From the Chair...

The new academic year got off to a rousing start with the FMS Internship Workshop and FMS Internship Fair. I’m happy to report that more than several of our students were able to line up positions immediately.

The highlight of FMS’s welcoming events was the Film Rally which featured KU alum Marc Roskin who pulled the curtain back from big time television with revealing backstage stories stemming from his four years experience as a producer and director for TNT’s highly successful action series, “Leverage,” starring Timothy Hutton.

It should be noted that Marc was instrumental in setting up four internships for KU Film majors this past summer, two in Portland, Oregon, where the show is shot, and two in Los Angles, where the show is post-produced.

Marc also visited classes taught by Professors Kevin Willmott and Matt Jacobson.

Marc was terrific and we’re grateful to him making time to be on campus with our students. We also want to take this opportunity to congratulate Marc on TNT’s decision to pick up “Leverage” for a fifth season! That’s terrific!

I’m headed to Los Angeles this weekend to meet with FMS’s Professional Advisory Board whose members have been such ardent supporters of the program. With Mike Robe and Gordy Hoffman at the organizational helm, it promises to be a productive opportunity to bring news of FMS to the Board and to hear about the latest trends in TV, film and new media. I’ll have more on that trip for the next newsletter.

Fall has at last arrived. With its brisk morning air and leaves turning gold we’re reminded about how great it is to be studying and working at KU!

Rock Chalk, Film Hawk!
Chuck Berg, Acting Chair

Letters Invited for Robert Hurst’s Promotion & Tenure File

Robert R. Hurst is going up for promotion to associate professor and consideration for continuous tenure. According to our procedures, letters from faculty, staff, current students, and former students are invited for submission to the Department of Film and Media Studies regarding his teaching, research/creative endeavors, and service. These letters will become part of his promotion and tenure dossier and are treated as confidential by the Department, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and University to the extent we are permitted to do so by law.

If you would like to write a letter concerning Robert Hurst’s promotion, please email it to Chuck Berg (cberg@ku.edu) no later than Wednesday, September 28, 2011. A signed hardcopy will need to arrive no later than Monday, October 3, 2011 and should be addressed as follows:

Chuck Berg, Chair
Department of Film and Media Studies
Promotion and Tenure Committee,
Oldfather Studios
1621 W. 9th Street
The University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS  66044

Inside this issue:

Coming Attractions 2
Film Screenings & Festivals 2
Recognitions & Accomplishments 3
Alumni News 4
Internship Fair Photos 5
Internship Fair Photos 6
Film Rally Photos 7
Coming Attractions

7 Plus 8 Seminar
“Directing for Television”

“7 Plus 8 Seminar: Directing for Television” is a free workshop taught by Producer/Director Rod Holcomb.

The workshop will take place over fall break: October 8—11 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. each day. The workshop is not for credit and is open to FMS Juniors and Seniors with a 3.5 GPA and who signed up in advance. There still may be space available — contact Karla Conrad (kmconrad@ku.edu) if you are interested.

Rod Holcomb is a 2009 Emmy award winner, has won the Directors Guild of America award, the Humanitas Prize, and a Peabody for directing and producing. He has helmed 22 pilots, 15 of them going to series including ER, China Beach, and The A-Team. Some of his directing credits include NCIS:LA, The Good Wife, Justified, Numb3rs, and Lost.

Harvest of Arts Film Festival

The 20th Annual Harvest of Arts Film Festival is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 30th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Granada in downtown Lawrence. For additional festival information, go to: www.HarvestofArts.org

The Rising Tide—Film Screening

The Spencer Museum of Art, co-sponsored with FMS and other KU departments, is hosting a free screening of “The Rising Tide” a film by Robert Adanto. There will be a panel discussion with director Robert Adanto, KU Professor of Art David Cateforis, and Artist Hong Chun Zhang following the screening.

Date: Thursday, September 22
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium
Admission is Free.

O’Neal to Visit Campus to Screen Film

KU Alumnus Jon (JT) O’Neal will be in Lawrence on Sunday, October 16, to present a lecture on screenwriting and to screen his first feature film, Au Pair, Kansas, which he wrote/directed, produced, and shot in Lindsborg. The lecture is at 1:00 p.m. and the screening is at 3:30 p.m. in the Spencer Museum of Art.

The two-hour lecture, “Screenwriting for Artists,” is a fun introduction to screenplays and will be of interest to theatre actors and writers.

O’Neal has been asked by the KC Film Fund to do a staged reading of his screenplay, Black Diamond, as a fund raiser for the Film Fund and the Negro League’s Museum.

It’s about the KC Monarchs and jazz and baseball in KC in the 1940s, he said.

Au Pair, Kansas won the AMC Theater’s Heartland Feature Award at KC FilmFest a few months ago. The script previously won the prestigious UCLA Screenwriting Showcase.
Recognitions and Accomplishments

Juli Pitzer will soon be a published author. Her chapter 6 entitled “Vids, Vlogs, and Blogs: The Participatory Culture of Smallville’s Digital Fan” will soon be published in “The Smallville Chronicles: Critical Essays on the Television Series”. For more information, go to Amazon.com: http://www.amazon.com/Smallville-Chronicles-Critical-Essays-Television/dp/0810881306/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1316019807&sr=8-1

From Amazon.com – In “The Smallville Chronicles: Critical Essays on the Television Series,” scholars examine the multiple narratives of the Smallville universe. Addressing issues related to gender, sexuality, national identity, myth, history, and politics, these essays explore how the series uses the Superman story to comment on contemporary social issues. Additional essays investigate the complex relationship the show’s audience has with the characters through blogging, fan fiction, visits to filming locations, and the creation of websites.

Germaine Halegoua has been invited to speak at the Futures of Entertainment Conference at MIT in November. The Futures of Entertainment is an annual event which explores the current state and future of media properties, brands, and audiences and the way these groups interact and intersect with one another. By combining a mix of leading media studies scholars and cutting-edge media and marketing practitioners from a diverse range of locations and sectors – in conjunction with fans, activists, journalists, analysts, and other voices – in lengthy discussion, this two-day conference explores how the media industries are evolving, how storytelling is changing and the shifting dynamics in how people relate to media properties and brands. More info about the conference and invited speakers can be found here: http://www.convergenceculture.org/weblog/2011/09/registration_open_for_futures_1.php


Attention all FMS Undergraduate and Graduate Women!

There is a new Women’s Film Group for all FMS female students in film studies and/or production.

First Meeting: Thursday, October 13th
4:30 to 6:00 p.m.
Oldfather Studios, Room 120

Group possibilities:
- Mentoring opportunity for undergraduates/graduates
- Enhance the study of film and possibly supporting women wanting to seek further opportunities after undergrad (MA, MFA, PhD)
- Make films, or serve as production support
- Bring in female speakers
- Connect women with the industry
- Join female faculty with female students in various opportunities
- Enhance other film organizations in the department

Please email Juli Pitzer (jpitzer@ku.edu) for more information.
Alumni News

Josh Nathan, a recent B.G.S. graduate, reports that his short film, A Light Opera was accepted to the '10 of 10' Film Festival in Kansas City. It will be shown on September 24th at The Alcott Arts Center. The festival runs from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., but the exact time of the screening is not known as of press time.

Mark von Schlemmer is the festival director for the upcoming Show Me Justice Film Festival. The festival will be held October 13 – 15 at the University of Central Missouri. For more information, go to: http://www.ucmo.edu/filmfest/

Shawn Roney is co-writing and producing a blog fiction series, “The Paperlessly Wallpapered I.O’U. Papers.” Produced through Mutt Media LLC, his multimedia production company, it is available in text form only at http://www.publisherdatabase.com/forums/weblog.php?w=66. It is available in text form with some audio files -- and audio files and writings for other blogging projects -- at http://muttmediallc.com. It has more than 50,000 total views at Publisher Database.com and more than 10,000 total views at http://muttmediallc.com.

His company has begun preproduction work on a documentary about Nigeria. There are tentative plans to work with FMS personnel on the project.

Equipment Checkout

Monday – Wednesday – Friday
Equipment check out: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Equipment check in: 10:00 – 12:00 noon

Computer Lab Hours

Open Computer Lab hours: 11:00 – 5:00 on Tuesdays.
See Staff in the Equipment room to sign-up.

University Advising Center— Majors Fair

Date: Tuesday, September 27
Place: 4th Floor, Kansas Union
Time: 11:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Film Festivals, Contests, Local Film Jobs, Call-for-Papers

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

Amy Lampe, Advising Specialist, will generally be at Oldfather Studios during the following schedule:
Wednesdays: 3:15 to 5:00 p.m.
Thursdays: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Fridays: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
To schedule an appointment, contact Amy at amylampe@ku.edu.

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Send your news items and updates to Karla Conrad, kmconrad@ku.edu.
September 22, 2011

**Famous Dave’s BBQ, Jimmy John’s Gourmet Sandwiches, and HyVee are Great Friends of Film!**

A big thank you to Famous Dave’s BBQ, Jimmy John’s Gourmet Sandwiches, and HyVee for their generosity in providing delicious, wonderful food at a big discount for our annual Film Rally and Internship Fair on August 30! They did everything (and beyond) they could to make our event a fabulous occasion for the students, faculty, and staff in our Department.

We hope you will give them your business and recommend them to your friends!
Scenes from the Internship Workshop and Fair
Scenes from the FMS Rally