Inside this issue:

- Recognitions and Accomplishments  2
- Out & About  3-4
- Alumni news  5
- Academic Calendar and More  6
Recognitions and Accomplishments

Congratulations to Dr. Christina Hodel who recently accepted a faculty position for fall 2017. Hodel will be joining the Department of Communication Studies at Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater, Massachusetts as a tenure-track Assistant Professor.

Tamara Falicov is one of four KU faculty members from across campus selected by the KU Center for Civic and Social Responsibility to participate in a semester-long seminar focused on discussing and developing creative strategies and diverse partnerships for defining and pursuing community engagement. Falicov was awarded a grant for development of a new service learning course.

The University of Kansas
Center for Civic & Social Responsibility
Out & About

FMS senior **Amber Brown** worked at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah as a Theatre Team Volunteer at the Park City Library Theatre. This was her fourth year working at Sundance. She is shown here with another volunteer from Kansas.

---

**Student Dan Stewart’s experimental film played in London based film festival**

When junior Film and Media Studies student **Dan Stewart** started shooting a film for his expanded media class project, he didn’t have a set plan or idea of what he wanted his work to entail.

That film played at professional film festival in London.

“I rounded up a bunch of people, said, ’Let’s go film some stuff,’ and then by the end I had figured out exactly what I wanted it to be,” said Stewart, a St. Charles, Missouri native. “So I said, ‘Okay, let’s do this specifically,’ but it came out of sort of an improvised nature.”

Stewart’s film, now titled “No Gods, No Managers,” takes place in the Midwest, and examines teenagers in the suburbs and how they deal with the dark and mysterious situation of living in a dystopian society.

While shooting, Stewart found out that the content he was getting from his filming sessions were quite dark and expressive.

“My first seed of an idea was to create something very chaotic,” Stewart said. “Like an expression of anger...the rest of the pieces kind of fell in after that.”

Once Stewart decided that anger was something he wanted to focus on, he sat down with two friends who served as his main actors and started to figure out what specifically they wanted to express in the film.

“We kind of figured out what it is about being here in this place that makes us angry,” Stewart said. “What things make us angry? And we kind of based these characters off of those things.”

After finishing the film, Stewart decided to enter the film into local and international festivals. Two weeks ago, his project was screened at “Underneath the Floorboards,” a festival based in London that examines and celebrates the best in experimental film.

Although the festival screens less traditional films, Stewart stressed that this film isn’t just subject to abstract thinking.

“I think when something becomes too abstract you can’t really engage with it as well,” Stewart said. “While [my film] is strange and abnormal, I wouldn’t say that the layman couldn't watch it and find something to enjoy. I like to strike a balance between some kind of experimental and some kind of regular narrative.”

**Out & About**

Check out FMS student **Hunter Harding**’s experimental film, “Firedance.” The film was built using After Effects in **Cathy Joritz**’s Experimental Production class last fall.

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

---

**Kevin Willmott**’s 2004 film, *C.S.A., The Confederate States of America*, was recently screened with other satires in New York City. *The New Yorker* magazine wrote an article about the relevance of the film today. “The film, which premiered in 2004 and was released in 2006, is an ingenious vision of political, moral, and historical horrors.”

“We can’t say we weren’t warned, and sometimes a warning comes from far away and goes unheeded.”


---

**Kevin Willmott** was featured on Channel 6, the local television station, for Black History Month.


---

On February 1st, the Provost’s Office held a forum to address concerns of University community members about the recent executive order suspending immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries. FMS doctoral student **Najmeh Moradiyan Rizi**, an Iranian student, was present and discussed her concern regarding the order.

Read the full story in the *University Daily Kansan*: [http://www.kansan.com/news/experts-faculty-warn-international-students-against-travel-after-trump-s/article_babda0bc-e96c-11e6-b258-479eb5dd31e0.html](http://www.kansan.com/news/experts-faculty-warn-international-students-against-travel-after-trump-s/article_babda0bc-e96c-11e6-b258-479eb5dd31e0.html)
Alumni News

James Swartz, 2013 BGS graduate, works as a SLT, best boy electric, and gaffer for various projects in LA. He is currently working within the lighting department as a non-union member. James was recently on a show that flipped and managed to gain insight to how the union structure works from union department heads. Working mostly in narrative projects, James looks forward to gaffing a western in New Mexico in March.

Alum Heather Laird, a member of the FMS Professional Advisory Board, reports that Wright/Laird Casting in Kansas City recently finished a national TV spot for LG TV and a commercial for the KC Royals and Price Chopper starring catcher Salvador Perez that will air this spring during baseball season.

Novotny Lawrence, Ph.D. 2004, reports that his co-edited anthology, Beyond Blaxploitation, was recently published by Wayne State University Press. Beyond Blaxploitation is the first anthology devoted to examining blaxploitation films. The volume features 11 essays that address marketing, aesthetics, production, and exhibition, among other pertinent topics. Importantly, Beyond Blaxploitation works to move the African American-themed films from the 1970s from the margins of cinema proper.

Dr. Lawrence is an associate professor in the Radio, Television, and Digital Media Department at Southern Illinois University.

Find out more: http://www.wsupress.wayne.edu/books/detail/beyond-blaxploitation

Heather Laird directing NEXT!
The Department of Film & Media Studies
The University of Kansas

Page 6

Academic Calendar
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
Monday, March 20 — First day of Spring Break
Sunday, March 26 — Last day of Spring Break
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.

Follow us
Twitter: @KUFMS, @KUSchoolofArts, @KUCollege

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

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.

Sydney Stone
Advising Specialist
Office Hours in FMS:
Thursdays and Fridays
215 Oldfather Studios
sydneyemstone@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, please visit the FMS website in the Alumni & Friends section.