I’m pleased to report that the Los Angeles meeting of Film and Media Studies Professional Advisory Board on September 24th was a success. With Mike Robe presiding, Maria Skeels, Gordy Hoffman, Chris Martin and Scott Thomas proved a formidable five-some. The morning was devoted to reviewing facilities plans and funding strategies so that this ambitious project might be included in the forthcoming “Far Above” campaign slated to shift into high gear in Spring 2012. We were joined for a good part of the morning by KUEA’s Molly Paugh who, via phone, provided useful background on how the Board might most efficiently lobby on FMS’s behalf.

The afternoon session was given over to a discussion of how to upgrade services provided by the Hollywood Hawks, an extraordinary group of mostly KU film alums. Specific goals include plans for a member questionnaire which will provide data for a Hollywood Hawks directory that will help facilitate networking. Another key goal is a complete revamping of the Hollywood Hawks website that will include, among other things, the directory and a news board to keep everyone informed about who’s doing what. I’m happy to report that the Board is following through on these agenda items with gusto and verve. We also spent a good part of the afternoon discussing plans and funding for the forthcoming 2012 Hollywood Spring Break.

On Saturday night, thanks to Maria Skeels who got the word out, some 25 Hollywood Hawks convened at the Formosa for conversation and refreshments. It was great to reestablish contact with so many of our alums and to also meet KU alums who, although not having majored in film at KU, are nonetheless Hollywood Hawks by virtue of their professional careers in the film and television industries.

As I was winging my way back home to Kansas, my strongest impression was of the wonderfully productive relationship that Film and Media Studies enjoys with its alums and the Hollywood Hawks. On a personal note, I am particularly grateful to Mike Robe, Gordy Hoffman, Maria Skeels, Chris Martin and Scott Thomas for taking time to help FMS leverage its already considerable assets to the next level so that KU Film will eventually be among the nation’s elite film-media programs.

With Warm Autumnal Wishes,
Coming Attractions

Filmmaking’s Digital (R)evolution

AIGA KC is hosting a program of interest to film and media students and faculty.

Filmmaking’s Digital (R)evolution
Thursday, October 20
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

With Liquid 9, Outpost, and Andy Romero

Liquid 9
515 Southwest Boulevard
Kansas City, MO 64108
aigakc.org

Join a casual, intellectually-charged conversation with Liquid 9 and cinematographers Andy Romero and Jason Cantu as they share their insider experiences with the rapidly evolving medium of digital filmmaking.

Screenwriting Workshop and Film Screening

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 actors and writers.

Au Pair, Kansas: Winner of the 2011 Best Low Budget Feature Film award, Cannes Independent Film Festival.

Winner of 2011 Best Heartland Narrative Feature Film, AMC Theaters Kansas City FilmFest.

The script previously won the prestigious UCLA Screenwriting Showcase.

Sunday, October 16
1:00—3:00 p.m. Screenwriting workshop
3:30 p.m.—Film screening with Director Q&A
Recognitions and Accomplishments

JOHN TIBBETTS’ NEW BOOKS

John Tibbetts’ new book, THE GOTHIC IMAGINATION, has just been published by Palgrave Macmillan in New York and is in bookstores now. Subtitled, “Conversations on Fantasy, Horror, and Science Fiction in the Media,” it traces through interviews and commentaries the course of the Gothic mode from Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein in 1818 to the steampunk, graphic novels, and alternate histories of today’s writers, artists, and filmmakers. The more than a dozen interviews by John include superstars Stephen King, Ray Bradbury, Peter Straub, Maurice Sendak, Kim Stanley Robinson, Greg Bear, Chris Van Allsburg, and others. There will be readings and signings in the evening of October 28 at the Plaza Barnes & Noble book store in Kansas City and in the afternoon of October 31 at the Kansas Union. All are invited to participate in the costumes and spirit of a Halloween party! Feature articles about the book will appear in the KANSAS CITY STAR and the UDK and on radio on Kansas Public Radio and KCUR in Kansas City.

At the same time, another book, LISZT: A CHORUS OF VOICES, is being ready for publication by Thanksgiving by the Pendragon Press. It is designed as a companion volume to John’s earlier book, SCHUMANN: A CHORUS OF VOICES (2010). All these books display John’s cover paintings.

At this writing, John has just signed a contract for PETER WEIR: CONVERSATIONS from Mississippi University Press, manuscript to be delivered in December 2012.

Kennedy Center Seeks Teaching Award Nominations

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is accepting nominations for the 2012 Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards, a series of annual grants recognizing inspiring teachers across the United States.

The awards were created in honor of Sondheim’s 80th birthday and were initiated and funded through the support of Freddie and Myrna Gershon. A Broadway legend, Sondheim frequently attributes his success to the teachers in his life. The Inspirational Teacher Awards are presented each year on Sondheim’s birthday, March 22, to a handful of teachers, kindergarten through college, who are nominated via the Kennedy Center website (www.kennedy-center.org/sondheimteacherawards).

By spotlighting the extraordinary impact teachers have on the lives of their students, the awards celebrate the teaching profession, the important role of teachers in society, and seek to inspire others to pursue this noble profession. Along with the $10,000 award, the selected teachers are showcased on the Kennedy Center website.

Nominees must be living, legal residents of the United States who currently teach or have taught in a K-12 school, college, or university in the United States. Teachers of all grade levels and subject areas are eligible. To nominate a teacher, you must be at least 18 years old and must have been the nominee’s student. Nominations can be a written, audio, or video story. All required materials must be submitted online or postmarked by Friday, December 16, 2011.

For more information, official rules, and nomination information, visit the website: www.kennedy-center.org/
2011-2012 Committee Members List

Ad Hoc Promotion & Tenure Committee
Chuck Berg – Chair
Madison Davis Lacy
Catherine Preston

Ad Hoc Sabbatical Leave Committee
Chuck Berg – Chair
Catherine Preston
Kevin Willmott

Faculty Evaluation Committee
Tamara Falicov – Chair, ex officio
Catherine Preston (8/10 – 5/12)
John Tibbetts (8/11 – 5/13)
Kevin Willmott (8/10 – 5/12)

Film & Media Department Committee
Chuck Berg – Chair (Fall 2011)
Tamara Falicov – Chair (Spring 2012)
Michael Baskett
Ché Butterfield
Germaine Halegoua
Bob Hurst
Matt Jacobson
Madison Davis Lacy
Ed Small (Fall 2011)
John Tibbetts
Kevin Willmott
Zach Ingle – Grad rep (Spring 2012)
Sho Ogawa – Grad rep (Fall 2011)
Ian Weaver – Undergrad representative

Film Production Committee
Ché Butterfield
Germaine Halegoua
Bob Hurst
Matt Jacobson
Madison Davis Lacy
Ed Small (Fall 2011)
Kevin Willmott

Graduate Advisory Board
Michael Baskett – Chair
Chuck Berg
Tamara Falicov
Bob Hurst
Catherine Preston
Isley Unruh – Grad rep

Scholarship and Awards Committee
Madison Davis Lacy
John Tibbetts

Search Committee
Chuck Berg – Co-chair
Tamara Falicov – Co-chair
Matt Jacobson
Germaine Halegoua
Bob Hurst
Sho Ogawa – Grad rep
Ian Weaver – Undergrad rep

Dept. Administrative Service Assignments
Graduate Program Director –
Michael Baskett
Honors Advisor – John Tibbetts
Internship Coordinator – Matt Jacobson
Study Abroad Coordinator – John Tibbetts
Undergraduate Program Coordinator –
Catherine Preston

Univ. Administrative Service Assignments
Center for Teaching Excellence Rep –
Catherine Preston
College Academic Council (CAC) –
John Tibbetts
Committee on Evaluation of Chairs and
Directors (CECD) – Kevin Willmott
Committee on Undergraduate Studies and
Advising (CUSA) – Bob Hurst
Faculty Senate & University Senate –
Matt Jacobson
SOTA Advisory Board – John Tibbetts

Film & Media Graduate Council
Amit Patel – Chair
Zach Ingle – Communications Chair
Zach Saltz – Fundraising Chair
Isley Unruh – Programs Chair

Other Student Representatives
Amit Patel – Grad rep –
SOTA Student Advisory
Juli Pitzer – Graduate Symposium 2012
Mike Van Esler, Grad rep –
Center for Sustainability

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

Josh Nathan is working on the new “Batman” movie. He reports that he works on it about four days a week. He is also working on other projects, one of which is The Gangster Squad, starring Sean Penn, Nick Nolte, Josh Brolin, Emma Stone, and Ryan Gosling.

In addition, he worked a little bit on Argo – Ben Affleck’s new film (he is directing and starring in it) with John Goodman and Bryan Cranston.

In his spare time, Josh is working on his own feature script.

Josh’s film A Light Opera won “Best Drama” at the IFC KC 10 of 10 Film Festival. It beat out several notable films to garner this honor, including the Emmy award winning film Woman’s Intuition (Dir. Patrick Rea); Change For A Dollar (Dir. Sharon Wright), which has over 16,000 views on youtube; and Tell Me You Love Me (Dir. Sharon Wright), a film that was awarded the Withoutabox Best Performance in an Acting Role by a Female at the LA based Action on Film International Film Festival.

The festival founder also noted that A Light Opera was in the strongest category!

A Light Opera was also screened at the 20th Annual Harvest of the Arts Film Festival held in Lawrence on September 30th.

Josh graduated in May 2011 with a BGS in Film and Media Studies.

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.

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, sign up in the Advising Sign-up book in 204 Oldfather Studios.

We are happy to announce our new internet connected lab which is open to our Film majors. This new addition to our building will allow up to 15 students the ability to research online and complete projects with the option to post their completed works.

Media History Digital Library http://mediahistoryproject.org/collections/ -- a great resource for research and teaching (and fun to browse).

The Media History Digital Library contains digital scans of thousands of magazine issues from 1904 to 1963. All files are available for download (including entire magazine issues, ads and all!).

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Fax: 785-331-2671
E-mail: film@ku.edu

Send your news items and updates to Karla Conrad, kmconrad@ku.edu.
Scenes from Director Rod Holcomb’s Directing for Television Workshop
Scenes from Director Rod Holcomb's Directing for Television Workshop