Inside this issue:

- **Coming Attractions** 2
- **Recognitions and Accomplishments** 3
- **Out & About** 4-8
- **Alumni in the News**
- **Alumni News**
- **Academic Calendar**
- **And More** 9-11
**Coming Attraction**

FMS Associate Professor Bob Hurst's new documentary, *The Listeners*, will have its Lawrence Premiere on March 22 at Liberty Hall in downtown Lawrence.

*The Listeners* follows a cadre of new volunteer trainees who will staff crisis and suicide hotlines at Headquarters Counseling Center in Lawrence, Kansas. Through the new volunteers’ experiences, the film examines mental health and suicide prevention strategies, volunteerism and the power of empathy.
Recognitions and Accomplishments

Sixteen students, faculty and staff have been selected as University of Kansas Men of Merit, recognized for positively defining masculinity through challenging cultural norms, taking action and leading by example while making contributions to the university and/or community.

This year’s honorees include Associate Professor Kevin Willmott.

The KU Men of Merit poster campaign was created eight years ago by former KU football player Gary Green. This project is coordinated and sponsored by the Emily Taylor Center for Women & Gender Equity.

This poster aims to increase awareness of the importance of education and involvement in men’s lives, inspire campus men to take an active role in their college experience and provide role models and mentors for men to be successful.

Read the full story: http://news.ku.edu/2016/02/15/ku-announces-men-merit

The Hall Center for the Humanities has announced several College of Liberal Arts & Sciences researchers who will be fellows in residence for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Cathy Joritz, assistant professor of Film & Media Studies, received a Creative Work Fellowship. She will work on “Film Feast,” a traditionally animated short film that illustrates the pitfalls of endless online movie consumption: a vice new technology has made us all capable of indulging in.

Hall Center Fellows are selected through a highly competitive process. Fellowships provide a semester of release from teaching, an office in the Hall Center, and a small research stipend. Fellows often use this time to work on book manuscripts, large-scale works of art, or dissertations.

Resident fellows present on their work-in-progress in the Resident Fellows Seminar, open to all faculty, staff and graduate students. A schedule will be released in the fall semester.

Copied from: https://news.ku.edu/hall-center-announces-2016-2017-resident-fellows

Germaine Halegoua was the recipient of a Service Learning Mini Grant Award from the Center for Civic and Social Responsibility at KU. The grant was awarded to aid students in working with community partners in FMS 302/702: Digital Storytelling, which is co-taught with Meg Jamieson. More information about the award and the course can be found here: https://ccsr.ku.edu/faculty-mini-grants/recipients
Review: Spike Lee’s ‘Chi-Raq,’ a Barbed Takedown of Gang Wars, With Sex as the Weapon

The laughs in Spike Lee’s corrosive “Chi-Raq” burn like acid. Urgent, surreal, furious, funny and wildly messy, the movie sounds like an invitation to defeat, but it’s an improbable triumph that finds Mr. Lee doing his best work in years. Set in contemporary Chicago, where sidewalks are washed with blood, and human hearts beat to the rhythm of gunfire, it takes as its inspiration Aristophanes’ “Lysistrata,” the fifth-century B.C. comedy in which women organize a sex strike to stop men from making war or, as Mr. Lee puts it with a vulgar flourish, “No peace, no [expletive]!”

The war in “Chi-Raq” is strictly a domestic affair, waged by black male citizens on other black citizens. The main combatants are rival gangs, the Spartans and the Trojans, who have helped turn Chicago into a war zone — hence the tragic, bleak portmanteau title. The gangs seem to take some of their cues from the real Crips and Bloods, whose blue versus red color coding has been translated into Spartan purple and Trojan orange. Flying their respective colors, the Chi-Raq gangs violently run their hoods, or at least think that they rule. There are, as Mr. Lee hammers in rat-a-tat-tat, other economic and political forces in play that, like shadow armies, are doing their murderous part.

...Mr. Lee’s most radical move in “Chi-Raq,” which he wrote with Kevin Willmott, is to transport a classical Greek play to a Chicago that is highly fictional and painfully real, geographically specific and unmistakably metaphoric. ....


Amazon premieres its first feature film

In indie circles, Kevin Willmott has made a name for movies like “C.S.A: Confederate States of America” and “Jayhawks.”

“I make my own movies so I can challenge the audience,” Kevin Willmott says. “It’s hard to get money from Hollywood to do that.”

But finally, Hollywood is paying attention.

Willmott co-wrote the script for “Chi-Raq” with Spike Lee, who also directs the film.

Lee, an award-winning director of films such as “Do the Right Thing,” and “She’s Gotta Have It,” told the Chicago Tribune during filming, “Everything I’ve done has led up to this film.”

The cast includes Samuel L. Jackson, John Cusack, Wesley Snipes, and Jennifer Hudson.

“Chi-Raq” is Amazon Studio’s first feature film.

Read more: [https://features.ku.edu/article/hollywood-meets-%E2%80%98hood#sthash.ZWjGQaBw.dpuf](https://features.ku.edu/article/hollywood-meets-%E2%80%98hood#sthash.ZWjGQaBw.dpuf)
**Out & About**

**Christina Hodel** (Ph.D. Candidate) is dancing as "The Swan" in Carnival of the Animals with The School of Dance at Lawrence Arts Center. Carnival of the Animals (Le carnaval des animaux) is a musical suite of fourteen movements by the French Romantic composer Camille Saint-Saëns. You're invited to watch these sounds come to life as dancers play roosters, elephants, and birds called to the Lion's court to see who can entertain the Lion the most. Carnival of the Animals will be presented by contemporary dance students as a "dance double feature" along with classical dance students performing La Fille Mal Gardee on the same days and times. Come see two shows for the price of one on either March 11th or 12th.


The University Daily Kansan recently featured an article about the research and fan editing work of Ph.D. student **Joshua Wille**, including comments from Dr. Andreas Stuhlmann of the University of Alberta. Dr. Stuhlmann, whom Wille met in 2013 at a week-long symposium on remix topics at the Universität Hamburg, praised the research and meticulous re-editing of a feature film to create Watchmen: Midnight:

"What strikes me is the mixture of creativity and dedication that he brings to this ['Watchmen: Midnight']," Stuhlmann said. "The dedication probably comes first — going to the source, in this case with 'Watchmen,' he indicates that the narrative should be more in tune with the arc of the comic. For him, this is more of a fundamental critique of the Hollywood studio system and all that, so it’s an important creative practice. We need these kinds of people for future generations of academics."

In an interview for the UDK article, Wille added:

"I think one of the best ways to learn how a story or a film is structured is to disassemble it and put it back together. Not only can you see if you can put it back the way it was before, but you can also see what you can do to tell the story a different way using the same material [...] We are getting to the point where we realize we don’t have to accept a movie, a song or a television show, the content of it, for what it is," he said. "We don’t have to sit there and be passive spectators but rather active participants. Fan edits are works of art, and they should be recognized as works of art."

The article, "Media Remix: KU student uses love of movies to research and create fan edits of films," was published online January 31, 2016 and in print on February 4, 2016.

Read the full article here: [http://www.kansan.com/arts_and_culture/ku-student-uses-love-for-movies-to-research-and-create/article_b5904ac4-c6a7-11e5-b6cb-0bb7d4eece82.html](http://www.kansan.com/arts_and_culture/ku-student-uses-love-for-movies-to-research-and-create/article_b5904ac4-c6a7-11e5-b6cb-0bb7d4eece82.html)

**Doctoral Student** **Najmeh Moradiyan Rizi** was awarded the Society for Cinema and Media Studies’ Travel Grant to Promote Diversity (also known as Diversity Grant). Moradiyan will present her paper, "Gender Mobility and Contested Spaces: A Case Study of Mania Akbari’s Feminist Cinema" at the upcoming Society of Cinema and Media Center annual conference to be held in Spring 2016 in Atlanta, GA.
Out & About

Germaine Halegoua served as the “Humanities Consultant” on a grant that was funded by the Kansas Humanities Council to support the “See/Saw Festival: On the Brink: Borders, Boundaries, and Becoming.” A community film festival exploring physical and ideological borders and boundaries through humanities discussion. The film festival and conference is organized by graduate students in the Department of Special Education at KU and various community partners. The festival will take place in Lawrence from March 4-6, 2016.

As part of the festival, the Women of Lawrence Film Showcase (March 4) will include a film by a current FMS student and another by a graduate of the film program:

Politically Correct by Savannah Rodgers – current FMS student

House Mother by Patrick Rea – Theatre & Film BGS, 2002

Festival events include:

- Screenings of 10 feature films that explore what it means to be "on the brink"
- Each film screening will be followed by discussion led by community members or KU faculty
- Locally produced film shorts curated by Women of Lawrence Film
- Keynote speaker Dr. Valerie Kinloch

All events are free admission

Read more here: https://news.ku.edu/2016/02/24/social-justice-topic-upcoming-film-festival

On the Brink: Borders, Boundaries, and Becoming

See/Saw Film Series is a free event at the Lawrence Public Library March 4th–6th, 2016

For more info visit our website: seesawfest.com & follow us online:

Germaine Halegoua is scheduled to participate in a panel discussion hosted by the Institute for Policy and Social Research (IPSR) (http://www.ipsr.ku.edu/) at KU with professors from Communication Studies and Journalism. The topic is about working with social media for research purposes. The discussion is open to all graduate students interested in qualitative research methods:

Social Media Research Using Mixed Methods

Friday, March 11, 3-4:30

Blake Hall, Room 210
Out & About

Professor Catherine Preston will participate in Perspectives, a faculty panel discussion, on March 8 at 6:30 p.m. in The Jay, Kansas Union. Other speakers include Vice Provost Nate Thomas and Professor Perry Alexander.

In the United States, access to quality higher education has often been limited by class, race, gender, and other factors. From this history of inequality, how can colleges and universities work to make their institutions fair and inclusive? What are the causes of inequity, and what is institutionalized racism? And how do political discourses and legal strictures shape the actions of universities? Join faculty for a discussion of the current research and schools of thought from across disciplines.

Perspectives provides a venue for KU faculty from different disciplines to discuss today’s big questions with their peers and the larger KU community. The event is free and open to the public.

Copied from: http://calendar.ku.edu/?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D186609223

Give to the Department of Film and Media Studies

To give online to the Department of Film and Media Studies go here http://film.ku.edu/giving.

Online giving is secure, speedy and simple. Click the area you would like to support and you will be redirected to KU Endowment, the non-profit fundraising organization that supports KU.

- Film and Media Studies Development Fund
- Berg Family Film Studies Award
- The Bill Gilbert Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Herk Harvey Memorial Fund
- FMS Spring Break Career Opportunity Fund
- Video/Film Equipment Fund
- Women in Film Scholarship

Read Ron Wilson’s DVD review of the Criterion DVD of RIDE THE PINK HORSE in a recent issue of THE MOVING IMAGE

https://muse.jhu.edu/journals/the_moving_image/v015/15.2.wilson.html
Out & About

A Few Photographs from the 2016 Graduate Symposium

Dan Herbert, Keynote speaker

Iuliia Glushneva

Carl Swanson

Christina Hodel

Julia Pitzer

Friday, February 12, 2016

2:00 - 2:20 PM // Welcome & Refreshments
2:30 - 4:30 PM // Panel 1 — Landscapes of Political Economy Through Global Perspectives

Zach Saltz (KU, Film & Media Studies) — “A Silver Bullet or Beguiling Crap? The MPAA’s Censorship of JFK (1991)”

Patrick Terry (KU, Film & Media Studies) — “Shaking Down the Banks: Aesthetic & Industrial Shifts in Labor Representation under East Asian Neoliberalism”

Sho Ogawa (KU, Film & Media Studies) — “Internalizing Hybridity: Japan’s Gay Boom & Reconfiguring National Identity”

Andrew Gilbert (KU, Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies) — “Porn Remixed Cultures”

7:00 - 8:45 PM // Keynote Address

Dr. Daniel Herbert (University of Michigan, Screen Arts & Cultures) — “Movies ‘n’ More: On the Educational Value of Video Rental Stores”

Saturday, February 13, 2016

9:00 - 9:30 AM // Welcome & Refreshments
9:30 - 11:30 AM // Panel 2 — Technocultures & Authenticity

Mike Van Esler (KU, Film & Media Studies) — “We Are On The Frontier: The Videophile’s Newsletter & the Consumption Juncture of Early VCR Adopters”


Vince Meserko (KU, Communication Studies) — “Sound, Technology, and Soul: Rhetorics of Ambience at Daptone & Stax Records”

Julia Pitzer (KU, Film & Media Studies) — “The Alamo Drafthouse Cinema: Selling Exclusivity”

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM // Lunch
1:00 - 2:55 PM // Panel 3 — (Enter)Textuality Across Media

Erie Homer-Beck (UMKC, English) — “A Pedagogical Approach to Discourse & Film Studies”

Iuliia Glushneva (KU, Film & Media Studies) — “Cinematic Nothingness & The Mad Spectator: Non-Fictional Film Experience as Ontological Paranoia”

Carl Swanson (KU, Film & Media Studies) — “AltGenre as Social Action: Netflix, Rhetoric, & the Digital Challenge for Film Genre Theory”

Robert Probst (Kansas State, English) — “NO EMOJI (:): Interacting with Fictional Consciousness in Life is Strange”

3:00 - 4:30 PM // Panel 4 — Television Audiences in The Age of Narrowcasting

Anda Devis (UMKC, English) — “The Stone That the Builder Refused: Ethnographic Visions Beyond the Postural in The Boondocks”

Christina Hodel (KU, Film & Media Studies) — “Packaging Girlhood: How Disney Channel Conceptualizes & Attracts the Tween Girl Demographic”

Natalie Monas (Kansas State, English) — “Simulacra & Sharknado: A Fake, Real Movie”

4:30 - 4:45 PM // Closing Remarks
5:00 - 8:00 PM // Reception, Oread Hotel, All Seasons Den

All presenters and faculty, as well as spouses and partners, are welcome to attend the closing reception for this year’s Symposium. Appetizers and a cash bar will be available. The Oread Hotel is just north on Jayhawk Blvd. when leaving the Union’s 4th Floor and is located at 1200 Oread Dr. Parking on the street is free.
Alumni in the News

A slice of Hollywood in Lawrence: Through a Glass Productions creates movie magic in Sunflower State

The air inside the storage room feels stagnant and warm. Its high walls are lined with shelves of cameras and their various accoutrements, leaving little space for the three men — one cinematographer, one producer and one enthused Journal-World photographer in his own version of heaven — squeezed inside.

“He’s a lens connoisseur,” explains Marcus Guider, referring to Jeremy Osbern, the aforementioned cinematographer and co-founder of Through a Glass Productions, where we lay our scene. “He has quite a bit of them.”

Just how many constitutes “quite a bit” escapes Osbern, who pauses for a moment, straining to lift a metal case containing at least a half a dozen lenses onto a nearby tabletop, before answering: “Too many and not enough.”

In the summer of 2004, Osbern and Chris Blunk founded Through a Glass Productions. They had just graduated that spring and wanted to produce a feature-length film. It was their first.

Initially, Through a Glass operated out of Osbern’s apartment in the 700 block of Massachusetts Street, nonfunctioning air conditioning and all. The friends spent four years on “Air: The Musical,” shooting during the weekends in between commercial jobs and securing investors scene by scene, all with a budget hovering somewhere between $100,000 and $200,000.

“We started shooting the feature in December, before we could realize how bad of an idea it was,” jokes Blunk, who penned the musical tale of misfits looking for human connection.

Since its release in 2008, “Air: The Musical” has been distributed over four continents, in places as far flung as South Africa and Turkey. It’s still available here in Lawrence at Liberty Hall — “We were smart enough to start with an ‘A,’ so it’s right in front of the local section,” Blunk notes.

Over the years, Through a Glass has expanded in size and ambition. Recent projects include “There Will Be No Stay,” a documentary chronicling the lives of executioners that’s currently being promoted by Susan Sarandon, and Kevin Willmott’s 2014 film “Jayhawkers,” about basketball legend Wilt Chamberlain’s time at the University of Kansas.

Aside from the occasional commercial, the company mainly deals in documentary and narrative films, handling pre-production, production and post-production “all under one roof.”

“We’ve found a niche being one of the new companies in the area that primarily focuses on movies,” says Osbern, who recently served on the jury, with wife and fellow filmmaker Misti Boland, for last month’s Slamdance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

The current offices at 720 E. Ninth St., which the company acquired three years ago, boast seven full-time employees in addition to a part-time assistant editor and an intern, plus the 50-to-100 people Through a Glass hires for any given project.

The team is young. Osbern and Blunk, both in their early 30s, along with editor Stephen Deaver, are the self-described “old men of the group.” Marcus Guider, the company’s camera operator/camera assistant is just 25, having been referred to Through a Glass by his former professor Kevin Willmott a few months after dropping out of school in 2012.

In 2004, the year they graduated and founded their company, “everyone told us to do anything in film we had to go to New York or L.A.,” Osbern recalls. But they stayed because they wanted to help build the film scene in Lawrence, which seems to grow “every year,” especially in recent years with the success of the Free State Festival and projects such as “Jayhawkers” and Blake Robbins’ “The Sublime and Beautiful” using the Lawrence area as filming locations.

Roughly a decade after Through a Glass’s launch, tax incentives have started to attract filmmakers to places far less expensive than Hollywood — places like Michigan and New Mexico and Louisiana. And hopefully, right here in the Sunflower State.

Today, Through a Glass films somewhere around 70 percent of its projects in the Lawrence area.

“Ten years ago, we said we were making movies in Kansas, and people would be like, ‘That’s impossible,’” Osbern says. “And now, if we tell people we’re making movies in Kansas, they’re like, ‘Great. What does Kansas bring to the table?’”

Read the full story: http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2016/feb/07/slice-hollywood-lawrence-through-glass-productions/
Alumni in the News

Former KU student’s film ’Still Moon’ explores unexpected consequences of progress

Several popular films of 2015 were bloody tales of survival, notably Quentin Tarantino’s “The Hateful Eight” and Alejandro González Iñárritu’s “The Revenant.” Long before either film was released, former University student Kevin Huang was working on the short film “Still Moon.”

Huang’s 18-minute film tells the story of a group of surveyors in the mid-19th century who stumble upon a camp of massacred Native Americans. When a young girl brandishing a bow-and-arrow, the lone survivor of the killing, approaches them, she is shot. In the aftermath, the surveyors have to grapple with increasing tension and the morality of progress.

Although Huang attended the University for several years, he didn’t receive a degree. Born in Taiwan, Huang came to the United States as a teenager to study industrial design. He entered the University as a design student before enrolling in the film program. He studied screenwriting under Professor Kevin Willmott and tried his hand at photography.

Huang left the University a semester away from graduation to attend the Brooks Institute in Ventura, Calif., where he met most of the crew of “Still Moon.” Although he wasn’t unhappy with the film education he got while in Lawrence, Huang wanted a more hands-on experience than the screenwriting skills and film theory he was learning at the University. Brooks allowed him to get behind the camera his first week there. He graduated in 2013.

In addition to directing the film, Huang served as one of its producers. He has directed previous projects — including “Ai” (Japanese for love), his thesis film while at Brooks, and “Sunset on Cabrillo Blvd.,” which won top prize at Santa Barbara International Film Festival’s college division — but he mostly studied cinematography while in school.

“Directing, you have a say over the finality of the film,” he said. “Cinematography gives you more power to make suggestions.”

“Still Moon” is Huang’s statement on expansion at the expense of oppression. The surveyors are in the wilderness to build a railroad, but the impact of their presence is evident in the camp full of bodies. People like them — white men from another region — presumably caused the destruction.

“[‘Still Moon’] is about progress and how just because we can do it doesn’t mean we should do it,” Huang said. “Railroads back then [were] a great invention, a great method of transporting resources and people, but sometimes there’s so much sacrifice made making this available.”

The film was accepted into the Cannes Film Festival’s Short Film Corner. Although the Short Film Corner is not part of the festival’s competition, it gives Huang and his crew an opportunity to meet and network with accomplished entertainment industry members and executives.

“The ability to be there to mingle with industry producers and financiers and investors and hopefully bump into celebrities, directors — that’s the part I’m excited about.” Huang said. “It’s not a red carpet situation for my film, but it’s an opportunity to be surrounded by filmmakers.”

After the film completes the festival circuit, Huang is considering releasing it on Vimeo or another video sharing website.

Rink says they didn’t embark on the project with the intention of making a large profit.

“I think Kevin would rather put it out there for anyone to see at any time,” Rink said. “Just getting it out there for whoever I think is a better idea than trying to monetize it, because that’s not really why we shot this film. It was more about shooting film, getting out there with all of our friends. We just want it to get out there because we want people to see it.”

Alumni News

Mike Gabrawy, Chief Creative Officer of Arclight Films and a 1992 graduate of the KU Theatre and Film department, is in the news with two new articles:

Arclight Celebrates 'Happy Birthday' With Steven Tyler; Epic Boards 'Abulele' - Berlin
Berlin: Daniel Radcliffe to Star in Thriller 'Jungle' (Exclusive)

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.

Are you a Film & Media Studies (or Theatre & Film) alum? We’d love to hear from you. Click HERE to update your information with us, so we can add you to the impressive ranks of our alumni.

Follow us

Film Festivals, Contests, Local Film Jobs, Call-for-Papers
Announcements of film festivals, contests, local jobs, call-for-papers, etc. are kept in a binder in the reception area at Oldfather Studios (room 204). Check it out!

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

Department of Film and Media Studies
Oldfather Studios
1621 W. 9th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044-2488
Phone: 785-864-1340
Fax: 785-331-2671
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/newsletters

Academic Calendar
Tuesday, March 1 — Last day to submit Application for Graduation and assure inclusion in the Commencement Program and July diploma delivery
Monday, March 14 — First day of Spring Break
Sunday, March 20 — Last Day of Spring Break
http://www.registrar.ku.edu/calendar/