Greetings, all!

We hope to see you at the **FMS Rally** on **September 26**. The rally will be held in Woodruff Auditorium in the KU Memorial Union this year instead of at Oldfather Studios. Join FMS faculty, staff, and graduate students at 7:30 p.m. in the Big 12 Room (directly across the hall from Woodruff Auditorium) for a meet-and-greet prior to the screening. Read about the making of the cult classic film, *Raiders of the Lost Ark: The Adaptation*, on page two. Filmmakers **Chris Strompolos** and **Eric Zala** will lead a discussion after the film. It promises to be a fun evening!

The annual **FMS Internship Workshop**, with guest speakers from the University Career Center, will take place October 9. This workshop is highly beneficial to anyone who wants to apply for an internship or even a full-time position after graduation. The **FMS Internship Fair** follows the workshop two weeks later on October 23. Employers who are looking for interns will be present to discuss their positions and take applications. Students are encouraged to wear clothing suitable for an interview.

Once again, FMS faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students have been keeping busy outside of class. We’re especially proud of undergraduates **Savannah Rodgers**, **Dongjun Lee**, and **Gabriel O’Connor** who created a video about sexual assault. Read more about it and find the link to the video on page five.

Students, we really appreciate hearing about what you’re working on, festivals, videos, conferences, scholarly pursuits, etc. – please let us know so we can possibly feature you in future newsletters, Facebook, and the FMS website. And that goes for you, too, alums! We also have a film festival fund that will reimburse any successful film for $50 for a maximum of six festivals.

The School of the Arts (SOTA) is offering funding for students to conduct interdisciplinary creative and scholarly research projects focusing on a theme based on KU’s Bold Aspirations Strategic Initiatives. Check out page eight for general information and read all about it in the email sent on September 23 from SOTA.

Advising for Spring 2015 classes is starting soon! FMS faculty will offer additional office hours from October 16 through November 13. Students who desire to enroll in any FMS class that requires **instructor permission** must meet with the instructor listed for the class. Since it can be hectic at this time of year, students should sign-up in advance for advising appointments in the reception area, room 204 of Oldfather Studios. The sign-up book will be available in early October. Students who wish to meet with **Sydney Stone**, Advising Specialist, should call 785-864-3500 to schedule an appointment.

Watch your email for more information.

The feel of autumn is in the air, the campus is beautiful, and KU is a great place to be!

Tamara Falicov
Chair, Film and Media Studies
Coming Attractions

Film & Media Studies brings cult fan film screening, filmmaker to campus

In 1982, 11-year-old Chris Strompolos asked 12-year-old Eric Zala a question: “Would you like to help me do a remake of ‘Raiders of the Lost Ark’? I’m playing Indiana Jones.” And seven years later, a cult classic film was created. That film, “Raiders of the Lost Ark: The Adaptation,” will be presented by the Department of Film and Media Studies during its annual film rally at 8 p.m. Friday, September 26, in Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union.

Following the screening, Strompolos will be present to lead a discussion about the film and the recent Kickstarter campaign that raised $50,000 to film the final scene not previously afforded. Eric Zala will Skype in for the discussion. A meet-and-greet with film and media studies faculty and alumni, as well as several campus organizations, will take place at 7:30 p.m. The event is free, and the public is welcome.

Every shot is the product of Strompolos and Zala’s creative collaboration and their self-taught filmmaking skills, along with assistance from their friend Jayson Lamb. This fan film shows people that even with a lack of resources, it is still possible to create something passionate and meaningful.

“The creative machine is filled with both turmoil and bliss, and it’s important to learn the tools now to be diligent and tenacious,” said Strompolos. “Hopefully after watching our tribute to ‘Raiders,’ it will excite and inspire and plant the seed that if kids can remake ‘Raiders’ shot-for-shot, then the sky is the limit. As far as staying motivated, choose great material, choose a great team, and don’t ever give up. Finish it. Always.”

Strompolos and Zala did it all themselves – every shot, every line of dialogue, every stunt. They borrowed and collected costumes, convinced neighborhood kids to wear grass skirts and play natives, cast a 15-year-old as Indy’s love interest, rounded up 7,000 snakes (sort of), built the Ark, the Idol, the huge boulder, found a desert in Mississippi, and melted the bad guys’ faces off.

“This is an opportunity to see a rare and incredibly unique film. ‘Raiders of the Lost Ark: The Adaptation’ illustrates how rewarding creativity and persistence can be,” said Joshua Wille, doctoral student in film and media studies, who was instrumental in bringing the film to KU. “The university is an ideal space to present this film because students of KU, particularly in the School of the Arts and film and media studies, can appreciate the imagination and aspirations of filmmakers like Chris and Eric.”

The film was produced and directed by three boys from the Mississippi Gulf Coast more than 20 years ago. The group of young friends shot the film in seven years, using a few inventive substitutions – a puppy dog stands in for a monkey, a boat for a plane. They didn’t skimp on production value by including a submarine, a truck on fire, a melting face and the same copy of a 1936 Life magazine used in the original.

An 11-page article in the March 2004 “Vanity Fair: Hollywood Issue” and a recent meeting with Steven Spielberg have put these Mississippi men in the national spotlight. Scott Rudin recently purchased their story rights, and the feature film about their childhood adventures will be released by Paramount Pictures and Scott Rudin Productions.

The Department of Film and Media Studies is one of four departments in the School of the Arts. As part of the KU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of the Arts offers fresh possibilities for collaboration between the arts and the humanities, sciences, social sciences, international and interdisciplinary studies.

**Coming Attractions**

**2014 FMS Film Rally**

Screening of “Raiders of the Lost Ark: The Adaptation,” followed by a panel with filmmakers Chris Strompolos and Eric Zala

**Date:** Friday, September 26

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Place:** Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union

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**FMS Internship Workshop**

A presentation will be given by guest speakers from the University Career Center.

**Date:** Thursday, October 9

**Time:** 1:00-2:30 p.m.

**Place:** Room 100, Oldfather

You will learn:

- How to prepare a résumé
- How to present yourself
- Questions to ask

Watch for more information via email and flyers.

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**FMS Internship Fair**

Meet employers who are looking for film and media interns!

**Date:** Thursday, October 23

**Time:** 2:00-4:00 p.m.

**Place:** Room 100, Oldfather

Watch for more information via email and flyers.

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**Advising for Spring 2015 Classes**

October 16 through November 13

Sign up for advising appointments with FMS Advisor Sydney Stone. To make an appointment call (785) 864-3500 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Schedule a meeting with FMS faculty members by stopping by 204 Oldfather to pick a time in the sign-up book. The sign-up book will be ready starting October 10, 2014.

Enrollment begins on October 16 and will continue through November. You can find your enrollment date and time in the MyKU Portal. Spring classes are now online on www.classes.ku.edu.

Watch for more information via email.

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KU JAYHAWKS ALIVE AND WELL AT FILM PRESERVATION CONFERENCE!

This August I attended the Association of Moving Image Archivists' three-day conference, THE REEL THING XXXIII, 21-23 August 2014, at the Mary Pickford Center in Hollywood. This annual event brings together archivists and preservation/restoration specialists from all over the world to discuss and present their latest findings in film and sound preservation. The entire conference was a revelation. Granted, at times, things got very technical as engineers and technicians talked about current developments in 4K digital scanning. But for the most part, each of the presentations had great relevance to students of film/media history, not to mention the public at large. For example, there were presentations/screenings on “Archiving 65mm Titles on Film,” “Audio Restoration in a 4K World,” the “Bing Crosby Project” (the restoration of Crosby’s Dictabelt Recordings), “The Speed of Cinema” (a history of pre-digital alternatives in frame rates and shutters for silent and sound film production and projection), “Recovery of the sound discs for Fairbanks’s The Iron Mask,” and “Stormy Weather: A Case Study in Sound Restoration.” Of special interest to me were programs on the 4K restorations of The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari, Spielberg’s Duel, Robert Wise’s The Day the Earth Stood Still, and an early Hungarian silent film by Michael Curtiz, The Exile (1915). There was even a real-life “last-minute-rescue” in the best Hollywood tradition—“The Satyajit Ray Restoration Project” is an ongoing global initiative sponsored by the Academy Film Archives, Criterion, the L’Immagine Ritrovata in Bologna, and the Indian Archives that is saving Ray’s original negatives from the ravages of a lab fire.

Among the participants in the conference were two Jayhawks, graduates of the Department of Film and Media Studies: Michelle Winn and Brian Bartelt. Michelle is working at Disney in the Restoration and Preservation Department and is pictured here with the director of the department, Theo Gluck.

- John Tibbetts

Ph.D. candidate David Sutera’s film Glass Half Full was an official selection for the Reel Water Film Festival in Baltimore, MD. The Festival, which puts on outreach events centered around the arts, featured several short films meant to “raise awareness of local and global water issues.” You can read more about the Reel Water Film Festival and view Sutera’s film, Glass Half Full, here: www.reelwaterfilmfest.org/festival/past-festivals/2014-festival

David Sutera is also part of a forthcoming documentary due out in the spring of 2015 titled You Are Not Your Hair. The film centers on the importance Western society places on hair, especially regarding women. David served as an interview subject and shaved his head in support of people with cancer and alopecia at an event in Los Angeles in August 2014. Henna artists artfully created a temporary tattoo on David’s freshly shaven pate in the form of the University of Kansas’ beloved mascot the Jayhawk, the detailed creation of which will be featured as part of the documentary.
**Recognitions and Accomplishments**

Ron Wilson, Lecturer, will have his book, “The Gangster Film: Fatal Success in American Cinema” published in December 2014. The book is a Columbia University Press publication and is part of the Short Cuts series of introductory film texts. In addition, he was informed this past summer of the acceptance of a forthcoming book chapter on the HBO series, Boardwalk Empire for the book, “Bad Men and Damaged Women: Gender and Violence in 21st-Century Television.”

More information can be found here: http://www.amazon.com/Gangster-Film-Success-American-Cinema/dp/0231172079/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1407940989&sr=1-1&keywords=the+gangster+film

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Assistant Professor Cathy Joritz gave a presentation on Lotte Reiniger, a German silhouette animation pioneer, at the arthouse SEPIA Kunst-Kino during the Kunstsommer-Arnsberg (Art Summer Arnsberg) in Germany, which was followed by a film screening of Lotte’s feature animation “The Adventures of Prince Achmed.” Joritz also conducted a 3-day silhouette animation workshop—read her blog entry about it and view the animated movie results here: http://cjanimation.wordpress.com/2014/08/15/arnsberg-kunstsommer-2014/

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**Project Not Asking For It: University of Kansas**

We put a call out to FMS students to help with this project on sexual assault and three FMS students stepped up to the plate. Please read the UDK story and watch the video.

**UDK piece:** http://www.kansan.com/news/project-not-asking-for-it-joins-ku-campus/article_cd5cb67c-3eba-11e4-9ee7-67c31cc801f3.html

**Video:** http://vimeo.com/106075903

**Project Not Asking For It: University of Kansas**

from Savannah Rodgers

The University of Kansas' video for "Project Not Asking For It."

Rape and sexual assault are the only crimes where the victims are blamed. No matter how someone is dancing, what they are wearing, how much they have had to drink, or their gender, nobody is asking for it. Let’s make our world a better place.

Thank you to the students at Wesleyan University for starting Project Not Asking For It.

Want to get involved? Email projectnotaskingforit@gmail.com

Directed by: Savannah Rodgers
Director of Photography: Dongjun Lee
Edited by: Dongjun Lee and Gabriel O’Connor

Shot with a Sony a7S. Edited in Final Cut Pro X.

Sources for the statistics featured in this video were provided by the U.S. Department of Justice and National Institute of Justice. For more information, visit here: ncjrs.gov/
"Toddlers and Tiaras," a TLC reality television show and guilty pleasure for many, sends confusing and damaging messages to its pint-sized participants, new research finds.

Christina Hodel, a doctoral student in film and media studies at the University of Kansas, analyzed nearly 40 episodes of the cable television show that profiles young girls as they compete in beauty pageants. Hodel’s research is detailed in the article “Performing the Ultimate Grand Supreme: Approval, Gender and Identity in Toddlers and Tiaras,” which will be published in an upcoming issue of the journal Girlhood Studies.

Wearing layers of makeup, sparkling Shirley Temple dresses, spray tans, faux teeth and elaborate hair styles, the young girls on the show are being taught to act and dress in a hyperfeminized way, Hodel said. Girls wear padded bras and are told by their mothers to dance “sexy” on stage. For the costume portion of the competition, the show has profiled girls who have dressed as the Julia Roberts prostitute character in “Pretty Woman,” a Las Vegas showgirl and Dolly Parton.

The more hyperfeminized the girls are, the more likely they are to win, Hodel said.

“And, winning means approval that they are not only beautiful, but that they did everything right. So we are telling the girls that if you want to succeed, you really have to be someone who looks like a sexy adult female,” Hodel said.

With many of the girls looking alike on stage, the contestants are often judged on their personality and presentation. And contestants know to win, they have to find a way to standout and be unique.

However, girls can only stand out so much. For example, during the talent portion of competition, girls could sing or tell a joke. Yet, those routines are far less likely to win than those that focus on pro-am modeling, a pageant staple that mixes dancing, gymnastics and modeling.

“The message is confusing to girls,” Hodel said. “They are being told you have to conform to pageant conventions, but you need to be unique.”

Similar to other popular reality TV makeover shows, such as “The Biggest Loser,” and “What Not To Wear,” “Toddlers and Tiaras” highlights the participants’ transformation from average little girl to glitzy, beauty queen. Parents and the host of experts who have been hired to help prepare the girl for competition shame her into making the changes. During each episode, there is a moment where images of the girl pre- and post-pageant makeover are shown side-by-side.

“They are implying that the new version of the girl, which looks nothing like a girl but more like a doll or a drag queen, is the more appropriate version,” Hodel said.

In the end, Hodel said, the girls are receiving conflicting messages: In order to win, the girls must show a unique personality, but they must also act and dress in a hyperfeminine manner and conform to the pageant world’s ideal standard of beauty and narrow set of conventions.

“It’s telling the girl, you don’t know anything. Listen to the people around you. If you conform and do what you are told, that is how you are going to succeed in life,” Hodel said.

Having attended pageants, Hodel acknowledges that “Toddlers and Tiaras” portrays an extreme version of the pageant world, which is why so many enjoy its voyeuristic qualities.

“I’m not saying what we see on ‘Toddlers and Tiaras’ doesn’t happen, but it doesn’t happen as often as we think it does,” Hodel said.
A local filmmaker will host a pair of Western Kansas screenings and Q&A sessions to discuss making films in rural Kansas in September and October.

Set in a dusty and desolate rural Kansas town, Somewhere Between Freedom and Protection, Kansas, the latest film from local filmmaker and current University of Kansas Film Major Patrick Clement, presents a host of obstacles to its main character Ozzie Yost, played by former Pratt High School Senior and current ASU Freshman Brittnee Hill.

The emotional challenges borne from the clash of family tradition and youthful exploration are quite different from the blinding dust, frustrating isolation, soaring heat and drought conditions of a summer making a film in western Kansas.

"Rural Western Kansas is a wellspring of untapped stories, experiences and history," said Clement. "But while its isolation and beautiful under-explored communities can provide lots of advantages, they can also be discouraging to young filmmakers."

Clement and a skeleton crew filmed for ten days in Kiowa, Comanche and Pratt counties last summer during a stretch of 100 plus degree days and historic drought conditions.

Rural Kansas filmmaking will be the focus of two public screenings, the first on Thursday, September 18 at the Ashland Public Library and the second on Tuesday, October 21 at the Pratt Public Library.

Clement will screen Freedom and Protection and host a Q&A with members of the community and area high school and junior high school students. He will also visit classrooms at Pratt High School and Pratt Community College on October 21.

"Somewhere in rural Kansas there is a kid that could revolutionize filmmaking," added Clement. "A young girl or boy who may not even have filmmaking on their radar. All it takes is one person to say 'Hey, this is possible.'"

Somewhere Between Freedom and Protection, Kansas premiered at this year's Free State Film Festival in Lawrence and won the Audience Choice Best Short Film Award. It previously won a cinematography award at the Harvard Film Festival and will be an official selection at the Big Bear Film Festival and South Dakota Film Festival in September. It will have its International Premiere in October at the 33rd Uppsala International Film Festival in Uppsala, Sweden.

You can view the entire Freedom and Protection Press Kit here: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xds9cimtbzsq5oc/AAARtTDFAKxYTnl1dYvyVywAa?dl=0

Official Trailer: http://vimeo.com/deturfilms/freedomandprotectionteaser

Official Facebook Page: http://www.facebook.com/freedomandprotectionks
SOTA Student Interdisciplinary Research Grants

The School of the Arts is offering funding for arts students to conduct interdisciplinary creative and scholarly research projects focusing on a theme.

Grants, focusing on a theme (see below), in the amount of up to $1,000 with additional funds for expenses related to the public component of the project up to $150 are available.

There is one funding period per year. The deadline will be set by the Student Advisory Board each fall, and will occur in November.

Students will choose the theme based on the Bold Aspirations Strategic Initiatives.

Theme Choices

- Sustaining the Planet, Powering the World
- Promoting Well-Being, Finding Cures
- Building Communities, Expanding Opportunities
- Harnessing Information, Multiplying Knowledge

Program Overview

Students should apply for the theme they wish to explore in their scholarly or creative research.

All undergraduate and graduate students majoring in one of the departments in the School of the Arts are eligible to apply. Students may receive a grant each year.

Students must submit a clearly-written proposal for the research they intend to conduct.

If funded, students will be provided with a contact faculty member outside the School of the Arts who has expertise in the theme and who will act as a resource in further developing and executing the project.

Students must have a faculty sponsor from their home department and one other faculty referee.

To support student activities and faculty research, the faculty sponsors (from SOTA department and outside the school) will each receive $250 to assist their research or teaching activities and the departments will receive $500 in the form of Differential Funding for each successful student grant.

As part of the project, students must plan to include a public component such as a performance, exhibition, screening, or presentation - appropriate to the discipline and the project.

The SOTA Student Board will evaluate all proposals following a blind review process.

Following completion of the project, students must write a short one-page report discussing and reflecting on what they accomplished and what they learned as a result of the project. Images documenting the completed project may be requested.

Visit [www.sota.ku.edu/SIRG](http://www.sota.ku.edu/SIRG) for the application and more information.
Comic Book Club

Comic Book Club is a space for conversation

By: Cody Schmitz

Conversations push past Marvel vs. DC debates in the new KU Comic Book Club. The club instead aims to gather students together who share an interest in the growing enterprise inspired by comics.

Jarred Morris, a junior from St. Paul, Minn. is the club’s founder and president. Morris started the club in the fall of 2013.

“It’s a space for people who like comic books to collaborate and talk about comics,” Morris said. “With movies, comic books have become more mainstream, but when I was younger, if you were a reader of comics you really didn’t explain that to people.”

Seeing the need for a club where that kind of conversation was encouraged, Morris founded the group.

“I met people who were interested in comics before I formed the group, so I had a foundation,” Morris said.

Morris said he was interested in comics from a young age.

“I’m artistic and I’ve always been big on books, literature and fantasy, so comics combined all of the elements that I liked,” he said. “Once I picked up the first one, I was hooked.”

Morris said his favorite comic is the Savage Dragon series. He said he likes the series for its stories as well as the art, and because it’s an independent title.

The group meets to discuss everything from updates in series and storylines to the story arcs and motives of specific characters. The group is currently reading “Dream Thief” by Jai Nitz, a lecturer in the Department of Film and Media Studies. Nitz teaches a course on comic books and film, and has written for both Marvel and DC, among other publishers.

Morris said that aside from reading and discussing comics, the club has also gone to see movies together. He said that since the club is new, they are getting more into expanding it.

The club currently has eleven members. There are no requirements or previous comic knowledge necessary to join.

“Even if you don’t have an extensive knowledge of comic books, the club is open to anyone interested in comics or the culture,” Morris said.

Most members have an affinity for the medium, however.

Noor Mozaffar, a sophomore from Overland Park and Vice President of the KU Comic Book Club, said she first became interested in comics around the age of eight.

“I’ve always loved art,” Mozaffar said. “My older brother used to collect comic books, so I would steal his to look at the pictures and read them.”

Her favorite comic book series are “Batman” and “Teen Titans.”

“Batman has a lot of interesting villains and usually interesting stories,” Mozaffar said. “With the Teen Titan series you get a lot of different characters - a little bit of Superman, a little Batman, and more.”

Broc Bowman, a junior from Olathe and member of the club, said his favorite character is Iron Man. Bowman said that even before the recent film trilogy, he loved Iron Man’s armor and intelligence. His favorite comic book issue is Tales of Suspense #39 in which the character of Iron Man is first introduced.

Regardless of personal preferences, club members agree that comics are an interest everyone should pick up.

“It’s something you can do your whole life,” Morris said.

Morris wants to make the club well-established before he leaves so he can pass it on to the next group.

“I want to leave a legacy with the club,” he said.

The club meets each Friday at 2:00 p.m. in Anschutz Library, room 428.

Copied From: http://www.kansan.com/arts_and_features/comic-book-club-is-a-space-for-conversation/article_155f120e-4211-11e4-8bbd-8bdc3ba6acf.html
**Call for Papers—Undergraduate and Graduate students**

**6th Annual Mid-America Humanities Conference**
March 26-27th, 2015

**ROBOTS, AUTOMATA & CYBORGS: TECHNOLOGY AND THE HUMANITIES**

**CALL FOR PAPERS!!**

The Mid-America Humanities Conference offers an interdisciplinary venue for undergraduate and graduate students to present their research. This year’s theme explores what it means to be human in an era of fast-paced technological advances. We welcome papers from students in the humanities, social sciences, and related disciplines that explore such issues as:

- Technology & religion (e.g., religion, the internet, and social media; virtual religious communities)
- How technologies have changed human perception and human consciousness
- Ethical perspectives on (nano)technology
- Wearable technology & human lifestyles
- Differentiating humans and machines
- Technology and human relationships
- Technology in film, fiction, and art
- The nature of (human) intelligence
- Technologies of war and peace
- Technology and the law


**Please submit 250 word abstracts by December 15, 2014 to:**

HWC Director (hwcdirector@ku.edu)

Humanities and Western Civilisation Program, University of Kansas
Alumni News

Alums, we’d love to hear from you!

Please send your news to kmconrad@ku.edu

Academic Calendar

- Monday, September 22 — Last day to add or swap a class
- Saturday, October 11 — First Day of Fall Break
- Tuesday, October 14 — Last Day of Fall Break
- Monday, November 3 — Undergraduate Application for Graduation Deadline

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 10:00 a.m.,
Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.,
Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 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.

Sydney Stone
Advising Specialist

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

Lost & Found items
— room
204
OLDF