The First Year Experience curriculum at Randolph-Macon College is being fully implemented for the first time after two years of pilot. The FYEC involves two professors from different disciplines collaborating to teach a two-semester colloquium to two 15-student groups. Students in FYEC study a selected topic from a cross-disciplinary viewpoint. They do a year-end project to demonstrate their understanding of the connections between and perspectives of the disciplines. The year-end project offers a perfect opportunity to teach students media literacy. Like many educators in the nation, the R-MC faculty observe that students lack critical analysis ability of using the internet and media in general. Two FYEC professors in the second-year pilot program elected to assign movie production for the final projects. Students were required to analyze and synthesize the course content, and present their findings in digital movie format. They were also expected to learn video production skills by getting individual assistance at the Instructional Technology office.

The presentations of the students’ digital movie projects attracted wide interests. The Instructional Technology office seized the momentum and sponsored a series of faculty workshops and tech-talks on multimedia narratives, the net generation, and multimedia production techniques. As a result, one-third of the FYE courses this year include a multimedia production component. This presentation details technology support for the digital movie projects and the FYEC. Based on the lessons learned from the previous year, the Instructional Technology office focuses on 1) assisting the faculty in assigning the projects; 2) teaching students digital storytelling techniques in class and individually; 3) standardizing media equipment, computer programs, and network storage needed for the projects; and 4) providing extended support to students during and outside the office hours. The presentation will also discuss plans of assessing student learning and attitudes.