Happy 2014 returning students, staff and faculty!

Wow, am I the only one experiencing an accelerated spring semester this year?

There is so much going on in the Department and it is all very exciting. Of note is the premiere of “Jayhawkers” a film by Kevin Willmott and lensed by Matt Jacobson that I encourage all FMS students to attend. We are co-sponsoring the film on February 14th at 7:00 p.m., but there are additional screenings on Saturday and Sunday (see page 2 for details).

Our department is proud of our faculty accomplishments, and furthermore, our current lecturer and alumna Laura Kirk’s project, “The Sublime and Beautiful” has been receiving press for its premiere at Slamdance in January. Students, if your films play at festivals (or anywhere), we want to know!

In other news, we are happy to report that a group of seven doctoral students visited Costa Rica for a study abroad opportunity between KU and their sister organization in Central America, the University of Costa Rica (the universities have enjoyed a 50 year relationship – the longest in our country). Professors Michael Baskett and myself worked with faculty in film at the University of Costa Rica (namely Maria Lourdes Cortes and Jose Enrique Garnier) and it was a wonderful experience for all. Please see photos of the trip on the following pages. The participants were Courtney Aspen Sanchez, Carl Swanson, Patrick Terry, Zach Saltz, Javier Barroso, Luis Rodriguez, and Amanda Boyle. If any of them is your GTA, ask them about their trip!!

Moreover, there are so many exciting events and guest speakers lined up for later in the semester. Keep your eyes peeled for screenplay coverage analyst from USC, Peter Exline, who will be giving a workshop on how to do coverage on a screenplay (excellent for those writers who want experience in the field in L.A.), on March 14-15th.

We also hope to have a visit by KU alumnus Jay Silver, a working cinematographer in New York City on March 25-26th. And, by popular demand, master editor Allan Holzman (also from USC) will be visiting us on March 31-April 1 and giving presentations on editing and screening his work. Whew! Now you know what I mean about a busy semester coming up. But we are thrilled to have so much happening here.

Have a great semester!!

Tamara Falicov
Chair, Film and Media Studies

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Jayhawks Premiere

University of Kansas Film & Media Studies Professor Kevin Willmott’s latest film, "Jayhawks," will premiere at 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Friday, February 14, at the Lied Center. Willmott’s latest film tells the story of a group of unlikely allies who modernized college sports and changed Lawrence during the Civil Rights movement that would transform American society. "Jayhawks" stars KU alumnus Kip Niven ("Magnum Force," "Return to Lonesome Dove") as Coach Phog Allen, Jay Karnes ("The Shield," "Burn Notice") as Chancellor Franklin Murphy and Trai Byers ("90210," "All My Children") as jazz musician Nathan Davis. The film also features Justin Wesley as Wilt Chamberlain.

Additional screenings will be held at 11:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m., and 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 15, and 1:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 16, all at the Lied Center.

Tickets can be purchased at the Lied Center Box office. General Admission $10.

For more information about the premiere, contact Sarah Sahin in the Film and Media Studies Department at sarahsahin@ku.edu.

Learn more at [www.facebook.com/JayhawksMovie](http://www.facebook.com/JayhawksMovie)
See the trailer at [msn.foxsports.com](http://msn.foxsports.com)
Coming Attractions

Department of Film & Media Studies

February 2014

AINT I A WOMAN

my journey to womanhood

laverne cox

Laverne Cox is an actress, writer, producer, and transgender advocate. She is most well known for her role in the Netflix original series Orange is the New Black. In this powerful, inspiring talk, she will share insights from her life, reflecting on the power of women to change the world. Laverne’s approach to activism centers on producing and sharing her own experiences. Join us for a conversation that explores how we can all make a difference in the world.

If you require assistance due to a disability, please submit your request at least 7 days in advance of the event to Michelle Grisby. Email: michaelb.grisby@ku.edu. Phone: 785-864-3437. TTY: 711.

Facebook.com/SUAevents Twitter.com/SUAevents 785-864-SHOW SUAevents.com

CAMPUS MOVIE SERIES

SUAevents.com/campusmovie-series

Friday and Saturday showings at 7:30PM Sunday showings at 2PM All movies show in Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union, Level 5 Free with Student Saver Card: $2 with KUID: $3 General Public Tickets available day of show at the Hawk Shop, Kansas Union, Level 4

If you are in need of an accommodation due to a disability, please submit your request 7 business days in advance of the event to Michelle Grisby. Email: michaelb.grisby@ku.edu. Phone: 785-864-3437. TTY: 711.

Facebook.com/SUAevents Twitter.com/SUAevents SUAevents.com

KU Memorial Unions The Kansas Kardinal KU Dining Services KU Union Programs
Coming Attractions

JCW Film Festival
February 1 & 9th, 2014

Lawrence Jewish Community Center
917 Highland Drive Lawrence, KS 66044
785-841-7636 www.LawrenceJCC.org

MamaDrama
Saturday, Feb. 1st 7:00pm
Australian director Monique Schwarz takes a funny, penetrating look at how the loving and affectionate portrayals in early Yiddish and Hollywood silent movies developed into the Jewish Mother of modern Hollywood and, conversely, the more flesh and blood characterizations in contemporary Israeli cinema.

Commentator and discussion leader: Professor Henry Bal"off

The Flat
Sunday, February 9th 2:00pm
Artifacts found in his emigrant grandmother’s Tel Aviv apartment reveal to the filmmaker the relationship of his German Jewish grandparents with the family of a high Nazi official. A true-life detective story constructed around the nexus of friendship and politics.

Commentator and discussion leader: Professor Tamara Falcov

Both films are free and open to the public.

Skype Session
with Chicago Indie Documentary Filmmaker
Tom Palazzollo

Free & Open to All

When: Tues, Feb 11, 10am
Where: Oldfather Studios, Room 100
Why: Tom is one of Chicago’s most prolific & successful “enfant terrible” independent documentary filmmakers. His work has been screened at the Whitney Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Arsenal in Berlin and more!
18th Annual Celebration of the
Kansas Silent Film Festival
February 28 & March 1, 2014

The upcoming Kansas Silent Film Festival will feature a salute to Charlie Chaplin and a showing of early animation and cartoon creations. Kansas City film historian Denise Morrison will provide introductions for the films and give an overview of the artists and the era of the silent films.

White Concert Hall
Washburn University
17th & Jewell, Topeka, KS

This event is always FREE.

Questions? Contact:
bill.shafer@washburn.edu

http://www.kssilentfilmfest.org
Civil rights struggle theme of film series

To introduce four documentaries with riveting new footage illustrating the history of the long civil rights struggle in America, the Langston Hughes Center at the University of Kansas will offer a series of film screenings, lectures and discussion forums centered around the documentaries “Slavery By A Different Name,” "The Freedom Riders," "The Abolitionists" and "The Loving Story."

*Created Equal: America’s Civil Rights Struggle* is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities that uses the power of documentary films to encourage community discussion of America’s civil rights history. NEH has partnered with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to develop programming and support materials for the sites.

The Langston Hughes Center is one of 473 institutions across the country awarded a set of four films chronicling the history of the struggle for civil rights in America. The powerful documentaries include dramatic scenes of incidents in the 150-year effort to achieve equal rights for all. "Freedom Riders" received an Emmy in 2012, and "The Loving Story" and "The Abolitionists" were nominated for Emmys in 2013.

“These films chronicle the long and sometimes violent effort to achieve the rights enumerated in the Declaration of Independence — life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness — for all Americans,” said Shawn Leigh Alexander, associate professor of African & African American Studies and director of the Langston Hughes Center. “We are pleased to receive a grant from NEH to provide programming around these films. The Created Equal series and discussions will be a tremendous opportunity to encourage public conversations about the changing meanings of freedom and equality in America.”

The film set is made possible through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, as part of its Bridging Cultures initiative, in partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The Langston Hughes Center program is co-sponsored locally by the Dole Institute of Politics, Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area and the Department of African & African American Studies.

**Spring 2014 schedule**

*Slavery by Another Name*

Dole Institute of Politics: 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4 and Tuesday, Feb. 18

Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area: Carnegie Library: 7 p.m. Feb. 4 and Tuesday, Feb. 11.

*Lecture*

“Worse than Slavery: Race, Violence and the Defining of the Nation in Post-Emancipation America,” Shawn Leigh Alexander, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area, Carnegie Library.

*Freedom Riders*

Dole Institute of Politics: 2:30 p.m. Monday, March 3, and Monday, March 10

Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area: 7 p.m. March 3 and 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 11

*Lecture*

“The Congress of Racial Equality, the Freedom Riders and the Early Civil Rights Movement,” Clarence Lang, KU 7:30 pm Thursday, March 27, Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area, Carnegie Library

Copied from: https://news.ku.edu/2014/02/03/civil-rights-struggle-theme-film-series
Recongnitions and Accomplishments

Ph.D. students Amit Patel and Christina Hodel both presented at The Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association in Burlington, Vermont last September. Mr. Patel presented a paper for the panel “Radio and Television: Outlaws” entitled “Stardom and STAR TV: Political and Social Change through Aamir Khan’s Satyamev Jayate.” Ms. Hodel’s presentation was called “The Pyramid Effect: Power, Femininity, and Conflict on Dance Moms” and was part of the panel “Television: Women’s Work.”

Ph.D. student Juli Stone Pitzer received a Student Interdisciplinary Grant from the School of the Arts Student Advisory Board for her project “The Alamo Drafthouse Cinema Challenges 21st Century Moviegoing Practices.”

Additions to the committee list published in November:
Undergraduate student Audra Fleming is the undergrad department representative for the SOTA Student Advisory Board and Ph.D. student Courtney Sanchez is the graduate representative to the Film and Media Department Committee (FMDC).

Two FMS Seniors Awarded Undergraduate Research Awards
This spring, 50 KU students will work on research projects funded by the Undergraduate Research Award (UGRA) program, coordinated by the Center for Undergraduate Research. Recipients will receive $1,000 to fund their projects, which encompass departments from across campus and explore a wide range of topics.

Students apply for the award by writing a four-page research proposal under the guidance of a faculty mentor. This spring’s competition saw a 25 percent increase in the number of applications from the previous spring, making the awards all that much more competitive. Proposals were selected on the merit of the applicant’s proposal, the applicant’s academic record, and the recommendation from a faculty member who is familiar with the applicant and the proposed project.

Lindsey Roesti: “A Study of KU Performance Graduates in the Entertainment Industry,” a project to create a short documentary about the post-graduate life of actors that have graduated from the University of Kansas with a Theatre Performance degree living in the three entertainment capitals of the U.S.: Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago. Research mentor: Peter Zazzali, Theatre.

Nicholas Malley: “The Big Brother Project,” a short film project that follows the final days of a man about to retire from his job in security/surveillance at a mall and a young new hire soon to be his replacement. Research mentor: Robert Hurst, Film and Media Studies.

http://news.ku.edu/2014/01/28/ku-announces-50-undergraduate-research-award-winners

Jai Nitz reports that The Onion AV Club is running their Best of 2013 lists – their Best Mainstream and Superhero Comics list. Jai’s book, Dream Thief, made the list.

KU alums premier "The Sublime and Beautiful" at the Slamdance Film Festival

Producers and KU alums Chris Blunk, Jeremy Osbern, and Jon Niccum premiered their movie, “The Sublime and Beautiful” starring Laura Kirk, Matthew Del Negro, Armin Shimerman and director Blake Robbins. The movie focuses on David and Kelly who descend into a complicated hell of grief but take very different paths to make things right after losing their children to a drunk driver. Other alumni involved with the project include Jess Shuler, 1st AD, Emily Herold, DIT, and Eric Rowlands, PA.

The film was shown at the 2014 Slamdance Film Festival which was held from January 17th - 23rd, 2014 in Park City, Utah at the Treasure Mountain Inn.

“Though it’s made clear that husband and wife are equally devastated by the loss, alienated from each other during mute meals and in separate guilty mourning spaces, the camera rarely leaves Robbins, the rest of the cast merely supplying well-acted raw material for his slow-burning, minutely observed reactions. The one time he relinquishes center stage — for Kirk’s show-stopping, semi-hysterical rejection of the hugs, platitudes and whispered commiserations from people she barely knows at a university Christmas party — it pays off big-time, suddenly revealing an alternate perspective.”

– Variety

Congratulations to Dr. S. Jason Cole who passed his dissertation defense on December 4, 2013. Jason’s dissertation is entitled: “A Qualitative Case Study Analysis of the Current Condition of Niche Market, Independent Motion Picture Producers.”

Emporia State University’s Art Department invited W. S. Cheng to present his animations on April 24, 2013. In late January 2014, Cheng’s Lines Horizontal Lines Vertical (LHLV), a collaboration with Rich Housh, will participate in Punto y Raya Festival 2014 in Reykjavik, Iceland (http://rcvm.is/). LHLV is also in the collection at Tulane University’s Art Department, DePaul University’s School of Cinema and Interactive Media (CIM), and KU’s Spencer Museum of Art (Collection #T2012.055). For those who are interested in Cheng’s 3D computer graphics animations, please see Ed Small and Tim Johnson’s Direct Theory: Experimental Motion-Pictures as Major Genre (Southern Illinois University Press 2013).

For more information, check out these sites:
http://filmmakermagazine.com/83688-park-city-critics-notes-2-how-should-a-family-be/#.UtxoO3hHbCR
100 of John Tibbetts’s celebrity-inscribed and autographed portrait paintings were on display at the Main Library in downtown Kansas City, from December 7 to January 31, 2014.

“Ends Meet” is a comedy being produced by Film and Media Studies alums and current students. It is the story of two friends who have their friendship tested when they stumble upon a mysterious box.

Crew members include KU alums Brandon Freese as Writer and Director, Allen Reinhardt as Director of Photography and Meghan Smith as Production Designer.

Current students include Daniel Swendson as Sound Recordist and Cassidy Huscher as Art Director.

Like them on Facebook! https://www.facebook.com/EndsMeetMovie

Ph.D. student Zachary Ingle recently edited Fan Phenomena: The Big Lebowski, a book series that “decodes” icons of popular culture written by and for those of a passionate disposition.

Initially a box office flop, The Big Lebowski has spawned a multicity festival, college-level courses, and its own religion. Fans of the Coen brothers’ masterful dark comedy gather in movie theatres and bowling alleys across the country to quote along with the film, imbibe white Russians, and admire the Dudes.

Contributors take a close look at the film’s phenomenal impact on popular culture and examine the script’s rich philosophical implications, whether it is the nihilism within the film itself or the Dudeism that Jeff Bridges’ character bred (the ‘Church of the Latter-Day Dude’ has attracted more than 70,000 official adherents). Covering issues concerning gender and sexuality within the film, the essays here also explore the gender divides the film has created, such as male versus female fandom rivalry at festivals.

Zachary Ingle has contributed to several Intellect books, including the World Film Locations volumes on Paris and Las Vegas, the Directory of World Cinema volumes on Sweden and Belgium, and Fan Phenomena: Star Wars.
Last November Professor Cathy Joritz attended the Cartoon Expo 5 in Burbank, CA. The CTXP is a weekend of animation workshops and presentations by animation experts in the industry. Hundreds of animators, directors, producers, creatives, fx artists, illustrators, and merchants gathered for the biggest toon event in the country (and possibly the world)! Thousands of animation enthusiasts attended.

Professionals from Disney Animation and Imagineering, Sony Pictures, Dreamworks Animation, Blue Sky, etc. and animation legends such as Eric Goldberg, Greg Couch, Andreas Deja and many more were present to give demos, review portfolios, participate in panels, screen their productions, sign books, and just chat.

Joritz caught up with America’s foremost animation historian Jerry Beck who proudly donned a cartoon-esque appropriate t-shirt (see photo) and talked biz. Beck, a writer, animation producer and author of more than 15 books on animation history, included Joritz’s scratch-animation “Give AIDS the Freeze” in his book Outlaw Animation and he recently published Joritz’s review of the permanent Lotte Reiniger exhibit in Tübingen, Germany in his online Indiewire blog Animation Scoop.

CTN animation Xpo
http://www.ctnanimationexpo.com/

Animation Scoop
http://blogs.indiewire.com/animationcoop/

Jerry Beck’s Books
**FMS Scholarships**

Apply now for a Department of Film and Media Studies scholarship for 2014-2015!

There is only one application to fill out and it is available in 204 Oldfather Studios and on the Department website at [http://film.ku.edu/scholarships](http://film.ku.edu/scholarships) (scroll down).

A list of criteria for all Department of Film and Media Studies scholarships and awards is also available on the web site.

**The Department scholarship application is due by March 3, 2014.**

Don’t forget to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or KU’s International Student Need Analysis Worksheet (ISNAW) by March 1, 2014 in order to be eligible for any Departmental need-based scholarships.

Students may access the 2014-2015 FAFSA applications through the KU Financial Aid and Scholarships (FAS) website at [http://affordability.ku.edu/financialaid](http://affordability.ku.edu/financialaid) or directly through the U.S. Department of Education website at [http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/).

The ISNAW is available on the FAS website at [http://affordability.ku.edu/forms](http://affordability.ku.edu/forms)

Please contact FAS if you have questions about which form (FAFSA or ISNAW) to fill out.

Although some departmental scholarships do not require the filing of a FAFSA or ISNAW, students interested in receiving any financial aid are strongly encouraged to file the applicable form in order to be considered for all types of financial assistance for which they may be eligible.

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**FMS Fall 2013 Graduates**

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<tr>
<th>Collin Bean, FMS Minor</th>
<th>Allen Reinhardt, BGS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dustan Boleski, BGS</td>
<td>Rose Shriver, BGS</td>
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<td>S. Jason Cole, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Sarah Thomas, FMS Minor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelsey Downing, FMS Minor</td>
<td>Shane Williams, BGS</td>
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<td>Patrick Eriksen, BA</td>
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<td>Nathan Fordyce, FMS Minor</td>
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<td>Kyle Hayes, BGS</td>
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<td>David Jones, BGS</td>
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<td>Hayley Laske, BGS</td>
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<td>Max Lehman, BA</td>
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**Congratulations and best wishes!**

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**Attention Graduates!**

Your KU email address will expire soon after you graduate. We’d love to stay in touch with you. Send an email with your name and non-KU email address to kmconrad@ku.edu and ask to be included in the alumni mailing list.
Study Abroad

Professors Tamara Falicov and Michael Baskett and several graduate students travelled to Costa Rica during the winter break.

Theatro Nacional de Costa Rica, in San José, Costa Rica
Recent Events

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
JASON MITTELL, MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Saturday, February 1, 2014
Jayhawk Room, KU Memorial Union

9:00 AM – Welcome, Refreshments Served

9:30 AM – Panel 3: Labor and Authority Across Temporal Spaces

“A Marco Polo for My Class’: Travel Technology and Servant Surveillance in Rose Harrison’s Domestic Service Memoir” Martha Baldwin, English Literature and Theory

“Mobile Labor, Restricted Life: Cinematic Realism and Precarity in Man Push Cart and A Better Life” Eric Lackey, Film and Media Studies

“Robert Rodriguez’s ‘Ten-Minute Film Schools’ and the Authorial Function of DVD Bonus Features” Zachary Ingle, Film and Media Studies

11:00 AM – Panel 4: Geographies of Exhibition

“Jeff Brouws: Typology and the Grid in Contemporary Photography” Spencer Harkness, Film and Media Studies


12:15–1:30 PM – Lunch Break

1:30 PM – Panel 5: Global Film Industries

“De-centering Industry: Japanese-Chinese Co-productions of the 1980s” Patrick Terry, Film and Media Studies

“Distribution Wars: The MPAA and Anti-Piracy Campaigns in a Digital World” Mike Van Esler, Film and Media Studies

“Informational Feudalism and China’s Trade Leverage Over Hollywood” Zach Saltz, Film and Media Studies

3:00 PM – Panel 6: Television: Gender, Genre and Fandom

“Negotiating Genre Boundaries and Mediating Gender Stereotypes and Class Politics on MTV’s 16 and Pregnant and Teen Mom” Christina Hodel, Film and Media Studies

“Transforming Agency: Body Politics and the Makeover Show” Liz Stigler, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

“Northern Exposure: How Fans “Return to Cicely” on Facebook” Jenna Lyons, American Studies

4:30 PM – Closing Remarks, End of Day 2
Alumni News

Brandon Sieve (BGS, 2013) was an intern at Bluegrass Films (on the Universal Lot) last summer. Bluegrass helped Brandon get a job at The Donners Company but due to a family emergency back in Kansas, Brandon was unable to stay at Donners. After returning to LA, Brandon stayed in contact with Bluegrass and landed a job offer.


Bärbel Göbel-Stolz (Ph.D., 2011) has a two-year Visiting Assistant Professor position in the Department of Communications and Culture at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN.

Equipment Check-out, Editing Rooms, and Computer Lab

**Equipment Check-in:** 10:00 a.m.— 12:00 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

**Equipment Check-out:** 1:00 p.m.— 3:00 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Sign-up to check-out equipment in the binder on the table near the equipment room.

Sign-up for editing rooms by signing the edit room schedule posted on the editing room doors.

The computer lab is available for use during the following times: Mondays from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m., Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Fridays from 8:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Check with your instructor or John McCluskey, Assistant Technical Director, for more information.

Academic Calendar

- **Monday, January 27** — Last day to enroll online
- **Tuesday, January 28** — Add/Change of section with written permission begins (off-line)
- **Monday, February 17** — Last day to add or swap a class
- **Monday, March 3** — Last day to submit Application for Graduation and assure inclusion in the Commencement Program and July diploma delivery

Sydney Stone

**Advising Specialist**

**Office Hours in FMS:**
- Thursdays and Fridays
- 215 Oldfather Studios
- sydneystone@ku.edu
- 785-864-3500

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E-mail: film@ku.edu
Send your news items and updates to Karla Conrad, kmconrad@ku.edu.
To view past issues of the newsletter, go to our website: [http://film.ku.edu/about/newsletters.shtml](http://film.ku.edu/about/newsletters.shtml)