Leading Technology, a Career of Learning and Moving Forward

by Qiannan Xue, Journalism Studies Student and Dresden Romero, MFJS Communications & Marketing Manager

Ensuring students are equipped with the right technology to learn effectively and be competitive as a graduate has always been a top priority for Bob Yablans, Senior Research Support Specialist for University Technology Services (UTS) at University of Denver (DU).

In his sixteen-year career at DU, Bob has supported the technical needs for the Department of Media, Film & Journalism Studies overseeing the film and video production and post-production operations, along with providing training for faculty and students. He also consults with other DU units, including Emergent Digital Practices, School of Art and Art History, The Clarion, and other AHSS departments. He always makes himself available to anyone at DU with a tech question.

Yablans graduated from DU in 1985 with a BA in Mass Communication (Mass Comm), and specialized in film and TV production. During one winter break as an undergraduate student, Yablans rebuilt and returned to operation the control room and studio at Mass Comm. He continues to innovate, and recently purchased padcasters for use by MFJS journalism students.

“I’m always very forward thinking regarding technology, and I like to take risks and be a technology leader, rather than a follower,” he said.
According to Yablans, it’s paramount for DU programs to offer students the best possible training for the industry. He is constantly in a learning mode – reading trade publications, attending conferences and webinars to digest information about new digital media technologies that he shares with faculty and students. He then partners with them to help determine the right direction and right technology.

In fall 2014, Yablans led MFJS’ transition to Adobe Premiere Pro as the department’s primary editing software. “Students seem to be really pleased about Premiere’s operation,” said Yablans. He also handles questions regarding Adobe’s new Creative Cloud Licensing and deployment for anyone at DU looking to upgrade.

The field of technology is ever-evolving, and does not come without challenges. Yablans said he feels fortunate to work at a progressive institution like DU, and loves working with faculty and students. “When you’re passionate about what you do, everything becomes a lot easier. Working for DU and MFJS makes my job enjoyable, and it makes me excited to come to work everyday and be happy,” said Yablans.

What words would Yablans share with students? “You have to keep learning all the time, and moving forward as technology moves so quickly. The more you know about current technological trends, the more marketable you are.”

Click here to watch a video about Bob Yablans, created by MFJS students.