From the Chair...

As the Holidays fast approach, and FMS prepares to welcome back Tamara Falicov from leave, I want to thank everyone who’s helped make serving as “acting chair” of Film and Media Studies such a wonderfully heartening experience.

To our extraordinary staff (Marilyn, Lene, Karla, Che and John) and my faculty colleagues, a special “Thanks” for serving the needs of our undergraduate and graduate students so effectively.

A special tip-of-the-hat goes to our GTAs for their many contributions including the organization of the Graduate Student Film Symposium (which will welcome Professor Henry Jenkins to Oldfather in January).

An appreciative nod goes to our super extraordinary alums. In late-September, I was in Hollywood with Mike Robe, Gordy Hoffmann, Maria Skiles, Chris Martin and Scott Thomas whose individual and collective energies on behalf of KU Film continue to inspire.

It was particularly gratifying to welcome back Mark Roskin whose keynote presentation for our “KU Film Rally” kick-started the 2011-2012 academic year.

Speaking of alums, their accomplishments continue to amaze. Mike Robe’s arresting adaptation, Scott Turow’s Innocence; the green-lighting of Mark Roskin’s Leverage for a fifth season; and the success of recent grad Josh Nathan whose resume now includes credits with Spielberg and Nolan – these are among my favorite alum newsflashes of the Fall.

Welcoming Professor Germaine Halegoua to the faculty adds impetus to our expanding curriculum in “new media.” FMS, I’m pleased to note, is now searching for a new faculty member in animation and visual effects to join us in Fall 2012.

Also significant is a very favorable external review of FMS which will help us plan for more effectively serving our comprehensive teaching, research and service missions.

With Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, Provost Jeff Vitter, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Danny Anderson, School of the Arts Dean Liz Kowalchuk and, at Oldfather, FMS Chair Tamara Falicov, Film and Media Studies is well positioned to help lead KU to the top tier of public supported universities seeking to educate the future leaders and citizens of our ever expanding and globalizing media-sphere. These are exciting and challenging times. Stay tuned!

With Gratitude and Happy Holiday Wishes to All!

From the Chair...
The Annual KU Film Symposium is organized by the graduate students and faculty in the Department of Film and Media Studies and is open to other departments in the University. It offers graduate students an opportunity to present aspects of their current research to their peers and to receive feedback from a guest moderator and notable scholar.

Possible topic areas may include the following: the convergence of film, television, and media and their connection with American/foreign national history and national identity; explorations of television texts, industries, history, and theory; gender studies; issues of theory and philosophy that address the role of the moving image; video game history, theory, and impact; issues of transnationalism and globalization; fandom, fan culture, and fan studies; and political economy of media.

**FMS Faculty Director:**
Dr. John C. Tibbetts

**FMS Graduate Co-Director Committee:**
Zach Ingle, Juli Stone Pitzer, Zach Saltz, Isley Unruh, and Joshua Wille.

**HENRY JENKINS** is the Provost’s Professor of Communication, Journalism, and Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California. His books include *Convergence Culture: Where Old and New Media Collide*, *Textual Poachers: Television Fans and Participatory Culture*, and *Fans, Bloggers, and Gamers: Media Consumers in a Digital Age*, among others.

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Jenkins founded the Comparative Media Studies program, while his works popularized the concepts of “media convergence” and “convergence culture” into media theory discourse. He also maintains one of the most read blogs within the academy, “Confessions of an Aca-Fan,” at henryjenkins.org.
Recognitions and Accomplishments

FMS congratulates Ed Small on the granting of “professor emeritus” status! Ed finished his KU teaching career this semester and will be finishing a revision of his book, Direct Theory: Experimental Film/Video as Major Genre, and working on several films.

Chuck Berg presented “A World Unhinged: Angst, Anger and Adjustment in Hollywood Films of the Forties” at the Nelson-Adkins Museum of Art in Kansas City as part of the exhibition “To Make a World: George Ault and 1940s America” organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Juli Stone Pitzer was selected (with Bob Hurst as the advisor) to present her research "Preserving the Past" Topeka's Jayhawk Theatre" at the 9th Annual Capitol Graduate Research Summit in Topeka on February 6th. She was selected to be one of eight presenters from KU.

Eight KU students were selected by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies to join their peers from Kansas State University, The University of Kansas Medical Center, and Wichita State University in Topeka at the Capitol on February 16th, 2012. The participating students will present their research in poster board format to legislators and other members of state government. Awards are sponsored by KansasBio and the participating institutions.

http://www.graduate.ku.edu/08-04_capitol_research.shtml

FMS joins the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in celebrating Marilyn Heath’s selection as an “Exceptional Employee.” At the College’s Second Annual Staff Appreciation Reception at the Adams Alumni Center on November 16th, Dean Danny J. Anderson noted that “Marilyn Heath is an exemplar of responsibility, efficiency and initiative whose exceptional contributions to the Department of Film and Media Studies have directly benefited all faculty, staff and students for well over forty years. Her good cheer, can-do attitude, and crimson-and-blue devotion to KU help make Oldfather Studios a genial and mission-affirming workplace. To cite a lyric from one of the classic James Bond themes, ‘Nobody Does it Better!’”

We agree! Congratulations, Marilyn!

Juli and Sean Pitzer are happy to announce the arrival of Haakon Stone Pitzer, born on December 15 at 1:23 a.m. Haakon (Hawk-un) means “my highest son” or “the chosen son” and is the name of seven past kings of Norway. They particularly like the name because they both have Scandinavian heritage. The baby’s nickname is Haaki.
Important Advising Information

Advising Specialist Amy Lampe will be on maternity leave from December 22 through February 29.

Please review the entire list below to determine whom to contact with your questions:

Film & Media Studies Advising Appointments: see your faculty advisor.

Prospective Film & Media Studies students: contact a FMS faculty member.

Financial Aid Appeals: contact Professor Catherine Preston - cpreston@ku.edu

Spring 2012 and Summer 2012 Graduation Checks (including Major Certification Sheets) - see your faculty advisor in FMS and/or schedule an appointment with a Graduation Advisor in CLAS (call 864-3500).

Fall 2012 graduation (including Major Certification Sheets) - contact Amy when she returns in March, see your faculty advisor in FMS, or schedule an appointment with a Graduation Advisor in CLAS (call 864-3500).

Permission Number questions: contact the instructor of the course in which you are trying to enroll.

ROTC four year plans: schedule an appointment with a Graduation Advisor in CLAS (call 864-3500).

Veterans’ Affairs paperwork: schedule an appointment with a Graduation Advisor in CLAS (call 864-3500).

Call for Entry to SUA’s Student Film Competition

SUA’s Student Film Competition is part of the 4th International Film & Food Fest and this year the film fest will incorporate intentional foods with the films.

The event will be held on Sunday, February 19th from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union.

Food will be served between films in the Big 12 room.

Films are due on a labeled DVD by February 8th to the SUA Box office on the 4th level of the Kansas Union.

Student films cannot be longer than 25 minutes. The top four student films will be screened at the Film & Food Fest.

The top three films will be rewarded prizes: First place is $500 and an internship with a film company in Mexico City, second place is $350, and third place is $200.

This event is free for KU students and $5 for the general public.

Attention December Graduates!

We’d love to stay in touch with you after you’ve graduated. Stop by the reception desk in 204 Oldfather and fill out a short form and provide us with your non-KU email address (or send an email with your non-KU email address to: kmconrad@ku.edu).

All best wishes as you go forth!
Alumni News

Grant Babbitt (BGS, 2011) and other KU alumni recently worked on the new Batman movie, "Dark Knight Rises."

Check out Grant’s website at www.grantbabbitt.com

Inclement Weather

Not sure if classes will be in session or if the campus will be open when there is inclement weather? Call (785) 864-SNOW to find out.

Read the full Inclement Weather policy here:
https://documents.ku.edu/policies/provost/WinterWeatherPolicy.htm

And here:
http://www.hreo.ku.edu/policies_procedures/emergency_procedures/inclement_weather

Mike Robe’s triple-threat capacities as director, screenwriter and producer were tapped by TNT for the debut of the net’s high-profile series of sophisticated adaptations of blockbuster crime novels. Aired in late November, Mike’s Scott Turow’s Innocent scored with critics such as The Wall Street Journal’s Dorothy Rabinowitz who wrote: “In a time of year least likely to yield serious suspense drama, or serious drama of any kind other than the inspirational, TNT has come up with “Scott Turow’s ‘Innocent’” – a rare treat a bit like finding strawberries in a wintry wood. Here’s a made-for-television movie with Bill Pullman, Marcia Gay Harden, Alfred Molina and Richard Schiff. It’s strawberries in winter all right. In doesn’t hurt, either, that the film [artfully helmed and produced from Mike’s screenplay] is, as the title trumpets, based on Scott Turow’s 2010 novel “Innocent,” the sequel to his immensely popular “Presumed Innocent” (1987) -- with a plot that offers much the same in the way of startling plot twists and blistering courtroom atmospherics. It’s the first in a series of dramas adapted from crime novels that the network will be offering in November and December, and the one the others would be hard put to beat.”

Congratulations to Mike on a brilliant screenplay and a gallery of edgy, sophisticated performances by the remarkable Pullman, Harden, Molina and Schiff, who, from start to finish, give us, per Rabinowitz, “two splendid hours of entertainment.” Here, as in many of his previous films including his gripping mini-series adaptation of Turow’s “Burden of Proof,” Mike’s probe into the struggle to reconcile our private and public natures is a casebook on the complexities and contradictions of the human experience tellingly expressed through the lens of the courtroom drama. -- contributed by CB

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!

Equipment Checkout and Computer Lab hours will resume in the spring semester.

Amy Lampe, Advising Specialist, will be on maternity leave from December 22 through February 29. See page 4 for advising information.