

Facing a New Year  
*Weekly Report 12/18/17 to 12/29/17*

As 2017 is coming to a close, so is the first semester of the school year. Looking back on my progress both in ISM and in life in general, I am proud of my accomplishments thus far yet still see endless opportunities for improvement moving forward. My primary ISM related goals for the second semester include but are not limited to completing my original work and eventually final product, completing and publishing my digital portfolio, establishing a successful mentorship, and putting my creations out into the public so that I can make a local impact by the end of my junior year.

Primarily, my focus lately has been on creating my original work. After a conversation with Mr. Speice, I am relieved to say that I will not be creating the completed entire play structure for my original work alone. I will simply be creating a digital 3 dimensional model of it and writing an analysis of its elements and implications. For my final product in the future, my goal is to actually complete the model and present it to the public.

Regarding my digital portfolio, my main struggle has been working with different website platforms to find the ideal platform with which to present my progress over the year. The first one I attempted to use, WordPress, quickly proved itself to be an informal blog platform. This is not ideal for building professional connections in the ISM program. The platform was also very rigid, which made it difficult to insert files into my portfolio. Going forward, I will be working most likely with Weebly to publish an online portfolio that is able to be edited easily, and presents a professional appearance into my community.

Finally, one of the most important elements of the ISM program as a whole is the process of finding a mentor. However, this process has been especially difficult for me as the second person I requested a mentorship from has recently politely declined the request. I am beginning to realize that I may need to find other methods of seeking out possible mentors, such as perhaps finding people that are already more interactive in the online community. This would allow me to form connections with them prior to interviewing them. Hopefully, by using these methods, I will be able to soon accomplish one of my most fundamental goals as an ISM student.