As this gorgeous Fall dazzles campus and town, Oldfather is humming. Students and faculty are shooting projects, preparing papers and getting ready for KU basketball.

Here, a shout-out to Gordy Hoffman who, on a recent visit from L.A., took time to share experiences with doctoral students.

Today, FMS students and faculty welcomed prospective Film majors and their parents to Oldfather as part of the School of the Art’s Creative Arts Senior Day.

For this edition, the feature attraction is “Go Climb That Hill in Your Own Way,” a telling note of encouragement for Film student by Josh Nathan (FMS, 2011), a Hollywood Hawk already making waves! (see page 4.)

From the Chair...

Advising Information

Seniors: If you're planning to graduate in Fall 2011 or Spring 2012 and you've not yet met with me to start graduation paper-work, please sign up in the book in the front office ASAP! Also go ahead and apply for your degree on Enroll & Pay (click on Graduation and follow the steps) by November 1 (fall graduates)!

Everyone: Now's your chance! Faculty are a captive audience during main enrollment advising – sign up to meet with them and get your questions answered!

Seniors: If you have a Candidate for Graduation Hold, read your “Academic Notice” in your Kyou portal (advising tab). Follow instructions there to remove the hold. This hold is not something that FMS or Amy Lampe can control.

Dates to remember:
Now through November 4 - Advising
Tuesday, November 1 - Deadline for Undergraduate Application for Degree (fall graduates).
Wednesday, November 16 - Last day to drop a class!
- Amy Lampe, Advising Specialist

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Coming Attractions

Halloween Horror Movie Marathon

The FMS Graduate Council is hosting a Halloween Horror Movie Marathon:

Friday, October 28
Costume Contest!
Movie Times: 8:00 p.m.—2:00 a.m.
Location: Oldfather Studios
Room Limit: 70 people
No admittance after 9:30 p.m.
No alcohol is allowed on the premises.
Bring your sleeping bags, blankets, and some Halloween treats!
Contact:
Amit Patel: (202) 412-9019
Zachary Ingle: (817) 372-1833

A Gothic Celebration of Halloween

Join Associate Professor John C. Tibbetts for a book signing, film clips, remarks, and costumes!
Special Guests: James Gunn, Chris McKitterick, Ben Cartwright, and the KU Center for the Study of Science Fiction.

Monday, October 31
Time: 2:30—4:00 p.m.
Location: Alderson Auditorium
Kansas Union, Level 4
All are invited to participate in the costumes and spirit of a Halloween party!
See the related story on page 3.
Sponsored by the Department of Film and Media Studies, The KU Center for the Study of Science Fiction, the KU Bookstore, and KU Memorial Unions.
Recognitions and Accomplishments

John Tibbetts’ new book, THE GOTHIC IMAGINATION, was reviewed in PUBLISHERS WEEKLY:


Tibbetts (Schumann: A Chorus of Voices) brings a fan’s enthusiasm and a scholar’s acumen to the dozens of interviews of professionals in horror, fantasy, science film, art, and comics that make up this engaging study of the Gothic and its commingling of “terror and wonder.” Corralling the contents into nine loosely organized chapters (“The Heroic Age of Fantasy and Science Fiction,” “The Music of Terror,” etc.), he presents his Q&As like private conversations recorded in rooms full of experts. Some chapters are fairly straightforward, among them “The Lovecraft Circle,” which presents the words of Robert Bloch, Ramsey Campbell, Ted Klein, and other writers influenced by the horror tales of H.P. Lovecraft. His chapter “Postmodern Gothic,” on the other hand, juxtaposes the insights of horror masters Stephen King and Peter Straub, to those of science fiction master Brian Aldiss and true-crime specialist Harold Schechter for a fascinating reflection on the modern evolution of the Gothic tradition. Entertaining and informative, this book proves that smart questions invariably elicit smart responses from masters of the fantastic in the arts. (Oct.)

B.A. student Joshua Richardson has had a chapter published recently in “Inception and Philosophy: Ideas to Die For,” edited by Thorsten Botz-Bornstein. The chapter was co-written by Ora McWilliams, a Ph.D. candidate in the American Studies department. The chapter is called “Dream Bigger, Darling.” It addresses film as a series of nested views of the world, filtered through various concepts. Mr. Richardson contributed a section on the inherently dreamlike properties of film, as well as using film studies perspectives to frame the film as a comment on the film making process. The book is published by Open Court Press. For more information go to Amazon.com.

Christina Hodel (first year Ph.D. student) will be dancing with the Dance Theatre Workshop of Lawrence at the Lawrence Arts Center in a production of “The Umbrella Day” based on the book of the same name. Local children, teens and adults work with the artistic directors to bring this charming, family-friendly story to life through movement and music. Come see this delightful tale unfold as the dancers’ creativity shape the choreography, the costumes and the story, and take you along on their adventures.

Performance:
Saturday, November 12
10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
Tickets: $6 adults
$4 students/seniors
I have something many recent film school graduates don’t have: a job. Not just any job, but a job working in the film industry in Los Angeles! Transferring to KU as a junior, I knew nobody... but was ready to learn. While in Lawrence, I caught some big breaks – thanks to committed faculty and alums of the then newly independent Department of Film and Media Studies – that eventually led to my L.A. work.

It all started with a Fall internship fair (that I almost didn’t attend) organized, in part, by Professor Tamara Falicov. There, I met KU alum and writer/director Gordy Hoffman, who was hosting an internship with his BlueCat Screenwriting Competition. Five of us were invited to spend ten days exploring the industry in L.A., and the rest of the semester writing script critiques of BlueCat submissions. What an amazing opportunity for me, as an aspiring writer/director: studying the mechanics of dozens of scripts, learning what works, what’s flawed, and why.

Around this time, I enrolled in what I still consider to be the best – and most challenging – class I’ve ever taken: Contemporary Japanese Cinema taught by Professor Michael Baskett. I never dreamed I would learn how to truly study film through Japanese cinema! But the mastery of Professor Baskett inspired me to expand my understanding of every aspect of filmmaking. This class – more than any other – prepared me for my year-long Honors program project: writing, directing, and producing a festival-quality short film.

My Honors supervisor, Professor Robert Hurst, insisted that I first study selected books and films that dealt with themes I wanted to depict in my film. At the same time, I began my second internship: a summer working as a production assistant in Portland, Oregon on the TNT show *Leverage*. Marc Roskin, KU Alum and Executive Producer of the show, selected four KU students to intern as P.A.’s. This is where I learned how to work as a P.A. on a major set.

Mentored by Professor Hurst, I began scripting my Honors film. I was encouraged to apply for – and won – a KU Undergraduate Research Award to help fund the project, and the Film and Media Studies department provided me with numerous production resources. The film, *A Light Opera*, was shot with professional actors and a crew of KU film students. It went on to win the “Best of Show” Tensie at the 2011 KU Film and Media Studies Awards, and “Best Drama” at the recent IFC Film Festival in Kansas City.

I graduated on a Sunday and by Tuesday was driving to San Francisco where that remarkable KU network had helped me land a P.A. job on Paul Thomas Anderson’s new film. Skills learned on *Leverage* helped me excel on the PT Anderson set, and I developed relationships that later led to a job on the L.A. segment of the latest Batman film, *The Dark Knight Rises*. During my off-days I worked on other film sets, including Ruben Fleischer’s *Gangster Squad* and Ben Affleck’s *Argo*. *The Dark Knight Rises* has wrapped in L.A., and I’m headed to Virginia to begin work on yet another film.

The moral of my story? With the luck born of honest hard work, a KU Film and Media Studies graduate is just as likely to get a start in the industry as anyone from NYU or USC. I’ve worked with people from those schools, and at bottom they’re just folks with drive and a passion to succeed. So squeeze everything you can out of your time at KU. Look into every possibility, make as many films as you can, be as involved as possible...lay the foundation to be as successful as you desire.
Alumni News

Grant Babbitt (BGS, May 2011) reported that there is an article on the internet from a post production/software company called Red Giant. This article talks about how Stargate Studios uses Red Giant Software for such shows as “Pan Am” and “The Walking Dead.” Three KU alumni work at Stargate Studios – Chris Martin, Franco Leng, and Caleb Knueven. There is a quote from our Emmy award winning alumni, Chris Martin, in the article. Read the full article here:


(Photos shown to the right are from this website.)

ABC’s ‘Pan Am’ footage, before Stargate Studios goes to work.

ABC’s ‘Pan Am’ scene, after post-production and color correction.

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.

FMS
Women’s Film Group
Contact Juli Pitzer (jpitzer@ku.edu) for more information.