

DESIGN COMMUNICATION PORTFOLIO

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IAT 103W - Fall 2014**



About Me

Hi, I am Lu Gan, an international student majoring in Computing Science at SFU. This is my second semester in Vancouver. Life here is quite amazing. I have learned a lot of professional theory in classes and practiced my programming ability after finished five course projects. The beauty of thinking logically really impresses me and I am willing to improve my technical skills. But that's only part of me, I love

the world of art design as well. The beautiful scenery in Vancouver provides me a large room for my creativity and imagination. The photo above was taken by myself. I used a tripod and set a self-timer of the camera. This one is the greatest satisfaction among all pictures I took that day.

Django Demo Site: Polls

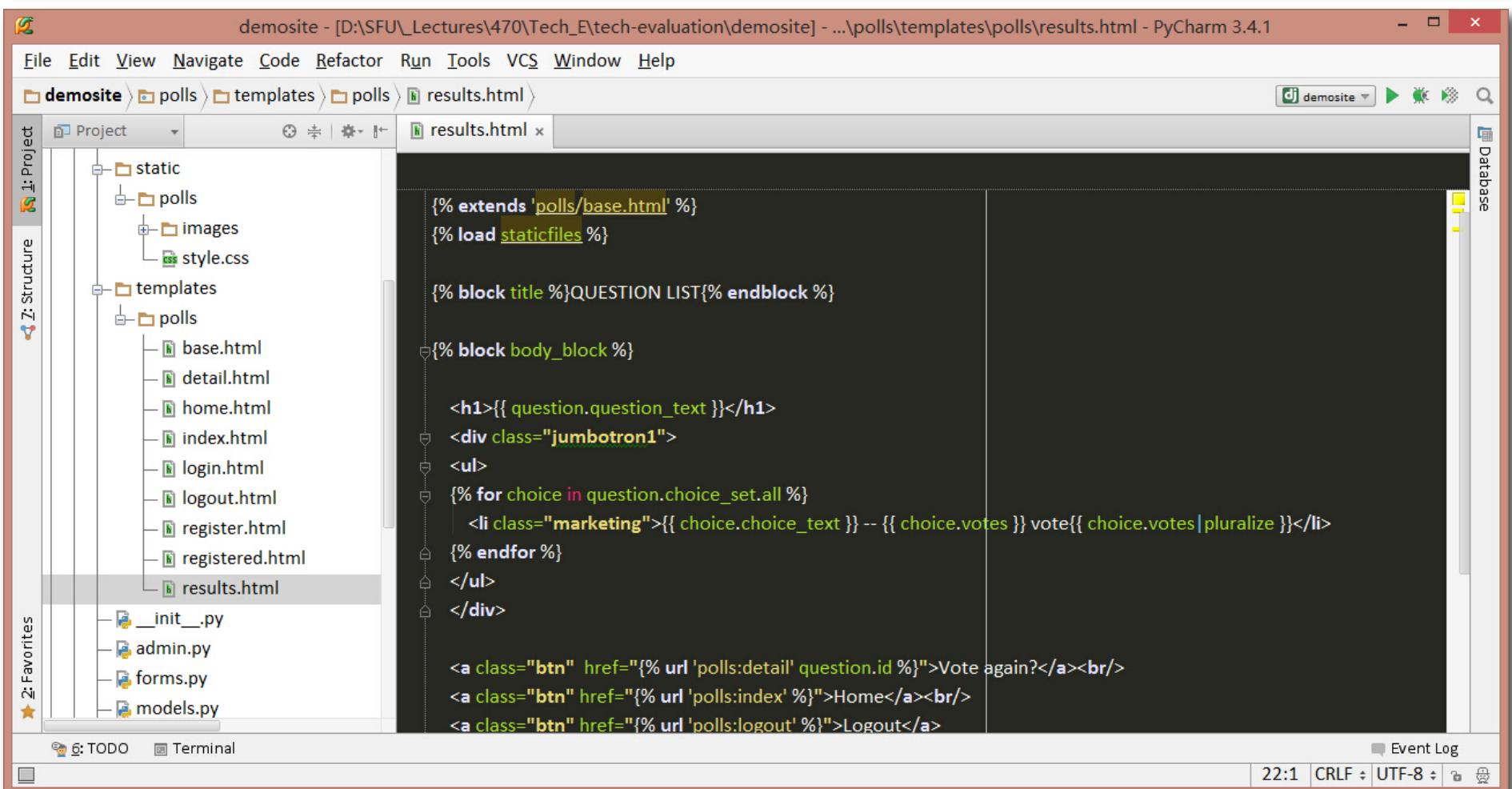
The test username and password for [Polls login](#):

- username: user1
- password: user1

The username and password for [Django administration](#):

- username: supernova
- password: supernova

Please click [here](#) for Django Written Comparison.



A screenshot of the PyCharm 3.4.1 IDE interface. The title bar shows "demosite - [D:\SFU_\Lectures\470\Tech_E\tech-evaluation\demosite] - ...\\polls\\templates\\polls\\results.html - PyCharm 3.4.1". The menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Navigate, Code, Refactor, Run, Tools, VCS, Window, and Help. The toolbars show standard icons for file operations. The left sidebar has "Project" and "Structure" tabs, with "Project" currently selected. The project tree shows a directory structure: static, polls (containing images and style.css), templates (containing polls, base.html, detail.html, home.html, index.html, login.html, logout.html, register.html, registered.html, results.html), and models.py, __init__.py, admin.py, forms.py. The main editor window displays the contents of results.html:

```
{% extends 'polls/base.html' %}  
{% load staticfiles %}  
  
{% block title %}QUESTION LIST{% endblock %}  
  
{% block body_block %}  
  
    <h1>{{ question.question_text }}</h1>  
    <div class="jumbotron1">  
        <ul>  
            {% for choice in question.choice_set.all %}  
                <li class="marketing">{{ choice.choice_text }} -- {{ choice.votes }} vote{{ choice.votes|pluralize }}</li>  
            {% endfor %}  
        </ul>  
    </div>  
  
    <a class="btn" href="{% url 'polls:detail' question.id %}">Vote again?</a><br/>  
    <a class="btn" href="{% url 'polls:index' %}">Home</a><br/>  
    <a class="btn" href="{% url 'polls:logout' %}">Logout</a>  
  
Event Log
```

Critical Thinking

This is a demo website written in Python and developed by Django framework. I took the course CMPT 470 in fall 2014 and was in a group of four. This course mainly focused on web technology and developing tools. We learned all basic aspects in web development including server, web design language, security, deploy, and framework. The professor gave us a lot of space to search and choose tools developing our website. This demo site basically followed Django's tutorial document and we made some additional functions such as user registration, voting, and data management. We figured out how to create data models for our data storage and how to display them in an appropriate view. I was responsible to add user interface for this demo site which requires both technological skills and design ability. Known the inner structure of each webpage and their logical connections, I added features on webpage components. Now it looks much prettier with new fonts, text color, button style and background picture. I only took one day to learn the language of adding user interface and modified its layout till I felt satisfied. The process of creating is quite interesting and I was totally fascinated in it. Based on this implementation, I am able to learn more user interface design theory and practical tools.

The screenshot shows the PyCharm IDE interface with the project 'quickticket' open. The 'base.html' file is selected in the left sidebar under 'templates/home'. The main editor window displays the HTML code for the navigation bar, including the logo, brand name, and user links. The status bar at the bottom shows the file path and current time.

The screenshot shows the initial version of the ticketing system's homepage. It features a blue header with the 'QUICK TICKET' logo and the tagline 'Your Gate Way to Tickets for Practically Anything.' Below the header is a search bar with dropdown menus for 'Category' and 'Price'. A table lists two ticket entries: one for 'ereotr' and another for 'New ticket'. The table columns include 'Ticket Name', 'Merchant', 'Category', 'Price', 'Ticket Date&Time', 'Sale End Date&Time', and 'Quantity Left'.

Ticket Name	Merchant	Category	Price	Ticket Date&Time	Sale End Date&Time	Quantity Left
ereotr	SFU	Business	\$43.00	Jan. 1, 2015, 5 p.m.	Dec. 2, 2014	45
New ticket	SFU	Party	\$12.00	Jan. 1, 2014, 11 p.m.	Jan. 2, 2015 11 p.m.	50

The screenshot shows the final version of the ticketing system's homepage. It has a black header with the 'QUICK TICKET' logo and navigation links for 'Register', 'Log In', and 'Contact Us'. A banner at the top says 'TICKETS EXPIRING IN 5 DAYS!' with icons for a movie ticket and popcorn. Below the banner are four event cards: 'FREE MOVIE' (Free, Feb. 9, 2015 7:30 p.m., Dec. 4, 2014 9 a.m.), 'FREE POPCORN' (Free, Dec. 7, 2014), 'HACKATHON' (\$15.50, Dec. 7, 2014 7:30 p.m.), and 'PIZZA AND COKE EVENT' (\$5.05, Dec. 6, 2014 3 p.m.). Each card has 'Detail' and 'Merchant' buttons.

Design Process

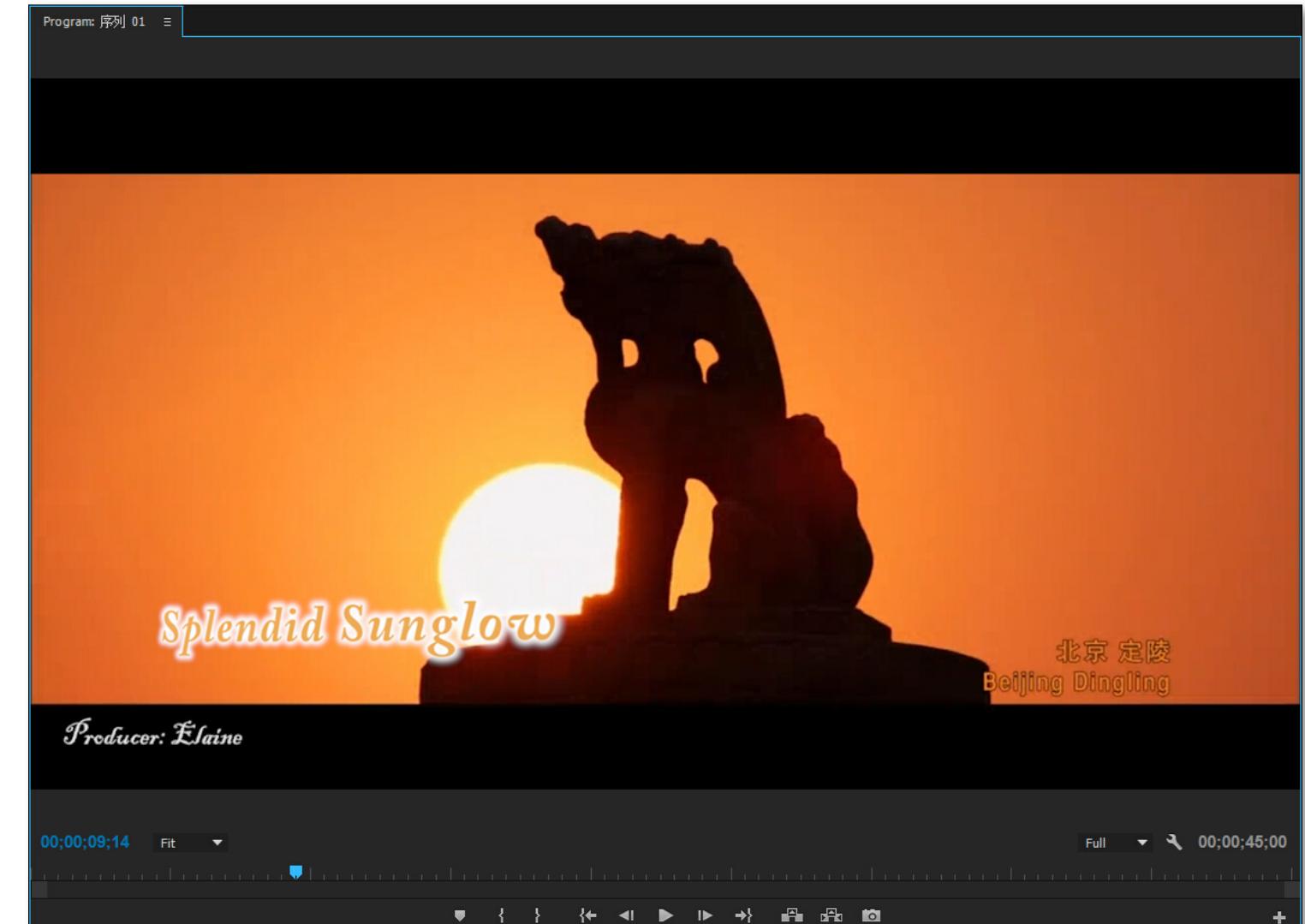
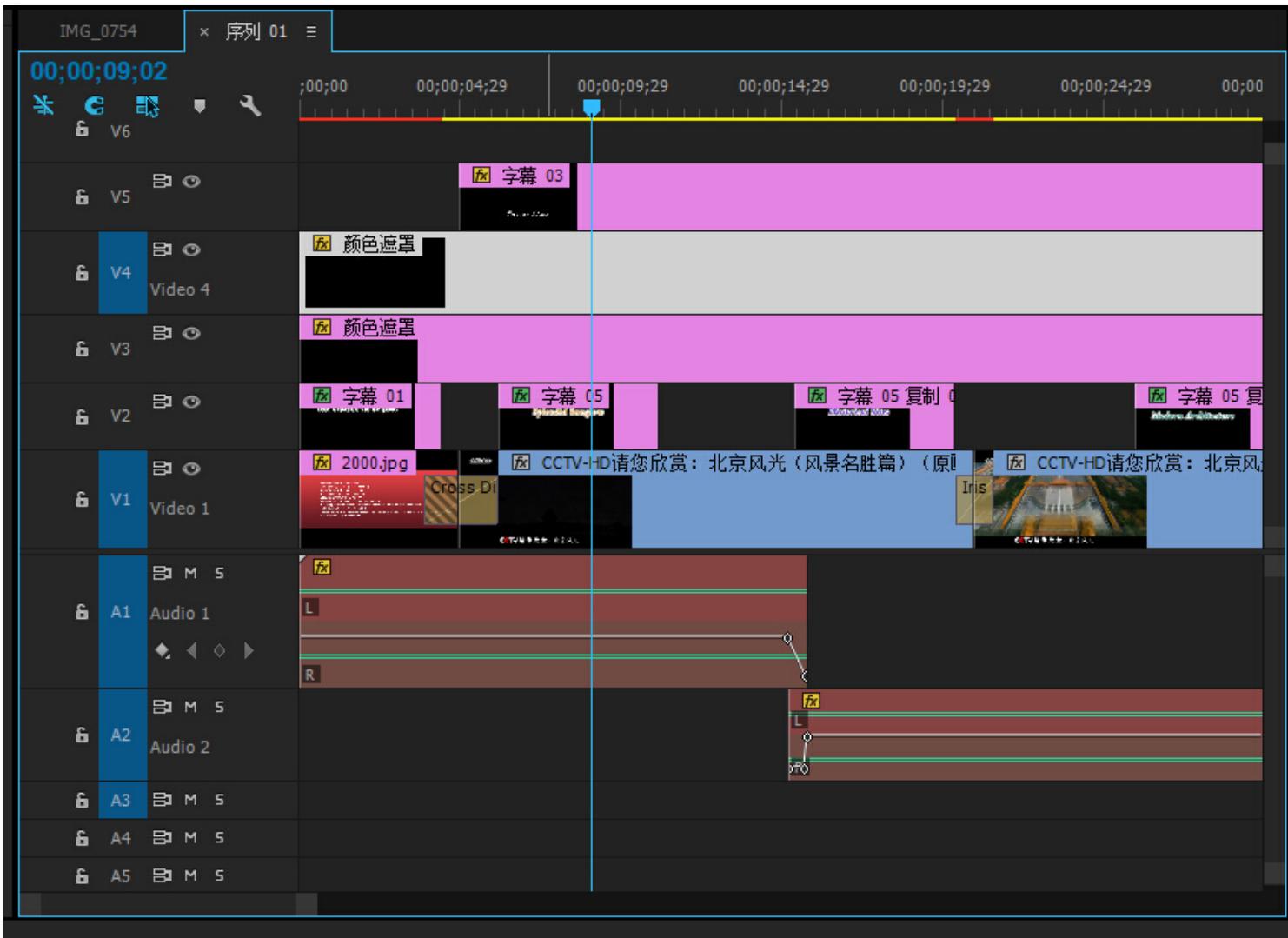
This is the final project of CMPT 470. We designed an online ticketing system where the merchant can post events and tickets. They can set price (even free), time, location, sale end time and ticket's descriptions. Customers of the merchants can browse all tickets available and choose to buy tickets which they like. This is a convenient system which provides an easy-to-use platform for both merchants and customers. I am the person who is in charge of user interface design. The picture on the lower left is the first version of our homepage. I simply added our logo and a blue header. The buttons on the right side were just white text links. The body area listed tickets available in a table without any decorations. This version only implemented basic functions and lacked of attracting features. In order to design a prettier webpage, I

did a lot of research online and compared four websites with excellent user interface design. By extracting their source codes, I analyzed their settings of every specific components. The most important step was using my research findings and implement them for our project. I edited .html and .css files over and over again, adjusted every minor properties such as font size, padding area, text shadow, and form layout. Finally, I made a concise and vivid design which showed on the right side of this page. I used different color blocks and icons to add greater diversity on a static page. Through this iterative process, I deepened my understanding of design and learned how to apply learning to practice.

Artistic Practice



I took this photo in White Rock. I remembered it was a cold night, but there were still many tourists there. I didn't have a deep impression of this photo at the beginning, but when I was viewing my pictures again last week, I took notice of this one. According to Barthes' explanations in Camera Lucida (Barthes, 1981), there are two elements associated with personal interest in photographs: studium and punctum. The studiums of this picture are its composition and color. The bridge extends far away from the position where I stand which reinforces the depth feeling of the picture. The dark blue sky is in sharp contrast to the warm yellow light. Some people were walking along the long bridge while the others just staying and talking. All these features provides me a sense of harmony and attracts me to look at it more deeply. The punctum is the lights along the bridge. They are the brightest objects in the picture which catch all my attention and evoke my memories of the lights in my hometown. I used Barthes' theory to explain why this artifact became so attracting and this understanding will help me in my future art design progress.



Technical Communication

I took the course CMPT 365 this term and this is my first assignment. We were required to make a video which combined with a MIDI file, a WAV file and a title created by Photoshop. The video editing software is not specified, so I chose Adobe Premiere which is a non-linear video editing software. This term seems hard to under-

stand, but here is my example. Different from video editing methods in the 20th century when audios and videos were recorded on reels or tapes, now we have enormous digital storage space for multimedia data. Thanks to the development of technology, we do not need to cut tapes which is an irreversible action. Instead, we can easily import and edit metadata on computer. As the pictures showed above, non-linear video editing method enables us to access to any video source directly. It's no necessary to watch through the whole videos to edit a specific frame. I cut the clips and pasted another behind without destroying the sources. I added titles and solid layers on the video layer to give more information to my audience. This is an effective and quick way to make videos and also very flexible to rearrange materials.



Ronald Wilson 18 hours ago

This is what's wrong with today's generation, twats like Justin Bieber are so full of shit. You stupid kids don't pay attention to anyone else around you.

Reply · 1 like · 0 dislikes

[Hide replies](#) ^



Detroit_JONES1994 18 hours ago

Hey, don't blame a whole generation based on a video of one idiot. for the most part, we share the same views you guys have. And if any change has occurred, it's been towards unselfishness.

Reply · 1 like · 0 dislikes



Ronald Wilson 18 hours ago

+Detroit_JONES1994

Yeah? Like what? We haven't created anything as shitty as this kid. We've done much more productive things with our time, like you know, building roads and the homes that you ungrateful kids are living in. The only thing you kids build nowadays are the followers on your stupid social media accounts.

Reply · 1 like · 0 dislikes



Ronald Wilson 18 hours ago

96% of today's younger people aren't even engaged in community activism. The only exception is that you guys are more likely to engage in community service in high school and that's only because you guys are required to do it. Which all revolves back to you guys thinking about yourselves and your personal gain all over again. You guys don't volunteer because you want to but because you have to.

Reply · 1 like · 0 dislikes



Detroit_JONES1994 18 hours ago

+Ronald Wilson The only difference between you and I, Ronald Wilson, is the fact that I have the technology to take selfies (and probably better features for it). You're just as self absorbed as we are, trying to prove your worth in a youtube comment debate. Put your generation in our shoes and I bet not one fucking thing would change.

Reply · 1 like · 0 dislikes



Detroit_JONES1994 18 hours ago

+Ronald Wilson And besides, our narcissism is mostly a good thing. Stats show that becoming a leader in our community is an other-oriented goal, and it's risen. You're totally exaggerating about your stats. I'm not saying your generation has been

Teamwork & Collaboration

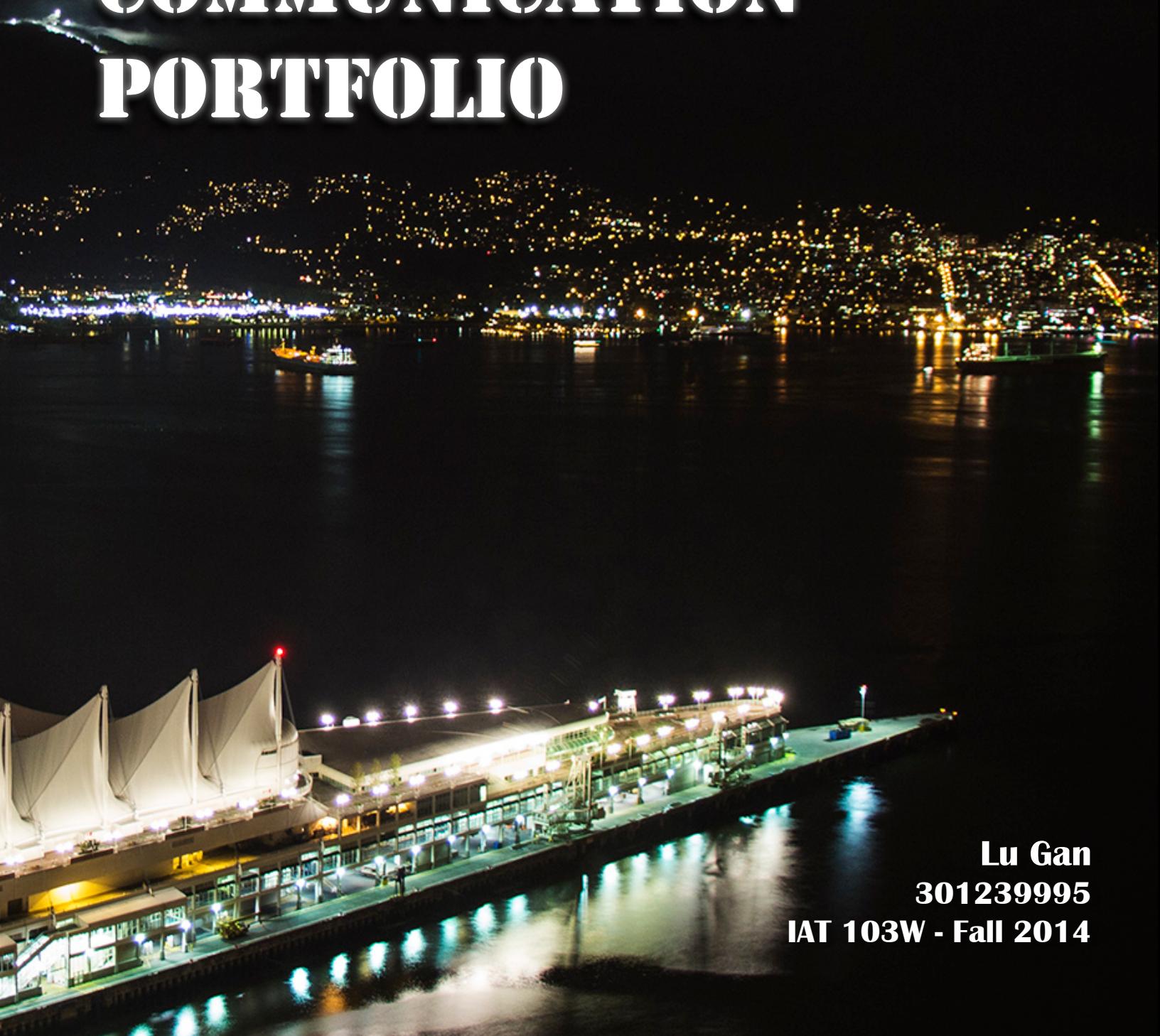
The process of our IAT 103W group project was quite interactive. The goal was to find a best way showing our understanding of the course reading materials and expressing our responses. We had to design a visual work which combines the arguments in the conversation and the team's position. The conversation was about narcissism of the new generation. At the very beginning, no one knew what our position was and how to decide it. So everyone began brainstorming. By writing down thoughts and ideas coming up in our mind, we categorized them into three positions and confirmed a basic thesis. During our second face-to-face meeting, we decided to make a video presenting an online debate by two different generations. Considering the time limitation, we changed our visual format to a YouTube video comments debate. The pictures on the top of the left page is the last face-to-face meeting before the final presentation. Everyone was working with YouTube account creation and fake video page. The screenshot below is the main part of our YouTube page. I had never took part in this kind of group project before. We only had 2-3 weeks to design and implement the project. I tried my best in charge of giving ideas and pushing our meeting process. It needed me to be fully involved and express my ideas briefly and clearly. I paid much attention on the whole process and really learned a lot.



Final Reflection

I make this portfolio in order to show that I am not only a person who thinking rationally but also a creative student with imaginative thoughts. I am willing to communicate with others and always keen on exploring new things. The artifacts introduced before are all works I have done after I came to Vancouver. They are assignments and projects I did from my SFU courses which indicate that I am able to learn initiative and do well in teamwork. I love to take challenges and perfect myself especially the area I am interested in. Photography is one of my favorite hobby that I learned a great many of technical skills by self-learning. The image on the left is taken on July 1st 2014. It was Canada Day, a great day for all residents in Canada. I am so glad that I have the chance to studying in a different country, experiencing the life here and meeting various kinds of people. Honestly, there are still many knowledge and skills I need to learn. I want to speak and write English more fluently and be more evolved in domestic culture. I want to master my professional skills and implement more practical works such as Android application development and Maya 3D modeling. Besides that, I would like to get a further understanding of art design. My career goal is to become a game designer or animator which combines both technology and art. Although there is still a long way to go, I will carry on.

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