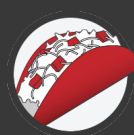


2017

SoulofAthens

seven individuals working to make an impact in their community



Vision Statement

“To explore the stories of individuals and their respective organizations that are making an impact in Southeastern Ohio. By documenting those stories, we aim to capture the importance of working toward a change in others’ lives, no matter how big or small.”

Sam Jones

Story by Kelsey Brunner

David Butcher

Story by Emily Matthews

Kat Trout

Story by Aaron Atkins

Suzanne Greif

Story by Erin Clark

Jan Griesinger

Story by Kaitlin Owens

Rudy Ramirez

Story by Marlena Sloss

Kari Gunter–Seymour

Story by Grace Warner



Sam Jones

Sam Jones started boxing at 8 years old, following in his father’s footsteps. Gloucester Athletic Club, or Sam’s Gym as it is lovingly referred, is the oldest boxing gym in the country. It was opened in 1936 by Sam’s father, Edwin Jones, as a way for the local coal miners to blow off steam after long workdays. The gym has transformed over the years to become a place of refuge for local children living in the area to get off the streets. Beginner, amateur, and professional boxers train at Sam’s Gym, learning under the once-professional boxer Sam Jones.

MEET THE TEAM



Kelsey Brunner

1st Year Graduate Student

Photojournalism

“I photographed in Sam’s Gym last semester and I was drawn to the generations of families that were training at the gym. Grandfathers with their grandsons, brothers and sisters, and parents that lined the room watching their children do curl-ups and spar. Throughout it all there was an air of enthusiasm and happiness. Sam walked around and had in-depth, personal conversations with everyone training, especially the younger kids. He would adjust form, talk to them about their families and spend time with them. For this project, I wanted to look at Sam more closely. I wanted to give a sense of who Sam was and how these kids and his gym impacted him. I used audio and still photography to tell the story and Nick Bolin integrated 360° video with the audio to give the audience an opportunity to be immersed inside of the historical gym.

Contributor:

Nick Bolin, 360° Video

MEET THE TEAM



Emily Matthews

Junior, Photojournalism

“In this project, I wanted to try to depict David’s passion for his town and its history. He knows its history so well that he’s able to share facts about it – including important dates and names of former and current town residents – off the top of his head. I decided to include audio of him talking about his town as a way to portray his knowledge and devotion to it. David’s genealogy is also an important part of the town, so I thought a family tree infographic to be a visual, as well as informative, way to show that.”



David Butcher

David Butcher has lived in the small town of Kilvert, formerly known as Tablertown, for most of his life. The town came into being around 1830 when Michael Tabler, the son of a Virginia plantation owner, came to Ohio with the six children he had with his father’s slave, Hannah. David, one of the descendants of Michael and Hannah, has been interested in the history of his town and genealogy since he was a child. He has rooms full of old family photos, genealogical documents, historic town maps, and artifacts made by his ancestors. He displays some of these items in the Kilvert Community Center for residents and visitors to see. His goal is to get Kilvert back on the map by getting others interested in the history of the town through displays similar to the one in the center.

MEET THE TEAM



Aaron Atkins

Graduate student, Ph.D.

Mass Communication

“I wanted to approach this story differently, technologically speaking, than any I had done up to this point. I am a journalist, and interviewing subjects and having them communicate information or share their stories and perspectives on-camera is pretty standard. However, adapting that format to shoot an interview-based feature story using 360-degree video was new territory for me, and brought with it a unique set of challenges. There is no such thing as being off-camera – everything was in the shot. Lighting was another difficulty; there was no way to adjust for varying lighting conditions, so I tried to take advantage of outdoor natural light as much as made sense, and, more or less, roll the dice on any shots which relied on whatever natural or artificial lighting that was in a room at any given time.”

Contributor

Shawn Green
360° Video



Kat Trout

The Gatherers, the house band of The Gathering Place – a drop-in center and recovery house for people with diagnosed mental illnesses – was born out of its music therapy program. They’ve played out at various community functions and at several local venues over the past three years. Kat Trout, the band’s lead singer and keyboard player, sees the band as a way to cope with her own mental illness, to address social anxiety issues, and serve as a source of community outreach for others coping with mental health issues.

MEET THE TEAM



Erin Clark

1st Year Graduate student,
Photojournalism

“My philosophy as I approached this story was a fine balance of how to create an impactful narrative while juggling adorable subjects, such as bunnies. Suzanne has a powerful story and I wanted to ensure that the audience understood the full grasp of what she has created with her rabbit rescue. On the other hand, bunnies are cute and fuzzy and ensuring that the audience is able to fully visualize, hear, and appreciate the bunnies for what they are was also important to me. Maintaining that balance between telling the story of the important work that Suzanne does while also incorporating the playfulness of rabbits was vital.”

Suzanne Greif

River Road Rabbit Rescue, founded by Suzanne Greif, is more than just a refuge for bunnies. Suzanne has dedicated her career to helping those in the region by providing education, community service opportunities, and specialized rabbit therapy to nursing homes and people with disabilities. For nearly three years, River Road Rabbit Rescue has operated solely through grants and donations to facilitate homes for rabbits while also creating an environment that encourages responsibility and accountability through teaching rabbit owners about proper care. In addition to education and therapy, Suzanne uses her rescue in various other areas of the community such as Girl Scout programs and providing community service hours to juvenile delinquents.

MEET THE TEAM



Kaitlin Owens

Senior, Photojournalism

“Even as a staunch feminist activist, Jan Griesinger is typically quiet and softspoken in person. She also leads a simple lifestyle with little technology. I felt that her quiet personality would be best portrayed through still photos and words. Griesinger also had a very long career as the Director of United Campus Ministries, on top of forming many activist organizations. I wanted to illustrate her work without necessarily writing about it. Griesinger was quoted and profiled in newspapers across Ohio over the years, which was perfect to be laid out in a timeline.”



Jan Griesinger

For almost 50 years, Jan Griesinger has opened doors for women and LGBT individuals. A founding member of 16 different social justice groups in Athens, she also served in various roles in a countless number of organizations. While implementing OU’s women’s studies program in 1979, Griesinger and her partner founded the Susan B. Anthony Memorial Unrest Home Land Trust the same year. SuBAMUH serves as a women only space for feminist education and discussion. She may have retired from her full time job in 2004, but this 75-year-old woman is still active in local protests.

Rudy Ramirez

Rudy Ramirez has many roles in Athens: he owns Holy Guacamole, a food truck featuring Central American cuisine, and serves as an advocate and resource for the Hispanic community. By transporting migrant workers to places with better-paying jobs across Ohio and the eastern United States, he has helped improve their experience and their chance to succeed. He is dedicated to his family and brings a hard-working attitude to everything he does. Rudy is the type of person that when you meet him once, you remember him forever.

MEET THE TEAM



Marlena Sloss

1st Year Graduate, Photojournalism

“For this story, I felt it was important for the audience to hear Rudy’s voice because it is so much a part of his character. I also wanted the visuals to drive the story so that the audience is able to connect Rudy’s voice with his face and to see the people who are important to him. An audio slideshow was the best choice for combining audio and visuals while being able to produce quality work in low-light settings with a lot of movement.”

MEET THE TEAM



Grace Warner

Junior, Journalism

“Kari Gunter-Seymour’s laugh is contagious, her smile is heartwarming, and her love for the artists involved in The Women of Appalachia Project is undeniable. When meeting her for the first time, she talked about the lack of space for Appalachian women to showcase their fine art and spoken poetry. This was the reason she created the project in 2009, and since then it has grown significantly. Wanting to highlight the person behind the project in a visually appealing way while profiling the project’s success, I found a text-based story with an additional video was the best way to portray it.”

Contributor:
Nick Bolin, Video



Kari Gunter-Seymour

Appalachian women have faced the stereotype of being underserved, undereducated, barefoot and pregnant for years. To stand up against the stigma these women are choosing to showcase their fine art and spoken poetry. Meet the person behind The Women of Appalachia Project and see how she has created a space for these women to showcase their talents and works for the

BEHIND THE SCENES



Atish Baidya

2nd Year Graduate, Visual Communication Management

As part of the management team for this year’s Soul of Athens, my goal was to support the story producers, designers, and coders in their efforts to bring the project to life. It involves a lot of text messages, speaking in front of the team, and writing on a white board. This project has a number of moving parts so I’m extremely grateful for the support and efforts my fellow managers Nick Bolin and Kelsey Bowman in helping bring our entire team’s vision to fruition.



Trevor Barna

Senior, Interactive Design

“I always design according to the content. Another important factor is the targeted audience, and understanding how to create the best user experience for them. Visuals are very powerful, and I chose to have the video of my story at the top, and the four pages of supporting text below, separated with various pull quotes to add aesthetics and spacing.”



Nick Bolin

Senior, Photojournalism

“This year I wanted to produce a 360° video that would push my skills as a visual storyteller. When we began discussing the story subjects and the best ways to tell their narratives, I felt like the Sam’s Gym story would be best one to try and immerse our viewers in a 360° environment. I knew it would be a challenge getting the camera in the ring with boxers, but that’s what I wanted the viewer to see – what it was like in the ring and in the gym. At the same time as shooting and editing Sam’s Gym, I helped other students shoot and edit their projects. Taking on more of a leadership role throughout the project has helped my skills in both shooting and editing.”



Kelsey Bowman

Senior, Interactive Design

“As front-end web developer I was in charge of the HTML and CSS for the web-site. I was also one of the project administrators, serving as liaison between the content team, design team, and the development team. I am very excited to be so heavily involved with this project, and I am very proud of the work the web development team and I were able to accomplish.”



Patrick Fahey

Senior, Interactive Design

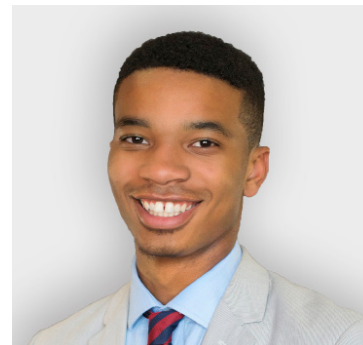
“I helped in designing the style guide and mockups for each page. With the help of Emily Russell, we implemented the design choices discussed in class with the rest of the designer. I also created the pictographs to be used on each page to give each story a common design component.”



Shawn Green

Senior, Intergrated Media

“I assisted story teams with practical knowledge of audio and video gear as well as in-the-field shooting for traditional and 360 video. I was also responsible for planning and shooting the landing page video. It was important to me that the production quality of the video content we produced remained high while respecting ethical guidelines set in place by the team as a whole. I strived to fix technical problems during editing to reach that goal.”



Michael Jones

Senior, Interactive Design

“As the project manager I spent a lot of time working with the Print designer giving input on the overall aesthetic. Additionally, I shared input and vision when necessary to aid in constructive conversation.” w



Marquis Maines

Senior, Interactive Design

“My responsibility was heading the design of the supplemental document you’re reading. I thought it was imperative that it provided context and insight that you wouldn’t gain from viewing the website. With information including introducing the team and their respective philosophies, you, the reader, have the opportunity to get the inside scoop.”



Jane North

Senior, Interactive Design

“For this year’s publication I paired with content creator Emily Matthews to tell the story of David Butcher and the town of Kilvert, Ohio. Emily was able to gather a variety of media types so it was important for me to determine the clearest way to distribute it. Beneath the feature image sits the main text component of the narrative. I made the decision to place the audio story and family tree graphic within the body copy to make the experience more immersive.”



Rachel Riccardo

Senior, Interactive Design

“I had the pleasure of being involved in several aspects of the website. Apart from helping with the overall look and feel of the site, I helped design the Sam’s Gym story, the landing page video, and marketing materials to help promote the launch. My goal was to stay consistent with the brand in every aspect of the site.”



Emily Russell

Senior, Interactive Design

“I designed both the style guide and the wireframes for Soul of Athens 2017. We went through multiple design mockups before deciding on our layout. We chose the colors and typefaces through discussion and collaboration. I also worked with Patrick to design the buttons and icons for the site.”



Michael Tedesco

Senior, Interactive Media

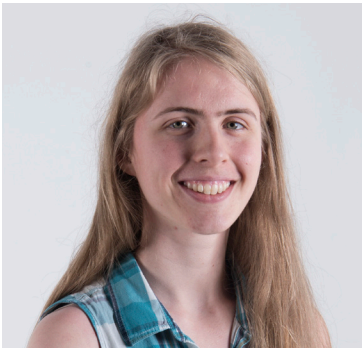
“My function as a nontraditional student in this year’s Soul of Athens project was to act as an advisor, offer an experienced perspective during project discussions, and to edit copy. It was of primary importance to me to support and encourage my remarkably talented and creative classmates.”



Luca Wistendahl

Senior, Interactive Design

“As the lead back-end web developer for Soul of Athens 2017, my main responsibility was to make sure the site was developed and edited in a modular, dynamic way. I achieved this by using a combination of PHP, JavaScript and JSON. Regarding the site’s design, I supported its minimal design that puts content first.”



Melissa Wrench

Senior, Interactive Design

“While I helped with some design decisions early on in the project, my main role was to help code the accordion slideshow along with Luca Wistendahl. During the design phase, I helped redirect the conversation on typography choice toward more legible, accessible typefaces with specific focus on things like x-height, the space in open counters of letters, and differences in similar letter shapes.”

