Students Trace History of World Pro Skiing with Interterm Course

by Qiannan Xue, Journalism Studies Student

Research, editing, shooting, and an exhibition were all a part of a winter interterm course, Video History of World Pro Skiing, at the Department of Media, Film & Journalism Studies (MFJS). Over the course of five days, students produced six three-minute documentary video vignettes about the history of world pro skiing that will be featured in a world pro skiing exhibit at the Colorado Ski & Snowboarding Museum during the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, taking place in Vail, CO in February 2015.

Otto Tschudi, a former Olympic skier and member of The University of Denver’s (DU) Board of Trustees, made the initial connection about the course. Tschudi approached DU to ask if students could create videos on the history of world pro skiing. Students were able to meet Tschudi and other world pro skiers, and hear their feedback about the videos.
Students found the course to be fun and helpful in gaining important career experience. “I really want to work at a software company, and this course provides a similar working environment,” said Michael Roitman, a sophomore computer science and math major. Weston Eckloff, junior business and film studies and production major agreed and said, “My ideal career is a film producer, and this course gives me an idea of a real media working environment.”

Professor Andrew Matranga taught the course and enjoyed guiding students through the learning process. “This course was a great opportunity for students who have no experience with video and Adobe software,” said Matranga. “Students gained experience in a real job environment rather than a classroom, and worked with partners to create a video,” said Matranga.

Matranga said he was surprised at what students produced in a few days. “I was impressed that they formed a team and got to work so quickly, and I really look forward their final video,” said Matranga.