

Volunteer and Mobile Studio Year End Highlights 2021

The ARRIVAL OF ODESIA!!!

The arrival of Odesia was arguably (or undeniably?) the most DELIGHTFUL change this year. I was proud of how we managed to keep everything going through the period of time that we didn't have a designated Marketing and Outreach Director, and I did my best to maintain some relationships with the bit of that position that I covered, but Odesia's enthusiasm and drive and charisma and work ethic and teamwork have all been such an enormous boost to the energy of CFRU, and I personally have greatly benefited from getting to work with her often and to collaborate on so many projects. So good. It makes me very happy and I've definitely avoided burnout more times due to being able to access her energy and support for projects. Hooray for Odesia!

Bridging the Social Distance

I've continued with my radio show "Bridging the Social Distance", which I started at the beginning of the pandemic, March 2020. Between March 2020 and this AGM, we will have aired 179 episodes. Since June of 2020 I've been recording many of these interviews through the Village of Riverside Glen - I meet with them weekly on Wednesday mornings for interviews – these are mainly with residents, but have also included staff and loved ones, and 84 of the 179 episodes have been with the support of staff at Riverside Glen. Having seniors' voices regularly fill our airwaves, especially during a pandemic that has seen increased isolation for a lot of our seniors, has felt like a huge achievement. We've received a lot of positive feedback from the residents and their loved ones. In addition to Riverside Glen content, I've continued to interview other folks in the community – people working in sustainability, musicians/writers/artists, and next week I get to interview the "Climate Change Curator" that was just hired at the Royal Ontario Museum which will be amazing.

Workshops

This year, knowing we'd still be physically closed for at least the majority of the fall semester, I presented the idea of us hosting a "Virtual Workshop Series" The idea was that if students couldn't access our physical space, we could still show them that we were offering awesome and fun learning opportunities. I met with Ed Video to brainstorm what collaborating on workshops could look like, Odesia and I further brainstormed and consulted with staff, and organized and hired/coordinated hosts for:

Podcasting 101 (hosted by Jenny Mitchell and Janan Shojadoost)

Live streaming 101 (hosted by Leonard Gantioqui and Elia Morrison, co-presented by Ed Video)

Intro to Adobe Premiere (hosted by Adelina Riveras, co-presented by Ed Video and Ward 1 Studios)

Behind-the-scenes: Meet the Programmers (hosted by Jenny Mitchell and Bry Webb, and featuring these hosts):

- ! Eileen Jennifer - Backtracks
- ! Mandy & Omorowa - Radiopirg

- ! **Mac Dee** - Tuesdays at 5, Blues Around the Block, Clan ne Gael
- ! **Nicky Dread** - The Crooked Beat
- ! **Curtis Walker & sons** - Kookoo Bananas Variety Hour
- ! **Dave Snider** - Eternal Rhythm
- ! **“Alice” Carol Barret** - Through the Looking Glass
- ! **Harrison** - The Time Machine
- ! **Nicholas Cooper** - Sentinel’s Marvellous Kaleidoscope
- ! **Megan Arnold** - Thank you for Listening!
- ! **Jenny** – Bridging the Social Distance, and Keep Your Metres

Elevate Your Voice: (hosted by BA Elipses, Guelph Spoken Word)

Upcoming: Anti-Oppression 101 (hosted by Brian Kwok)

These workshops were super fun, were decently attended, and seemed like a fun way to stay on folks radar and share some virtual spaces and get to chat with each other. My personal favourite was “Meet the Programmers” - the feedback from everyone in attendance was very positive, and I hope we can make it a regular event.

Interview Skills workshops, working with the SVC, Student Experience, Campus Friends, and Mini-Interviews

I helped get many additional student voices on the airwaves this past year through collaborations with “Student Volunteer Connections (SVC)”, “Student Experience” and “Campus Friends” The Campus Friends have their own radio show, featuring interviews with mentors, and a collaboration with SVC called “Cafe Conversations” where the campus friends students interviewed University Students about their experiences during this pandemic. I did an “Interview Skills” workshop with student team-members from SVC, as well as Students from Career-Services. The SVC students created (and we got to air) “The Connection Challenge” - a series of interviews with fellow students, alumni, and community groups and organizations. We also got to air the Career Services “Career Spotlight” interviews, which featured U of G students in particular programs, interviewing UoG alumni who have gone on to have careers in those fields. Students from SVC also collaborated CFRU to host a “Story sharing hangout”, where students chatted about life during the pandemic.

The main staff leads have changed at Student Experience and the SVC, but I met with the new people in these positions, and we are working together once again, I and was able to support student team members in recording interviews at their “Project Serve Day” construction project at Hanlon Creek, and edit it to air for radio. We have more projects planned for next semester.

I have also offered the “Interview Skills Workshop” to the broader community, and continued to collect, recruit editors for, and edit mini-interviews. We received many mini-interviews, and it was fantastic to get to share those additional voices on the airwaves.

UGDSB School projects, and our Virtual Co-op position

I've been doing projects in schools for years now, but this past year I more formally connected with Tracy Hunter, the Experiential Learning Lead at the UGDSB (Upper Grand District School Board)

With Tracy seeking out teachers and opportunities I was able to run multiple workshops, often on the theme of “Career Pathways”. I would run “Interview Skills” workshop with students, give them feedback on their brainstormed questions, and help recruit professionals in specific careers for the students to get to interview. It's been absolutely incredible, and has engaged hundred of high school students at this point, and brought CFRU onto their radar. I helped oversee a “Career Pathways Project” and a “Passion Projects” project virtually at College Heights/UGDSB Secondary Remote School, and so far this school year (fall 2021) I've done three interview/podcast projects with Grade Twelve French classes at UGDSB. These workshops are also an income source for CFRU, as the school board pays us for the workshops and programs I offer. Bry and I also helped support the Podcast Project that we do annually with Kelly McCullough's “MADE: Urban Arts” experiential learning course. I also helped an elementary student named Sam get his “black history” podcast onto our airwaves for Emancipation Day, and helped record an environmental PSA with the “Fantastic Fives” - a grade five class at Paisley Road PS.

I created and supported our first “Virtual” high school co-op position. Our co-op student was Yuli, and during her condensed summer-co-op position she attended several skills-workshops, recorded several interviews, and produced a show-demo and theme song. It was a very rewarding experience. I have just started the process of getting a new virtual co-op student started for this semester, Dec 3rd to end of January.

Student Liaison/the introduction of student jobs

Another idea I initiated was creating temporary student positions, as a means of offering additional educational and paid opportunities to students. I pitched the idea of starting with a “Student Liaison” - when I was covering Outreach for the period of time that we didn't have a Marketing and Outreach director, I found one of the most difficult tasks to stay on top of was trying to reach out to new departments that had never involved themselves with CFRU, and to come up with engagement strategies and maintain those new connections. So a Student Liaison tasked with doing some of that initial outreach and gauging interest seemed like a really helpful position for us to employ.

CFRU's 40th anniversary exhibit

Going into our 40th year as a station, circa 2019/2020 I coordinated a “40th anniversary committee” of volunteers, to brainstorm and coordinate events and programming to celebrate our 40 years on the FM dial. That committee came up with the idea of a display at the museum, and I reached out and secured our spot for February 2021. The pandemic shifted our timelines a bit, but we agreed as a staff that it would be a good idea to hire two temporary positions to oversee this project – an “Audio-archivist” who's job would be to transfer tapes and reels to digital, and to label and sort through our existing archives to put everything in one accessible location, and a “Curation Assistant”, who would look at all the existing archives and select samples for each year, and design and implement an exhibit for the dedicated space at the museum. Curtis Walker was hired as our “Audio Archivist”, and Halley Roback was hired as our “Curation Assistant” and they did an incredible job, and created an amazing exhibit. I helped support a bit throughout, but they were mainly supervised by/supported by Bry, who poured a ton of love and dedication into this. The exhibit ran until October 31st 2021, and there is the potential that a semi-permanent version of it may get to be exhibited in the Archive Space in the Library at the University of Guelph.

Poverty Task Force

I've continued to try to keep our ear to the ground for opportunities to collaborate with other community groups and partner on projects together, and I got to be a presenter at the Poverty Task Force's Community Advocacy Training, specifically presenting about "interacting with the media", and what folks may encounter when engaging with radio stations to be interviewed and/or share their stories. It was very well-received and hopefully we'll get to be a feature of this workshop series going forward.

Rialto

When the CBC refused John Southworth's Audio-drama/mind-movie/podcast "Rialto", stating it was too "Avante-Garde" I jumped at the chance for us to air the series. I reviewed and made a radio edit for each new episode every second week, and recorded an interview with John at the start of the series. It was amazing to get to have a serial audio-drama on our airwaves, especially by someone as well-renowned as John Southworth. It featured many notable Canadian guest-star/voices. It was super fun and ran from July-October 2021.

Volunteer Hangouts

We hosted a couple volunteer hangouts this past year, one marking the anniversary of the pandemic in March 2021, and one for Pride. Both were fun and featured activities and prize giveaways. These and the ongoing workshop series have been a great way for us to stay connected while we're working virtually.

Promotional giveaways

There have been a ton of cool new promotional giveaways, and it has been fun brainstorming new places to advertise and new give-aways. I found us a person to laser-cut our logo into little bluetooth speaker/radios and giving those away is going to be super fun. I also get to hear from folks at our General Orientation how they discovered us, and through that feedback can confirm the success of the pamphlet that was put in the student welcome package, our promotions in the Ontarian, our bus-ads, and our wicked neon-sign. I also STILL have folks talking about seeing us at Clubs Days, so it will be awesome when the physical version of that can return.

Support material:

Fantastic Fives Environmental PSA (attached)

CFRU Pride Showcase:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Bg6NHkZZ5Aw9roeJJRUDbMDI8OZDI78/view?usp=sharing>

Screen shot from Podcast workshop (see attached)