This marks our inaugural issue of the FMS newsletter! Our hope is to better communicate with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of film and media who would like to know more about what is going on in the department. Since we became a stand-alone department in 2009, we have been extremely busy trying to afford the best educational opportunities for our students – whether that has meant hiring guest lecturers to teach special courses, guest speakers, film screenings, a new computer lab, and other programming.

This newsletter will keep you apprised of current events, and notify you of important deadlines. We also hope to share alumni news with all of you!

It is our hope that this newsletter reflects the vision and goals of our department. If you would like to share any news items or upcoming events with us, please contact Karla Conrad at kmconrad@ku.edu and we'll do our best to spread the word.

Happy spring semester 2011, film and media students!! We wish you a productive and exciting time here.

Best wishes,
Tamara Falicov
Department Chair
Film and Media Studies

Special points of interest:
Monday, February 28
• Ben Steinbauer, KU alum, will give a presentation entitled, “The Process of Becoming a Documentary Filmmaker” followed by selected clips from Steinbauer’s documentaries, from 6:30-10:00 p.m. on Monday, February 28 in 3139 Wescoe Hall.
• See page 3 for other Coming Attractions!

Department Scholarships – Applications Available Now

The application for Department scholarships for the 2011-12 academic year is now available in the reception area of Oldfather Studios and on our website at http://www.film.ku.edu/~film/programs/financial_aid.shtml. Remember that the application is due by March 1, 2011 but you’re encouraged to turn yours in early if possible.

If you are going to apply for any Department or KU need-based scholarships, make sure you file a FAFSA or ISNAW by March 1 as well. (More information is available on the website.)

Please read the information on the website and then contact Lene Brooke (lbrooke@ku.edu) if you have any questions.
Credit/No Credit:
You can elect to take a class for Credit/No Credit from February 18-March 3. Credit is given if you earn a C- or higher; No Credit is given if you earn a D+ or lower. Not applicable to courses in your major or minor. More information: http://www.collegesas.ku.edu/policies/credit.shtml

Spring graduates:
The FINAL deadline to apply for your degree and be included in the Commencement program is March 1 (log onto Enroll & Pay, click Graduation, and follow directions).

Enrollment Holds:
Are coming! Starting Feb. 28, you’ll begin seeing enrollment advising holds in your Kyou Portal. Enrollment won’t begin until the end of March so you have a whole month to get your holds cleared. Get your holds cleared early if you need to enroll in FMS 530 or FMS 531 this summer/fall – these classes fill quickly!

W. S. Cheng
(born 1979)
Study No. 14, 2010
DVD, 6 minutes, 30 seconds
T2010.203
In December 2010, KU's Spencer Museum of Art curators reviewed and accepted W. S. Cheng's animation “Study No. 14” for their collection. Robert Hurst designed the sound.

Advisor’s Corner  By Amy Lampe, Advising Specialist, amylampe@ku.edu

Attention Juniors and Seniors

Rod Holcomb during Spring Break 2011 from March 21-25 under FMS 302 Undergraduate Seminar. The class will be held daily from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in 100 Oldfather Studios. Open to Film and Media Studies Juniors and Seniors. See Matt Jacobson for permission to enroll.

Rod Holcomb seminar during Spring Break 2011 - Open to FMS Juniors and Seniors

“7 Plus 8 Seminar: Directing for Television” is a one credit-hour course being taught by Emmy Award Winner

Film Festivals, Contests, Call-for-Papers

Students, please note that announcements of film festivals, contests, call-for-papers, etc. will be kept in a binder near the reception desk at Oldfather Studios (room 204). Please check the binder often!

Faculty and Lecturer Kudos

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**Coming Attractions**

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**Tuesday, March 1**

Ben Steinbauer, KU alum and documentary filmmaker, will screen his film, *Winnebago Man*, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1 in Woodruff Auditorium. The screening will be followed by a question-and-answer session by Steinbauer. (The Department of Film and Media Studies is a sponsor of this event.) *Free admission!*

**Wednesday, March 2**

Teaching Presentation by Aras Ozgun, Candidate for New Media tenure-track faculty position in the Department of Film and Media Studies from 2:30-3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2, in Room 100 Oldfather Studios, 1621 W. 9th Street. *Open to all interested students, faculty and staff.*

**Thursday, March 3**

Research Presentation by Aras Ozgun, Candidate for New Media tenure-track faculty position in the Department of Film and Media Studies from 1:30-2:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 3, in 226 Oldfather Studios, 1621 W. 9th Street. *Open to all interested students, faculty and staff.*

**Tuesday, March 8**

NgawangChoephel, documentary filmmaker, will screen his film, *Tibet in Song*, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8 in the Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium. (The Department of Film and Media Studies is one of the sponsors of this event.) *Free and open to interested students, faculty and staff.*

**Tuesday, March 15**

Dmitry Trakovsky, Filmmaker and Director, will give a presentation entitled, “Meeting Andrei Tarkovsky” from 3:00-5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, March 15, 2011, in the Kansas Union English Room. (The Department of Film and Media Studies is cosponsoring this event with REES & EGARC.)

“Meeting Andrei Tarkovsky” is his award-winning documentary about the acclaimed filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky.

**Tuesday, March 15**

Ariel Hart, Guest Lecturer, will give an Animation lecture to FMS 275/675 Basic Video Production class from 9:00-10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, March 15 in Room 100 Oldfather Studios, 1621 W. 9th Street. (Sponsored by the Department of Film and Media Studies and the School of the Arts, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.) *Free and open to interested students, faculty and staff.*

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Robert Hurst teaches a class in the new computer lab.

Photo by Che Butterfield.
David Sutera’s film “Glass Half Full” won 3rd Place in the 2011 BEA Festival of Media Arts Film Festival in the Promotional Category of the Student Competition. He has been invited to attend the BEA convention and Festival of Media Arts exhibition in Las Vegas in April where he will be recognized for his achievement and receive the award. For more information on the festival, go to: <http://beaweb.org/bea2011.html>.

Zachary Ingle is contributing several articles to volumes in two new series published by Intellect: Directory of World Cinema: Sweden, Directory of World Cinema: Belgium, and World Film Locations: Paris. His article, “George A. Romero’s Diary of the Dead and the Rise of the Diegetic Camera in Recent Horror Films,” was recently published in the online journal Ol3Media. Last November, Zachary served as an area chair at the Film & History Conference in Milwaukee, moderating panels devoted to film and religion.

WIBW of Topeka (Channel 13 on Lawrence cable TV) broadcast the premiere of Film and Media Studies graduate student Juli Pitzer’s documentary “Preserving the Past: Topeka’s Jayhawk Theatre” as part of the Kansas 150 Statehood Celebration on Saturday, January 29.

The documentary film follows the story of the Jayhawk Theatre, a 1926 movie palace, through its glory days before WWII until its closing in the 1970s. With the decline of downtowns across the country, Topeka hopes to revitalize and preserve its heritage in order to rekindle life once held on Kansas Avenue. The future of the Jayhawk Theatre rests in the hope of revitalization.

The film was funded in-part by the Kansas Humanities Council, Kansas 150 Short Film Grant, from NEH. The Historic Jayhawk Theatre, Inc. a non-profit contacted the former Department of Theatre and Film program in the fall of 2008 looking for a student to research the history of the former movie palace. Ms. Pitzer had done her undergraduate history capstone on a movie palace in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and thought it would be a perfect match. Ms. Pitzer began researching microfilm at the Watson Library at KU. She wrote a paper for Professor Michael Baskett on the theatre in the spring 2009 semester. Being a trained filmmaker, she knew that the topic would be a fantastic documentary. In the summer of 2009, she interned through the Hall Center for the Humanities at the Kansas Humanities Council. Ms. Pitzer helped design and launch their film program FLIKS (Film Lovers in Kansas). It was during her time there that she learned of short film grants. Ms. Pitzer applied the following January to do a project on the Jayhawk Theatre and was awarded funds. Professor Bob Hurst, in the Department of Film and Media Studies, has helped oversee and advise her through some of the editing process as part of an FMS 895 Intensive Film Project Seminar. She was also able to use equipment from FMS with assistance from Che Butterfield and John McCluskey (staff members in FMS). Three undergraduate students played key roles in the film as Director of Photography, Grant Babbitt; Audio Mixer and Recordist, Patrick Monroe; and Graphics and Visual Effects, Caleb Knueven. Recent MA graduate from FMS Daniel Mauro helped during the pre-production phase as a Production Assistant and current doctoral student Sho Ogawa played a key role as a Production Assistant throughout the filmmaking process.

Sam Billen, who works in KU Office of Study Abroad, created the original musical score. Christy Davis of Davis Preservation in Topeka served as a Humanities Consultant on the project and Kathy Duncan of the Historic Jayhawk Theatre Inc. has been the Community Consultant. Ms. Pitzer produced, directed, wrote the script, and edited the film.