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Welcome back Jayhawks! We hope you had a great Summer and look forward to having you here in the new year. As you know, academic year 2016-17 will be the last year that the Department is located in Oldfather Studios. Demolition work has already begun in Summerfield Hall and over the next few months construction will begin on the new soundstage, media library, and production facilities. Construction is expected to be complete around March of 2017. After that, we will begin the transition to the new building where we expect to start the next school year fully resettled in Fall 2017. We’ll have further updates on the building’s progress in future newsletters and the Department’s social media so keep checking back. This is an exciting time to be studying Film and Media at KU.

Last month, as many of you know, we lost a dear colleague and friend when Professor Chuck Berg passed away after a long bout with illness. Chuck was one of the pioneers who helped to establish the program that grew into the Department of Film and Media Studies here at KU. Many of you probably recall his tireless enthusiasm, positive outlook, and genuine care for everything and everyone with whom he came into contact. Chuck is deeply missed and his family will hold a memorial service for him on November 20th at 2:00 p.m., at The Cider Gallery, 810 Pennsylvania, Lawrence, KS.

This semester we are pleased that Meg Jamieson, who previously taught as a lecturer here in the department, was recently hired as a Visiting Professor in Film/Media Production for academic year 2016-17. Beginning Fall 2017, Meg will join the department as a regular tenure-track faculty member! Many of you have taken classes with Meg and experienced firsthand her passion for teaching and film/media creative research. Meg will be co-teaching the Capstone course this year and we are extremely proud to welcome her as a member of the FMS faculty.

We also would like to welcome Dawn Hawkins, our new Administrative Associate Senior, who took over for Sarah Sahin. Dawn plans departmental events, coordinates the Department’s social media, and keeps the business of the department running smoothly. Her office is 221 Oldfather and she is here Monday through Friday 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. Please join me and the rest of our faculty and staff in welcoming her to the department.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 29th because that’s when we will hold the FMS Welcome Back Rally! This year our rally will be held in the soundstage at Oldfather Studios and will include a screening and presentation by KU alumni Jeremy Osbern, Misti Boland, and Chris Blunk. Keep an eye on your email inbox and the departmental webpage for more details – we hope to see you there, and bring a friend!

Are you interested in an internship in film? Professor Madison Davis Lacy is the Department’s Internship Coordinator and he can provide you with what you need to know about applying for local, regional, and national internships. Make an appointment to see him and find out more!

There are a lot of good changes on the way and we are excited that you will be a part of them! Once again, welcome back and we look forward to seeing you in the Department of Film and Media Studies!

Michael Baskett, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Department Chair
University mourns the death of film professor Chuck Berg

Charles “Chuck” Berg, a longtime University of Kansas professor of film and media studies, died July 26 in Lawrence. He was 75.

“Chuck Berg’s many contributions to our university spanned nearly four decades, during which he was able to share his love of film and music with countless students and colleagues,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “On behalf of the university, I would like to extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends and loved ones.”

Berg joined the KU faculty in 1977 and became a force in the creation of film and media studies at KU, where his expertise extended to music, television and popular culture.

He taught a variety of courses in film-media history, theory, criticism and production. American film history and popular culture were his research and teaching focus.

“Many of his students who went on to influential careers in the film and media industries and in academia cite Chuck’s positive outlook and infectious goodwill as a motivating factor in their lives,” said Michael Baskett, associate professor and department chair.

Baskett described Berg as a supportive colleague who selflessly shared his time and energy with other faculty, staff and students.

“Chuck and his gracious wife and partner, Beth, were a dependable and caring team that nurtured the department through difficult times, leaving it a better place than they found it,” Baskett said. “We are all better people for having the chance to know Chuck and miss him sorely.”

Service details have not been announced.

To honor Chuck’s devotion to teaching, passion for film and impact on generations of Jayhawks, gifts can be made to the Chuck Berg Film Scholarship in the Film and Media Studies Department at the University of Kansas. Send your gift to KU Endowment, PO Box 928, Lawrence, KS, 66044, with “Chuck Berg Film Scholarship” in the memo line or make an online gift at: www.kuendowment.org.

Read more about the life of Chuck Berg:

Remembering the life of KU Professor Charles "Chuck" Berg


KU mourns death of longtime film and media studies professor


Charles M. “Chuck” Berg

http://www.warrenmcelwain.com/obituary/charles-chuck-berg
Coming Attractions

FREE FOOD!

Stop by the theater in Hashinger Hall to meet fellow arts students, talk to students involved in various arts-centric clubs, eat some FREE food, and chat with professors.

School of the Arts Meet’n’Mingle
Wednesday, Sept. 7, 6 to 8 p.m
Hashinger Hall Theater

KU Film & Media Studies presents the 2016

FILM RALLY

Featuring KU Alumni Jeremy Osbern, Chris Blunk and Misti Boland of:

THROUGH GLASS PRODUCTIONS

Free food provided!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH
@ 6:00 PM
ROOM 100, OLDFAHER STUDIOS
**Recognitions and Accomplishments**

FMS student **Jacob Hood**’s animated film *Flying* won the Award of Recognition at the Accolade Global Film Competition in May.

*Flying* was also nominated for Best Animation, Best Director, and Best Drama at the 2016 FMS Tensie Awards and won for Best Animation. Congratulations, Jacob!


Congratulations to FMS senior **John-Paul Hurley** who received an Undergraduate Research Award (UGRA) for summer 2016. He worked on a creative writing project: “Circadian Rhythm,” which was mentored by Kij Johnson in the Department of English. The UGRA is a $1,000 scholarship.

The deadline to apply for the Spring 2017 competition is November 3. More information is available on the Center for Undergraduate Research website.

Read more: [http://news.ku.edu/13-students-receive-undergraduate-research-awards](http://news.ku.edu/13-students-receive-undergraduate-research-awards)

Congratulations to **Matt Jacobson** and **Kevin Willmott** on their promotions to full Professor.

Read the full story here:

Congratulations to **Savannah Rodgers** for the Best Student Film award from the Los Angeles Film Awards for her film *Sketches*. *Sketches* is directed by current KU film student Savannah Rodgers, produced by KU alum **Patrick Rea**, edited by KU Alum **Derek Sellens**, and shot by Professor **Matt Jacobson**. The film stars KU alumna Ashley Kennedy and Laurie Catherine Winkel.

Other notable information about *Sketches*: Premiered at the 2016 Slamdance Film Festival; winner at Kansas City FilmFest, LA Film Awards, and the First Friday Film Festival; and is nominated for three awards at the Austin Revolution Film Festival.

Professor **Cathy Joritz** was awarded an "Award of Merit" from the University Film and Video Association at the 70th annual UFVA Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, for her animated short *SAIC Sketchbooks*. According to UFVA President Francisco Menendez, Joritz’s experimental animation demonstrated an "excellence in Animation Filmmaking as judged by a committee of peers." *SAIC Sketchbooks* utilizes drawings and drawn sequences from the many sketchbooks Joritz kept during her undergrad years at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) as the basis for analog and digital 2D animation often set in a 3D environment. The soundtrack music for the piece was created by the legendary German electronic musician, Dieter Moebius.

“Man in Your Hand”
Out & About: Advice from FMS students who graduated in May 2016

Heidi Johnson, bachelor’s in film & media studies
Notable: She’s creating a film about *Furries*, a project her professor describes as a "warm and insightful look into American subculture."

“I have really found a home in the film department at KU. My only wish is that I had come to KU sooner. Getting deeply involved in the department and getting to know the faculty and staff made all the difference. “

“My advice to any student is to take advantage of all the amazing resources made available to you as a student. People want to see you succeed.”

Adalberto Arroyo, bachelor’s in film & media studies, minor in creative writing
Notable: His current work is described by one of his professors as a “funny, personal, moving portrait” of a drag showgirl in Kansas City. His professor also said, “Very few undergraduate students would have the skills and the sensitivity to work in the way Beto is.”

“Being at KU has changed me in a good way because I have learned that I can continue to push myself to be a better person. KU has challenged me into learning newer things and experiencing moments in life that I never thought I would be able to experience, such as going to LA with a great group of film students.

“My advice would be to be prepared to work hard and continuing following your dreams. Also to never give up on anything because if you’re determined enough you can accomplish the obstacle in your pathway. Dreams are worth fighting for.”

Lauren Fitzgerald, bachelor’s in film & media studies and creative writing, minor in psychology
Notable: She received an Undergraduate Research Award and traveled to the Philippines on a grant hosted by the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology to make a film about an international scientific collaboration centered at KU.

“I plan to move to LA with my cat. I have an internship at a production company working on development and script coverage.”

“My advice? Get involved in everything and do things that scare you. The relationships I’ve made with people are what have stayed with me throughout the years. After a while you forget the classes, and the all-nighters you had to do, the papers, or the stress vomiting. Just kidding. But really. For me, friendship and community was the key to having a happy experience.”
Out & About

In July Matt Jacobson completed a short project for the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement, about Ram Rai, a Bhutanese refugee living in Kansas City. The production company for the project was Through A Glass Productions [http://www.throughaglass.com/] (owned by KU Film alums Jeremy Osbern and Chris Blunk). Jacobson was Director of Photography/Camera Operator on the project, along with Marcus Guider; sound was done by KU alum Nathan Towns.

Check it out on these sites: [http://www.hhs.gov/blog/2016/07/11/refugeeswelcome-new-life-opportunity-and-business.html] and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_UqZtDq3GyQ]

There will also be a post on the HHSGov Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/HHS/]

Film, finance majors make perfect co-stars

We’ve all had “a-ha” moments. For Margoth Mackey, a double major in film & media studies and finance, that moment of clarity came amid dwarves clashing swords with orcs and a struggle for power.

“I discovered the magic of filmmaking one day when I watched a documentary on how the ‘Lord of the Rings’ was made and I was hooked. I decided from then on I wanted to be a director,” Mackey said. “I loved the idea of telling a story in a way that people could experience, almost like putting my imagination on screen.”

Initially, Mackey considered chasing her silver screen dreams at a technical film school in Chicago. As the daughter of two Jayhawk grads however, Mackey decided at the end of her high school career that she wanted to experience all that comes with a KU education and its film & media studies degree. Once on campus, she decided that to take advantage of the broad variety of degree options at KU.

“I decided that I should also try my hand at business since it is an area that some artists struggle with and I thought it would help diversify my skills. I originally looked at the business minor but it did not cover all the areas that I wanted so I decided to go ahead with a finance double major,” Mackey said. “My parents really support my decision and I actually think it’s really smart since it shows my two areas of interest.”

After graduation, Mackey plans to put her dual degrees to good use. In the beginning of her academic career, Mackey said, she wanted to focus mainly on the production side of making films but discovered through her courses she was also passionate about business.

“I hope to work as a film financial analyst for production companies and even produce. I would like to still have the ability to make films that I feel passionate about but I also want to continue working with business,” Mackey said. “I hope that my combined skills will help me find that perfect job one day.”

Meeting with her advisors and planning ahead are a few ways Mackey is able to stay on top of her coursework and meet the requirements for both degrees. While she admits it hasn’t always been easy to balance her schedule, Mackey said she knows the effort will pay off in the long run. The opportunity to study a wide variety of subjects and develop a broad knowledge base are just a few benefits Mackey said come from her liberal arts and sciences background.

“The harmony that I receive while studying both majors is something I really love about double majoring. I have the opportunity to see different sides of KU and its students as well, which is awesome! I have met way more people that I would have if I had only chosen one degree,” Mackey said. “I strongly encourage any student who wants a wider education and who wants to diversify their skills to really consider double majoring.”

Copied from: [http://blog.college.ku.edu/students/film-finance-majors-make-perfect-co-stars/]
Out & About

During August, Savannah Rodgers worked as a Co-Producer and the 1st Assistant Director on Patrick Rea’s (KU alum) latest feature, Duke.

Other KU alum working on the film include Tony Ontiveros, Matt Garrett, and Collin Martin. Tressa Lee (recent graduate) and Logan Cain (current student) worked as production assistants on the movie. Louis Fehlig (recent graduate) was a grip.

Panama’s film culture is growing, but film festivals offer a ticket to the top, professor says

“Panama and other Central American countries tend to be overlooked,” said Tamara Falicov, associate professor of film and media studies at the University of Kansas. “The good news is Panama is a country in the making. The Panama Film Festival is less well-known, but it’s becoming a pipeline for the most well-known film festival in the world.”

It is only the second year for the Panama Film Festival’s finishing fund competition, First Look, yet the winner will be presented to producers at the Marché du Film at Cannes. This year’s winner is a Dominican Republic film, “Noeli Overseas.”

If larger film festivals like Cannes can do anything for Global South filmmakers, it would be discovering the next booming film economy. It’s a win-win, Falicov said, because there’s also prestige for those who discover the next “new wave” from an underrepresented film industry.

“Film festivals have become nodes in a circuit where people will travel from festival to festival to meet with others from various countries,” Falicov said. “It’s become a whole ecosystem.”

As the number of film festivals worldwide expands, they need value-added activities to remain relevant and stand out, Falicov said. This means the emergence of screenwriting labs, networking parties and competitions like First Look, which awards an in-progress movie the funding needed to complete post-production work.

In April, Falicov was in Panama to speak about international film funding and the subtleties and issues surrounding it. She encountered young Panamanian filmmakers who were proud that their nation produced six films this year in spite of not having a film school.

She told her audiences that the kinds of cinema that typically get funded by the Global North look at issues like poverty, desperation and social problems and “reflect a certain third-worldliness.”

“If the films are too bourgeois or too wealthy-looking, they can get rejected,” Falicov said.

She suggested Global South filmmakers also look to horizontal funding, from crowd-funding campaigns to competitions like First Look. Filmmakers need to understand that judges look for movies that can cross over to an international marketplace.

“Some of these are too local and don’t have humor that can translate,” she said.

A successful blend of local and global themes can be found in Paraguay’s “Seven Boxes,” Falicov said. It’s a genre film like “The Fast and the Furious” but instead of cars, boys with pushcarts race through the markets of Asunción.

“It’s a film that is incredibly compelling, with quick editing, and yet it’s in a very local space,” Falicov said.

“My goal is to understand what is this transnational art house aesthetic,” she said.

Falicov co-edits a book series on film festival research with Dutch film scholar Marijke de Valcke called “Framing Film Festivals” for Palgrave Macmillan.

**Out & About**

Chuck Berg and Ron Wilson are co-authors for an essay that is included in the recently published *The Companion to Popular Culture* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2015) edited by Gary Burns. Their essay "Film and Television in Popular Culture" traces the historical development of screen studies criticism from early film to digital media.


**'The Only Good Indian' fits well with captivity narrative, revisionist Western films**

In University of Kansas Film and Media Studies Professor Kevin Willmott's 2009 film, "The Only Good Indian," a young Kickapoo boy is forcibly taken from his parents in the early 1900s and enrolled in a federal boarding school, Haskell Institute in Lawrence.

The boy, Nachwihiata, is renamed Charlie and forced to speak the English language, though he runs away with a copy of Bram Stoker's "Dracula. This is one instance of the film turning tools of forced captivity and assimilation on its head, as Nachwihiata and later the Cherokee county hunter Sam Franklin, played by Wes Studi, are able to triumph over the white villains.

"The film makes horribly immediate the physical and cultural violence suffered by 19th century American Indians," said Laura Mielke, KU associate professor of English. "It also includes a narrative of how this Kickapoo boy who is forced to go to boarding school uses the Western literature and the English language and those forces of colonialism against it."

Her new essay, "Transforming Captivity Narratives in Kevin Willmott's 'The Only Good Indian,'" appears in the journal American Studies, which is edited at KU by professors Sherrie Tucker and Randal Maurice Jels. Mielke's analysis stemmed from a 2009 KU undergraduate honors English course she taught on Captivity Narratives.

Under Willmott's direction and with the screenplay by Thomas Carmody, the film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2009 and was awarded honors at the American Indian Film Festival that year.

"The film unites a critique of the boarding school's linguistic colonialism with a self-reflexive meditation on how narratives arising from the context of captivity are transformed by the captive from the tool that binds to the weapon that liberates," Mielke wrote in the article.

It fits in well with a group of a revisionist Western films that resist the genre's "black and white" and "good versus evil" narratives. Another recent popular film that followed this path was Quentin Tarantino's 2012 "Django Unchained," a spaghetti Western about a man emancipated from slavery who joins a bounty hunter to track down the South's most-wanted criminals and liberate his wife.

"The whole group now of revisionist Westerns play with race and gender and violence and imperialism," Mielke said. "Instead of simply rejecting the traditional Western for all of its problematic narratives of savage versus civilization and winning the West, they take all of its trappings and tell different stories."

"The Only Good Indian" and others in this genre explicitly tie the evolution of the captivity narrative — especially across genres and between cultures —to the joined acts of reclaiming repressed histories and appropriating more dominant narratives.

"You break stereotypes and you bring to the fore the historical violence that was never depicted in traditional Westerns," she said.

Photo: Actor Wes Studi in a scene from Professor Kevin Willmott's "The Only Good Indian," which premiered in 2009.

Out & About: FMS at the Free State Festival in June

Caffeine and Cinema
Ph.D. candidate Patrick Terry led a discussion about favorite film scenes involving coffee to a sold-out audience.

KU Student Film Showcase
This showcase of award-nominated and award-winning work produced by students from the Department of Film and Media Studies at KU in the 2015-2016 school year, screened on June 22 at the Lawrence Arts Center Black Box Theatre.

A cohort of new volunteers at the Headquarters Counseling Center in Lawrence, Kansas undergo rigorous training to staff crisis lines. The Listeners explores the role of crisis phone lines in mental health care and the many people, often volunteers, who answer calls. Directed by Robert Hurst.

Gordon Parks Elementary was screened at the Lawrence Arts Center Large Gallery followed by Q&A with director Kevin Willmott, John Poggi (Professor of Educational Psychology - KU), and moderated by Dr. Randal Jelks (Professor of American Studies - KU).

What We’ve Become was screened at Liberty Hall followed by a Q&A with writer/director Jennifer Nelson, producers Christie Dobson (TH&F BA) and Chris Blunk (TH&F BGS).

Chi-Raq was screened at the Lawrence Arts Center Main Stage followed by a Q&A with writer Kevin Willmott and Moderator Verdell Taylor (Lawrence Memorial Hospital/ St. Luke’s AME).

Another Easygoing Brother in the Meadow Wind by Joshua Nathan (FMS BGS) and The Musical Genius of Moscow, Kansas by Chris Blunk (TH&F BGS) were both shown as part of a Short Film Showcase.
Alumni News

Kyle Hamrick, KU Theatre & Film BGS 2003, is slated to be a speaker at this year’s Adobe Video World Conference (http://www.adobevideoworld.com/), September 27 – October 2, in Seattle, Washington. Adobe Video World is a six-day conference for Adobe Premiere Pro CC and Adobe After Effects CC professional users and creatives.

Kyle writes: “If you do know what After Effects is, this conference is really cool, and I highly recommend it. I’ve been going to it since it started a few years ago – it’s enabled me to meet a lot of my professional idols and become friends with some of the most talented people in the industry.”

Chris Robinson, Ph.D. 2012, has accepted a tenure-track position in film studies at the University of Arkansas (Little Rock). He is teaching film history, global film and media criticism, and is starting work on organizing a screening program for the campus.

Manuel Perez Tejada, Ph.D. 2009, reports that he accepted a “profesor asociado” position at the Universidad de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico) in the Information and Communication Department. He will teach film history and basic video production courses.

From KC to Cannes: It’s a Hustle

Orson Welles’ observation on filmmaking was simple: “It’s about two percent movie making and 98 percent hustling. It’s no way to spend a life.”

Kansas City-based indie filmmaker Patrick Rea [KU Theatre & Film BGS, 2002] knows everything about hustling. He began creating short films in 2002 to help him refine his skills as a storyteller and film director. To date, Rea has completed more than 30 short films, some of which have been featured in film festivals throughout the world, compilation DVDs, and television shows.

His first feature film, “Nailbiter,” shot in Lawrence and Leawood, Kansas, took four years to finally earn a release. His hustle paid off when the film was picked up for distribution in 2012 and released in 2013 by a division of Lions Gate Films. “Nailbiter” can regularly be seen locally on the cable channel Chiller.


“Enclosure,” a horror/suspense film, will be screened this weekend [May 2016] at the international gathering of cinema, Festival du Cannes, in France, where Rea will continue the hustle as he begins the process of finding a buyer. The film will then begin making its way through film festivals for audiences in the United States.

Rea sat down with Flatland’s Brad Austin to discuss the making of “Enclosure,” the Cannes film festival, and what happens when the filming is over and things start getting real.

Watch the interview here: http://www.flatlandkc.org/people-places/local-filmmaker-shows-cannes/

— Find Flatland on Facebook and follow on Twitter @FlatlandKC.
**Academic Calendar**

Monday, August 22 — First day of classes  
Monday, September 5 — Labor Day Holiday — No classes, offices closed  
Monday, September 19 — Census Day– 20th Day of class and Last day to add or swap a class  

[http://www.registrar.ku.edu/calendar/](http://www.registrar.ku.edu/calendar/)

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**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:  
- Monday: 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.  
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
- Wednesday: 8:30—12:00 p.m. and 2:00—4:00 p.m.  
- Thursdays: 8:30 – 5:00 p.m.  
- Friday: 8:30 – 5:00 p.m.  
Check with your instructor or John McCluskey, Assistant Technical Director, for more information.

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**Check out the College Blog:**  
[http://blog.college.ku.edu/category/arts/](http://blog.college.ku.edu/category/arts/)

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Are you a Film & Media Studies (or Theatre & Film) alum? We’d love to hear from you. Click [https://film.ku.edu/alumni](https://film.ku.edu/alumni) submissions to update your information with us, so we can add you to the impressive ranks of our alumni.

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**Sydney Stone**  
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