Greetings to all in Film and Media Studies and their supporters!!

The academic year is drawing to a close, and I especially want to congratulate those students who are getting ready to graduate this spring (or did so in the winter).

As many of you know, it is our custom to honor those graduating seniors and M.A. and Ph.D. students who have completed their degree and are going off into the exciting world of multiple opportunities. Whatever your path is, we do hope you will keep in touch with us and let us know of your whereabouts. We’d like to invite all students to come and honor those graduating along with those receiving well-deserved scholarships and awards at the Tensies Film Spectacular on Friday, May 4th at 6:30 p.m. (Stop Day) at Liberty Hall downtown. It promises to be a fun event, with optional semi formal dress, appetizers served, and wonderful clips of student work showcased. Please mark your calendars!!

Other news to be shared is that we once again had a terrific experience over Spring Break with ten well-deserving seniors who were selected to visit Los Angeles and KU alums accompanied by Professor Matt Jacobson and graduate student Mike Van Esler. A wonderful time was had by all, despite the fatigue that came with visiting so many people and taking in so many sights/sites!! Please look out for our application call for next year’s round, seniors!! And know that maintaining a 3.5 GPA is key to getting this and other opportunities. See excerpts from student reflections in this issue.

This summer we will be offering a whole slate of courses should you be interested in getting some courses out of the way. Recall that we offer summer internship credit, should you be able to secure one that relates to Film and Media Studies in state or out of state. See Prof. Matt Jacobson for details (mattjaco@ku.edu).

We are beginning to create a list of filmmakers/speakers to join us in the department next year. If you know of any filmmakers you’d like us to consider inviting to campus, please let me know (tfalicov@ku.edu).

See you at the Tensies!!

Best wishes,

Tamara

**From the Chair...**

**Academic Calendar and Deadlines**

Monday, April 16 – Last day to drop a class, last day to withdraw from all classes.
Thursday, May 3 – Last day of spring classes.
Friday, May 4 – Stop Day.
Monday, May 7 – Friday, May 11 Final exams.
Sunday, May 13 – Commencement.
Friday, May 18 – Grade submission deadline (midnight).

**Apply to graduate!**

Spring 2012 grads – if you’ve not yet applied to graduate, please call College Student Academic Services to do so ASAP! 864-3500

Summer 2012 grads – apply on Enroll & Pay by July 16

Fall 2012 grads – it’s not too early! Apply on Enroll & Pay by Nov. 1 – but the earlier the better! Do it now before you forget!

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**Inside this issue:**

- **Coming Attractions** 2
- **Call for Entries & Annual Student Recognition Ceremony** 2
- **Recognitions & Accomplishments** 3
- **Cinewomen Coalition** 4
- **Documentary Club** 5
- **Seniors’ Spring Break Trip to LA** 6
- **Alumni News** 14
Coming Attractions
Annual Student Recognition Ceremony and 2011-12 Film Awards Spectacular

Call for Entries for the 2012 Tensie Awards

Trophies will be awarded for:

- Best Animation
- Best Body of Work (3 or more)
- Best Cinematography
- Best Comedy
- Best Directing
- Best Documentary
- Best Drama
- Best Editing
- Best Experimental Project
- Best Music Video
- Best Screenplay
- Best Sound
- Best Special Effects
- Best of Show

Submission Deadlines:

- 4:30 p.m. **Friday, April 20th**, for eligible projects completed *prior* to spring semester 2012
- 4:30 p.m. **Friday, April 27th**, for projects created *during* spring semester 2012.

Entry forms have been sent to all FMS students. Please read and follow all rules and regulations.

Lunafest

Short films by, for, about women.

Date: April 22
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Liberty Hall, 644 Massachusetts Street
Tickets: $10.00
Email: gadugieducation@sunflower.com
Phone: 785-843-8985
For more information, visit lunafest.org

School of the Arts Recognition Ceremony

Friday, May 11, 6:30 p.m.
Crafton-Preyer Theatre, Murphy Hall
Contact Amanda McCoy for more info (amccoy@ku.edu)

CLAS Distinction/Highest Distinction and Master’s Hooding Ceremony

Sunday, May 13, 8:00 a.m.
Lied Center
Contact Student Academic Services for more info (864-3500)

KU Commencement

Sunday, May 13, 10:30 a.m.
Memorial Stadium
Commencement Ceremony info:
www.commencement.ku.edu

Department of Film & Media Studies
School of the Arts

Annual Student Recognition Ceremony

- Tensie Awards Announced
- Scholarship Presentations
- Award Presentations
- A fond farewell to students leaving the Department

Date: Friday, May 4, 2012
Time: 6:30 p.m. Hors d’ oeuvres
7:00 p.m. Program Begins
Place: Liberty Hall
642 Massachusetts Street
Potluck: Please bring a cold Hors d’ oeuvre to share
Attire: Semi-formal

Everyone is invited!

FMS completed its interview visit with the fourth candidate on April 16 & 17 for the Animation/Visual Effects faculty position. The candidate gave a research presentation entitled “Zwischen Welten – Between Worlds” and a teaching presentation entitled “Animation basics: spacing and motion – a flipbook exercise.”
Recognitions and Accomplishments

John Tibbetts has been invited to the Art Directors Guild, in Los Angeles, on 20 May 2012 to present a program on Douglas Fairbanks’ *THE IRON MASK* (1928). The Guild, which was founded in 1937 as a branch of the International Alliance of Theatrical State Employees (IATSE), is interested in John’s research into the memoirs of *THE IRON MASK*’s Production Designer, the late Maurice Leloir. Leloir came from Paris to Hollywood in 1928 at Fairbanks’ invitation to supervise the costumes, sets, and fashion details of the Court of Louis XIII and XIV. In his late 70s at the time, Leloir was not only recognized as the illustrator of Dumas’ novels but was a world-class authority on the historical period. He had never before been on a film set, and left a wide-eyed, affectionate, and charming memoir of his adventures with Fairbanks at United Artists during the shooting of the *THE IRON MASK*. His book, *FIVE MONTHS IN HOLLYWOOD WITH DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS*, was published in French in 1929; but the copyright lapsed and the book was never re-published in English. Working with Brownlow, John acquired an English translation, which had been privately done by the French-speaking wife of designer Ben Carre. That translation, which has never been published, will appear in its entirety in John’s forthcoming book, *DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS AND THE CHOREOGRAPHY OF HOPE*, from Mississippi University Press. The presentation in Hollywood in May will include examples of Leloir’s designs, details of Brownlow’s restoration of the film, John’s notes on the film, and a complete screening of the film, which was obtained from Brownlow’s collection at his Photoplay offices in London.

Ron Wilson recently published an essay on director Don Siegel, “‘Doomed Peculiarity’: Narrative Space and Movement in Don Siegel’s Noir Films” in *Film Noir: The Directors*, edited by Alain Silver and James Ursini (Limelight Editions, 2012).

Ph.D. student Zachary Ingle’s first book was released in March. He edited a collection of interviews with Robert Rodriguez for the University Press of Mississippi’s Conversations with Filmmakers series. Zachary is excited for having the first book in English devoted to the director of *El Mariachi* and *Sin City*. He also presented his research on Rodriguez’s *Machete* and the “Latino Threat Narrative” at SCMS in March.

Robert Rodriguez: Interviews can be purchased from the University Press of Mississippi, Barnes and Noble, Amazon, and other online retailers.

John Tibbetts was selected to give a presentation on his new book, “The Gothic Imagination,” at the Annual Hall Center Celebration of Books. The book was nominated for a “Bram Stoker Award.”

The event recognized KU faculty members who have published books in the year 2011. This is the fourth time Professor Tibbetts has had books included in the annual celebrations.

The Celebration event was held on March 8 at the Hall Center for the Humanities.

Ron Wilson recently published an essay on director Don Siegel, “‘Doomed Peculiarity’: Narrative Space and Movement in Don Siegel’s Noir Films” in *Film Noir: The Directors*, edited by Alain Silver and James Ursini (Limelight Editions, 2012).
Cinewomen Coalition (FMS Women’s Production and Studies Organization) welcomed filmmaker Julie Reichert on March 8th. An introduction by Cinewomen’s Committee Chair Juli Pitzer (Ph.D. student) was followed by a screening of Reichert’s poignant film Warrior Woman. A lively Q&A hosted by Christina Hodel (Ph.D. student) followed the screening. In addition, members of Cinewomen Coalition formed an all-female crew and shot “Jessie in Reverie,” a short film at Oldfather Studios on March 10 and 11.

Cinewomen Coalition is participating in the First Annual FMS Student Organization Stop Day BBQ. (May 4)
**Documentary Club**

In the spring of 2011, senior Patrick Monroe and alumnus Greg Dubinski decided to take their interest in documentary production in a new direction. Having recently completed Professor Lacy’s Documentary Production course in the fall, they decided to create a new production-centered club for those interested in documentary. With a goal to create resume-building projects and take a creative look inside the world of non-fiction, The Documentary Film Society of KU is looking beyond the scope of college and on to the future of its members. The club is attempting to network with professional documentarians and works as a stepping-stone to the real world. Another goal is to create a relationship between the Department of Film & Media Studies and the rest of the university; as it takes an entire community to create a film. The club welcomes music majors, journalism majors, and graphic design majors in addition to the standard group of film majors.

While the club is still in its infancy stages, it hasn’t lost its desire to immediately get to work.

Currently the club is working on projects with the Architecture Department, Dr. Julie Wei of KU Med, the KU Debate Team, KU Endowment, the Social Welfare Department, and the KU Rock Climbing Club.

Meetings are held at Oldfather Studios every Thursday at 8:00 p.m., and are open to anyone who is hard working and is interested in documentary. If you’re interested in learning more, contact Patrick Monroe at pamonroe@yahoo.com.

The Documentary Club working in Arkansas for the KU Rock Climbing documentary.
I was surprised at how welcoming and eager the Hollywood Hawks were from the moment we arrived. KU basketball watch parties were coincidentally scheduled twice during the time we were there which allowed us to see the entire KU alumni community [Hollywood Hawks]. It was a great relief in seeing such a large group of people with similar backgrounds; all uprooted to LA and becoming successful. The Welcoming Party/Mixer was also timed perfectly at the beginning of the week because we had the opportunity to mingle and meet people that pertained to our individual interests and others that we would potentially met later in the week. – Kara McKinney

The amount of KU community that was so supportive, willing to help, and eager to meet us was overwhelming, and it was extremely reassuring. I want to throw out some major props to Maria Skeels, who not only helped arrange a ton of stuff for the group, but also was extremely nice and helpful whenever any questions were asked. – Morgan LaForge

We all got a great balance of networking and leisurely touring on the trip, though, and I couldn’t have asked for more generosity from Professor Jacobson and GTA Mike Van Esler. I want to say also that everyone who is a KU student, whether they are interested in Los Angeles or not, should personally thank Maria Skeels for being so amazingly helpful and for her involvement with the Hollywood Hawks group. – Trent Ubben

The thing that surprised me most about the trip was just how dedicated the Jayhawk community is out there. It’s such a strong, tight-knit group that is very welcoming and always available to assist the next person who chooses to move out there. The KU watch parties were a great chance to meet a ton of people who graduated from KU and are now working professionally in the film industry. I can’t say how grateful I am to Maria Skeels, who helped organize and plan the event from the LA side. She is a wonderful person who is extremely welcoming to the newcomers. – Kurtis Myers
I know for me, L.A. was at first extremely far off, a mystical land. I never thought there was as much work or as many friendly faces as there were. No longer does Los Angeles feel so far away. No longer will I hesitate to experience the industry there first hand. This trip opened my eyes to something great, and like so many others, with hard work and determination, I know I will succeed. This trip showed me a glimpse of my future, and I am pleased. – Derek Boettcher

Before going on this trip I was skeptical about L.A. My preconceived thoughts about Los Angeles (i.e., the town being too intimidating) were all put at ease through my experience. Also, I found that the filmmakers we met, along with residents, were very kind and helpful with an honest objective to help us newcomers find our place in the L.A. film industry. I am now strongly considering moving out to L.A. to pursue my filmmaking career at the end of this summer. If this trip wasn’t available to me it would probably be years before I would even think about moving to Los Angeles. I am so grateful that I was able to attend this trip to gain a better understanding of the industry. – Jess Shuler
I recommend this trip to anyone who wants to move to L.A. I would just say that when you are out there, be genuine and be yourself when talking to people but also be assertive and involved. It really is a blessing that there are so many people out there who are willing to help out. I do plan to move to Los Angeles shortly after graduating, and I know down the road when I am successful out there, I will always have this trip as an amazing memory and highlight in my life. Do it. — Trent Ubben

The trip to LA was such an invaluable experience. Before the trip, I knew I wanted to move to LA but had no idea how I could make that happen. I’ve since learned from Grant Babbitt [BGS 2011] how to find apartments, how to talk to intimidating contacts and how to start looking for jobs. Since I’ve been back in Kansas, I’ve also connected with a writer from the show “The Client List.” He promised to let me shadow him sometime after I move out, which is more than I could’ve hoped for. — Laura Beason

We were exposed to great food, great places and great people. Twice we went to a KU watch party. Might I add, the people who showed up there were amazing; many people were there; many people we know and care about; many people new. The best part is, they all want you to succeed. You cannot get a better support system than that. — Derek Boettcher
Spring Break Career Orientation Trip to LA

At Disney we got to see first hand how methodical (and difficult!) it is to record ADR.
– Laura Beason

We went to Disney Studios, toured their facilities, and was able to sit in on the sound designers working on folley; we were able to watch how the ADR was done next door, participating as 'actors.' We went to Nickelodeon and were able to see their great ideas and creativity pulsing through their building.
– Derek Boettcher

Every day of the trip was packed with activities and productivity. We met some amazing KU alumni. There were literally probably 60 things we did and saw (from visiting Disney Studios and seeing the sound room where they record all the dialogue for Pixar movies to going to Jimmy Kimmel Live), but my highlight of the trip was our visit to a post-production company called Rock Paper Scissors. We met KU alum David Brodie who is an editor there and we saw some amazing work that I really felt I connected with personally.
– Trent Ubben

We couldn’t have had a better guide than Matt Jacobson. It was a great experience and one that any student can only be lucky enough to have.
– Douglas CJ Cole

Michele Winn
We visited Titmouse, an animation studio that produces everything from China, IL (a mature cartoon featured on Adult Swim) to boys’ shows for Disney XD. And there Scott Thomas became my personal hero. He writes and produces for the upcoming show, “Randy Cunningham, 9th Grade Ninja.”

Scott introduced us to the animation team, but he also did something amazing: He let us sit in the writers’ room. In the writers’ room, Scott showed us all of the character sketches and mock-ups of the upcoming episodes. It was really interesting and absolutely encouraging to hear a writer talk about the ups and downs (and ultimate success) of moving to LA and working in the industry.

– Laura Beason

The day of MTI and Titmouse was another favorite of mine. Scott Thomas has a dream job – who wouldn’t want to sit around table with a think-tank of writers and laugh all day? MTI was especially rewarding because Bridgid O’Donnell was able to explain the company’s advances in film restoration and explain some of the studios motives in spending the money to restore. – Kara McKinney

Throughout the course of a week, we visited and explored post-production houses, lighting companies, animation studios and even the American Society of Cinematographers.

– Laura Beason

My favorite aspect of the entire trip was definitely our trip to the American Society of Cinematographer’s clubhouse. I’m huge on cinematography, and when we got a chance to sit down and talk with some of the greatest cinematographers living today. It was an experience I will never forget. They are so humble about their profession, and have so much dedication to their work.

– Kurtis Myers
Spring Break Career Orientation Trip to LA

My favorite part of the trip, in terms of touring different studios, was going to Mole Richardson. I am very much interested in lighting and cinematography, and it was a great, simple learning experience for me. Being on the set of The Client List was also really informative, interesting, and fun to watch; it was great to see how a professional set works. At almost every place we visited, I learned about opportunities with different jobs that I had no idea even existed.

– Morgan LaForge

At Nickelodeon, the environment was fun, energetic and completely conducive for working creative minds. A few of us visited Rock, Paper, Scissors, a post-production house specializing in commercial clients. They showed us how they added visual effects to commercials. The working environment at RPS was relaxed and friendly, making me almost consider switching gears from pre to post-production.

– Laura Beason

We experienced such places as Mole-Richardson, a lighting gear company that has free workshops on the proper way to handle lights and lighting sets and subjects. We also moved to post production houses (my personal favorite) such as Rock Paper Scissors (A52 studios; online/offline editing) and Stargate (Computer Graphics). Some of us were able to play with a Phantom camera, experiencing 1,000 frames a second.

– Derek Boettcher

As a writer, I was skeptical about meetings with professionals that worked in production and post-production, but when we visited Mole Richardson where we were all forced into a crash course training session in lighting, I realized how interesting and valuable these lessons would be to all of us, no matter where our interests lie.

– Laura Beason

Disney, Titmouse and the post-production studios were very informational. Visiting Larry Parker and his lighting school was beneficial. It will probably be one of my first stops once I move out there to further my knowledge of lighting. Overall, our schedules were somewhat grueling, but provided us with so much information and future possibilities that no time seem wasted.

– Douglas CJ Cole

Our experience at Mole Richardson was probably one of my favorites; he was honestly such a good teacher and I loved his hands-on method which involved us getting up in front of the class and making mistakes to explain how to grip the proper way.

– Kara McKinney
Spring Break Career Orientation Trip to LA

With a loaded itinerary, we were given the opportunity to make multiple valuable contacts for future industry possibilities. Being interested in writing and directing, meeting with Mike Robe, Chris Ordal, Scott Thomas, Gordy Hoffman, Jared Stone and Rod Holcomb was very beneficial. Each took the time to offer their advice and how they went about breaking into the business. – Douglas CJ Cole

Being interested in producing, the tours brought light upon the vast positions within my field that I had not explored. For instance, meeting Dara Barton who is a producer at The Ant Farm, a post-production house, opened my eyes to producing trailers and title sequences for films which serve distribution and marketing purposes; something I think would be very rewarding. – Kara McKinney
Spring Break Career Orientation Trip to LA

With my focus lying in both cinematography and assistant directing, I had two highlights during our visit: “The Client List” set visit and the question and answer session with the ASC. The set visit of “The Client List” allowed me to see how a DP works in a professional atmosphere. The most vital part of my visit was getting to talk at length to the 2nd AD who gave me a much better understanding of how the AD team operates. She also gave me insight into an AD training program through the DGA that I will be applying to this Fall. The ASC visit was a great learning experience being able to hear accomplished DP’s talk about their side of the industry. Other memorable visits I would greatly encourage keeping in the itinerary include: Mole Richardson, MTI Studios, Disney Studios and of course watching KU basketball at the Parlor.

– Jess Shuler

The trip overall was phenomenal. We got a chance to see just about every aspect of film making on a professional level. This was great, because of how diverse the interests were of our group. Some people wanted to write, produce, direct, grip, gaff, or be a cinematographer, and we got a chance to meet a person in just about every one of those categories.

– Kurtis Myers

Photos by Rebecca Basaure and Matt Jacobson

Joel McHale
Alumni News

Mona Mwakalinga (Ph.D. 2010) was commissioned last October by the University of Dar es Salaam to make a documentary on the 50th anniversary of the university. The documentary was completed and was screened at the 50th year anniversary celebration and aired twice on a local television station. Mona teaches in the department of Fine and Performing Arts at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

Nohchool Park (Ph.D. 2009) is working as an adjunct professor in the Department of Film, TV, and Animation at Hongik University, a prestigious art school in Korea. He teaches the history of visual media for both undergraduate and graduate courses. Nohchool’s wife, Kim Sohee, a Western art historian and Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, is teaching the history of Western painting as a visiting professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology.