



Gazette Photos/Paul Rowan

Rachel Oaks looks through archive photos of past Fall Foliage Festivals at the Gazette office on Wednesday.

Cinematography student's final project focuses on festival

BY PAUL ROWAN

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Bedford County's Fall Foliage Festival, which has received national recognition from several sources recently, is about to get a little more.

Bedford resident Rachel Oaks, a student at online Full Sail University, is preparing a three-minute video on the festival as her final project.

Oaks said the university originally was centered on the recording arts, but in 2008 expanded its curriculum to include, among other offerings, classes in digital cinematography.

"That's my dig," she said, adding that she preferred videos and storytelling.

It's been her interest since a

young age Oaks said.

She began by borrowing her dad's Sony Handicam and taking it while having fun, shooting "silly things."

"I thought I was going to be the next Quentin Tarantino," she laughed.

But after attending Penn State-Altoona and trying some other things, she realized that cinematography was what she really wanted to do. Attending Full Sail, based in Winter Park, Florida, was something she considered out of high school, and now decided to make it a reality.

As a local resident, the festival was a natural subject for her final project, which Oaks described as a film-festival style assignment.

She chose Fall Foliage because

"people come from all over, and there's so much history with the event itself."

Though still completing her studies, Oaks has a head start on her career. She has established Sunny Oaks Studios, which she said is intended, "to help local businesses tell their brand's story." Videos are effective in getting the message out, she said, because they are "quick, succinct, and people are visually oriented."

For more information about Sunny Oaks Studios, contact her at racheloaks@sunnysidestudios.com or 814-215-1698.

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