman year in anticipation of finally getting the opportunity to work independently with the skills that I have acquired. I have been trained to use the video equipment and how to incorporate various cuts, edits and effects on Photoshop, Illustrator and Final Cut Pro X. On a personal note, I have been editing and filming video since I have been in high school. On trips overseas and thought the United States I would use my phone or camera, with video capabilities, to film tourist attractions and landscapes, which I would later edit to music for personal use. This allowed me to practice filming and editing, and it was fun to use my creative skills in the editing process when adding songs I enjoyed at the time. I have these created short and personal videos, but have not completed full ten-minute professional and educational video project with

research, audio, props and reenactments, and I look forward to the challenge! This project is a perfect opportunity for me to expand my skill set, learn new skills and learn the challenges of filmmaking and editing. I believe that with these skills and my determination to succeed, I will effectively enable me to assemble my vision for the capstone experience.