

**Coming Attractions**

The Department scholarship application is available online and in 204 Oldfather Studios through March 1, 2017. Applications are due March 1, 2017.

Criteria for Department of Film and Media Studies scholarships and awards are available at [http://film.ku.edu/scholarships](http://film.ku.edu/scholarships). Some of these scholarships may be used to provide funding for scholarships awarded by the University so may not be offered through the Department’s awarding process.

The Department of Film and Media Studies requires students applying for departmental scholarships with a financial need component to have filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or KU’s International Student Need Analysis Worksheet (ISNAW) by March 1, 2017.

Students may access the 2017-2018 FAFSA applications directly through the U.S. Department of Education website at [http://www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). The 2017-18 ISNAW is available on KU’s Financial Aid & Scholarships (FAS) website at [http://affordability.ku.edu/forms](http://affordability.ku.edu/forms). Please contact the FAS if you have questions about which form to fill out.

Scholarship and award recipients will either be notified at the Department’s annual student recognition ceremonies in May or at a later date by FAS.
**Applications for True/False Film Festival Due**

Professors Tamara Falicov and Meg Jamieson will take a group of 12 students to the True/False Documentary Film Festival (http://truefalse.org/) in Columbia, MO March 3 – 5. T/F is one of the premier film festivals in the country and screens some of the hottest documentary features every year.

The Department will pay for transportation, lodging, movie tickets and some meals. Students who are selected agree to attend all of the group screenings, panels, and meals with the group. There is also a student symposium on Saturday with a chance to meet and network with filmmakers.

Application materials consist of the following: (1) Name, (2) GPA, (3) Short essay describing why you are a good candidate for this trip, (1-2) paragraphs describing what you expect to learn, if you have attended film festivals before, and your career aspirations, (4) most recent Degree Progress Report (DPR), and (5) Resume.

Please send applications to dawn.hawkins@ku.edu by February 10.
Recognitions and Accomplishments

FMS student Jacob Hood’s animated film *Flying* has been accepted as a Finalist in the 11th Annual Beaufort International Film Festival [beaufortfilmfestival.com](http://beaufortfilmfestival.com). The festival will take place February 15-19 in the historic city of Beaufort, SC. The film will also be screened as one of the official selections at the Copa Shorts Film Fest 2017 [copashortsfilmfest.org](http://copashortsfilmfest.org). The festival will take place February 17-19 in Maricopa, Arizona. Congratulations, Jacob!

Find more information: [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Beaufort-International-Film-Festival/252591575386](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Beaufort-International-Film-Festival/252591575386)

Congratulations to doctoral candidate Mike Van Esler who has accepted an Assistant Professor position in the Radio TV Film department at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh starting next fall. Mike came to FMS in 2009 as a student in the Master’s program. After completing his Master’s, he was accepted in the doctoral program. Mike is on track to graduate this spring.

Ron Wilson will have an essay, "In the Dark: The Noir Visual Style of Russell Metty" in the book, *Film Noir: Light and Shadow*. The book is edited by Alain Silver and James Ursini. Ron Wilson’s essay concerns the black-and-white cinematography of Russell Metty who lensed such films as *The Stranger*, *Ivy*, *Touch of Evil*, and *Ride the Pink Horse*.

For more information: [https://www.amazon.com/Film-Noir-Shadow-Alain-Silver/dp/1495058972/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1484325510&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Film-Noir-Shadow-Alain-Silver/dp/1495058972/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1484325510&s=books&sr=1-1)

Dr. Anne Gilbert will be joining the Department of Entertainment and Media Studies, in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Dr. Christina Hodel on successfully defending her dissertation “Secret Superstars and Otherworldly Wizards: Gender Biased Hiding of Extraordinary Abilities in Girl-Powered Disney Channel Sitcoms from the 2000s” last November.
Editor Kevin D. Ross Skyped into the FMS Basic Video Production class taught by Matt Jacobson on November 29. Mr. Ross is an editor who has worked on Stranger Things, Halt And Catch Fire, Californication, and many other TV series and films. Mr. Ross talked with the Basic Video students about his experiences as an editor in Hollywood, as well as giving practical advice on what it takes for a student from the Midwest to break into the Industry today. Kevin, an undergraduate alumnus of the University of Missouri, first met Professor Jacobson when they were graduate students together at the University of Southern California in 1987.

Spencer Research Library to acquire hundreds of KU film professor's celebrity portraits

The Spencer Research Library is in the process of cataloguing and preserving hundreds of original autographed portraits of famous entertainers that were donated by John Tibbetts, an associate professor in the Department of Film & Media Studies.

During his career as a journalist for CBS and NPR, Tibbetts interviewed thousands of actors, musicians, writers and broadcasters. Before meeting with an interviewee, Tibbetts said he would paint a portrait of the subject to present during the interview itself. This served to break the ice and make himself memorable to people who might do dozens of interviews in a year.

“It granted me entry into the movie stars that was unusual,” Tibbetts said. “These guys are interviewed all the time, and they get all the same questions from faceless interviewers. They got to know me because of the artwork.”

Michael Douglas, who Tibbetts interviewed several times over the course of his career, would often hold up the portraits on camera and talk about them. Julie Andrews discussed her plans to write and illustrate children’s books upon receiving her portrait. So did Whoopi Goldberg. Gene Hackman told Tibbetts about the sketchbook he carried around with him on film sets, drawing what he saw around him to pass the time in between takes.

Tibbetts didn’t always have a lot of time to spend on the paintings. The night before an interview, he would often be awake and painting a likeness based off an album cover or a film still in a press kit. Tibbetts said that sometimes he had never heard of the person before, as was the case when he painted a young Leonardo DiCaprio.

The artworks have mostly been sitting in Tibbetts’ basement since they were painted. The library will acquire almost all of them over the next several years in installments of a few hundred. The first batch, which includes about 250 portraits of mostly writers and musicians, arrived at the library in October. Tibbetts said he was surprised and very pleased at the library’s willingness to accommodate his many works of art.

“I thought, ‘You can’t possibly know what you’re getting into,’ because I have more than 700 of these autographed pieces,” he said. “They didn’t turn a hair.”

Tibbetts has also donated other complementary materials from his career such as transcripts, film stills and even recorded footage of some interviews. All materials can be viewed at the library upon request.

"Out & About"

'Fast Break: The Legendary John McLendon' screened at Lawrence Public Library in celebration of MLK Day

In light of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Lawrence Public Library held a viewing Monday night of a documentary by the University’s own Kevin Willmott, a professor of film and media studies. His documentary “Fast Break: The Legendary John McLendon,” ties into MLK Day with themes of struggle, persistence and overcoming.

"Fast Break" tells the story of John McLendon and his struggles for equality in the 40s and 50s. McLendon was the first African American student to earn his degree in physical education at the University, and studied under the legendary Dr. James Naismith. They both shared similar qualities such as strong faith and a love for basketball. McLendon had found the perfect mentor.

Willmott captured the struggles of McLendon fighting for equality in the world of basketball and his efforts to end segregated teams. Throughout the documentary, McLendon was said to have a “Martin Luther King-like character” by many of his former players. He was persistent, a little stubborn, full of humor and peaceful in his endeavors. Instead of protesting, McLendon liked to negotiate and prove his team’s skill set, and he began to see results.

“He is the reason we have integrated basketball today,” Willmott said.

After over 20 years of coaching different teams and winning multiple awards for his endeavors, McLendon was soon inducted into the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame as a contributor in 1979, but was inducted again as a coach later in 2016. This distinct achievement was a step towards equality because he was the first African American coach to be inducted.

The story of McLendon’s life through Willmott’s film was a contribution to the celebration of Martin Luther King Day that not only showed the rich history, but progress that has happened in the basketball community.


On a cold December day, Michael Baskett showed FMS staff around the Summerfield Hall construction site. The construction is moving right along: most of the HVAC is in, the sound isolation walls in the recording studio are being constructed with a sound proof window installed between the recording studio and the control room, and the floating subfloors are in place. New equipment for the recording studio has already been received.

The drywall work in the soundstage is almost finished and the floating sub-flooring is completed. LED lighting selection for the soundstage has been ordered.

In the media library and reception area, all of the walls are up and drywall is being installed. On the 4th floor, two classrooms have recently been carpeted and look to be completed or close to completion soon. FMS is working with IT to ensure that the proper classroom presentation systems for all of the classrooms and production spaces are installed.
The 20th Annual FMGC Graduate Research Symposium

The Film and Media Graduate Council (FMGC) hosted Dr. Laura Marks as its keynote speaker for the 20th Annual FMGC Research Symposium on January 27. Dr. Marks is Grant Strate University Professor in the School for the Contemporary Arts at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. The keynote lecture focused on using process philosophy to analyze moving-image media and showcasing the debt of European philosophy to Islamic philosophy.

In addition to the keynote address, panel discussions included graduate students from FMS, other KU departments of English, Religious Studies, Visual Arts, WGSS, UMKC English, and Mass Communication & Media Arts at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

The Symposium and the reception at the Oread Hotel were funded by KU Student Senate and FMS.

Congratulations to doctoral candidate Amit Patel and his wife Manisha on the birth of their son, Neal Amit Patel, on January 16!
Alumni News

Micah Brown (TH&F BGS 2009) reports that his documentary called “Prison Fighters: 5 Rounds to Freedom” will be aired on Showtime on February 24 at 8:30 ET. The film examines a controversial practice in Thailand’s criminal justice system whereby inmates can earn their freedom by winning a series of Muay Thai fights. Brown’s company, Second Wind Creative, was the production company for the film. Brown was the director, producer, and cinematographer.


Jeremy Osbern (TH&F BA 2004) of Through a Glass Productions recently shot a commercial for Sprint. Filming took place at the Union Station in Kansas City with a cast and crew of 130 people. Osbern was the Director of Photography and “tons of Jayhawks worked on it.”

Watch it here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyKxKZHkGh4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyKxKZHkGh4)

Behind-the-scenes from the commercial posted to Twitter by the CEO of Sprint, MarceloClaure.
Academic Calendar
Monday, February 13 — Census Day—20th Day of classes and
Last day to add or swap a class
Wednesday, March 1 — Undergraduate Application for
Graduation deadline and Last day to submit Application for
Graduation and assure inclusion in the Commencement
Program and July diploma delivery
http://www.registrar.ku.edu/calendar/

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: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 9:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Thursdays: 9:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Check with your instructor or John McCluskey, Assistant Technical Director, for more information.

Check out the College Blog: http://blog.college.ku.edu/

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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-submissions to update your information with us, so we can add you to the impressive ranks of our alumni.

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To view past issues of the newsletter, please visit the FMS website in the Alumni & Friends section.