

NSPA Multimedia Journalist of the Year 2023–2024

Kathryn Foo, Multimedia Features Editor

Personal Statement:

It started with a brain dump session, a flurry of pitching and scrapping ideas all encapsulated on my trusty whiteboard. As the seven of us sat around the table, we found inspiration in our own lives, in a conversation about our parents and the crazy stories of immigration and new beginnings. With that, our goal was born: to tell their stories and pass down their years of wisdom to us. With these pitches, it didn't feel right to just write the story. If my goal was to bring their stories to modern audiences, I wanted to do so in a modern way. In order to capture the essence of their life, their successes and trials, we ultimately made the entire series video.

This year, as the Features editor for the Multimedia Design class, I've championed the stories that often get lost to time. Using multimedia tools, I've made efforts to modernize my publication in an attempt to preserve the packages that we often lose access to once writers graduate, specifically through communication with SNO about their new tool, such as infoboxes, and working with my advisers.

In addition, the audio series I started last year named "Time out!" has flourished this year, as staff writers were encouraged to interview athletes podcast-style about their sports journeys. Here, I wrote and pushed a guide on how to create and format episodes, resulting in a 24-episode series with 17 different episodes being published this year.

As a multimedia journalist, I believe that too often we write stories for the sake of writing, rather than engaging. As a publication, we aim our stories to the modern audiences, especially as student journalists whose audiences largely consist of TikTok-minded high schoolers. Therefore, our audiences rarely have the attention spans for traditional long-form writing. Instead, my experience with multimedia tools has allowed me to prioritize consumability, asking myself, "How can I effectively report in a way that makes my readers *want* to keep reading?" These tools have not only allowed me to bring the past into today, but also have contributed to the quality of those stories. In that way, they breathe life into the stories we tell.

Ultimately, there is value in covering the tired and mundane, in fact, that is where the most interesting of stories go to hide. So, whether it be the elders whose stories go untold, the photojournalists whose work goes overlooked or even our own journalists whose work disappears with time, my work with multimedia journalism will not only tell those stories, but use all the tools I have to do those stories justice.

Submissions:

1. Video Production: [Elders in business](#)

First inspired by the stories of my family, I worked to highlight the lives of the elders who established the business staples of Cupertino. Here, I emailed roughly 20 businesses in our community, connecting with 3 and tracking their family history back multiple generations to show how they ended up running a successful small business in Cupertino, the hub of corporations and tech giants.

2. Photo Gallery: [Chemical imbalance](#)

Due to their elaborate costuming and makeup, I choose to cover MV Drama's spring play through a photo gallery instead of the publications' regular news brief formatting in order to better capture the emotion of the actors and the environment of the set. Here, I was able to effectively portray the storyline of the play with quality photography from a variety of angles.

3. Timeline + Social Media Reporting: [The bigger picture](#)

As activism surrounding the Israel-Hamas war was becoming increasingly viral on social media, my co-writer and I took a step back from the larger discourse to examine the role that photographers and their photos played in furthering such movements. Here, we put an emphasis on applying the pitch beyond the specific war to highlight the work of members of our community, as well as connecting to other social justice movements through our timeline.

4. Audio + Infographic Reporting: [A night to remember](#)

As a part of the larger package highlighting the nuances of sleep within our school, my co-writer and I interviewed various students on their strange experiences with sleep. Here, we utilized the audio story formatting for the different interviews, including different sound effects and using the emotions in their voices to bring their stories to life. The infographic additionally connected the story to the community as a whole.

5. Infoboxes + Package Creation: [Creating culture](#)

Oftentimes, on our website, multimedia packages would become inaccessible once the writer who created their package graduated and their school email was deleted. To highlight my work to preserve the stories on our website, this package was my first attempt to publish

our packages directly to the site, rather than utilizing third-party sites that our staff would regularly use. Here, I used knowledge gained through a SNO workshop and help from my advisers to create a new and improved system for students to publish their packages.