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Coming Attractions

KU Film and Media Studies Presents
FILM RALLY 2017

Thursday, September 7th
5:30-7:30p.m.
420 Summerfield Hall

- Learn about opportunities within Film and Media Studies and around campus!
- Meet & mingle with professors and fellow students!
- Discover how to turn your passions into a career!
- DOOR PRIZES!
- Free Food & Drinks!!!
Coming Attractions

FMS Professional Advisory Board Meeting in September

Hey Jayhawks! Did you know that every year, the Department of Film and Media Studies hosts an annual meeting of its Professional Advisory Board? The Board membership consists of former KU students who are now working professionals in a range of industries in Film and Media. These dedicated alumni selflessly give back to our faculty and students by coming to our campus at least once a year to attend the annual meeting where they share with us their extensive experience, knowledge, and insight. Our board discusses department curriculum, internships, industry trends, technological innovations, program development and important funding initiatives helping to keep our program relevant and competitive with the industry today. This year, the annual Board meeting will be held on September 29-30 and we will welcome nearly a dozen new members who were elected at last year’s meeting and will begin their service on the Board this fall. There will be opportunities for FMS students to meet, screen their work, and receive feedback from these professionals and alumni.

If you are interested in meeting and making contact with these awesome alums, please contact Dawn Hawkins to check for available openings!

Who are the professionals on our Professional Advisory Board?

Bruce Branit, Doug Curtis, Alex Graves, Rodney Hill, Gordy Hoffman, Ben Krout, Neil LaBute, Heather Laird, Ann Lerner, John Linden, Bruce Linton, Andrew Loos, Chris Martin, Shawn McLaren, Arthel McDaniel, III, Omari J. Miller, Steve Mills, SK Nguyen, Jeremy Osbern, Ron Parker, Mike Robe, Sarah Robe, Tom Rooker, Mark Roskin, Stephanie Sapienza, Marie Shuckahosee, Maria Skeels, Lucas Smith, Tyler Smith, Ben Steinbauer, Alisha Templeton, and Scott Thomas.
Out & About

FMS Senior Megan Elliott was on study abroad in the United Kingdom for the 2016-17 academic year. While she was there, fellow FMS Senior Amber Brown dropped in for a visit. They are shown here at a few of the many sites they visited.

In front of St. Paul’s Cathedral

The model of Hogwarts during the London WB tour.

On the Harry Potter tour at the WB London

Buckingham Palace
Out & About

Bulletproof professor: Kevin Willmott protesting concealed carry by wearing vest in class

Kevin Willmott, a professor of film and media studies at the University, taught his first class last Tuesday with a bulletproof vest over his clothes.

“Try to forget that I’m wearing a vest, and I’ll try to forget that you could be packing a .44 magnum,” Willmott said.

At the start of his Aug. 22 class, Willmott distributed a letter that said he is wearing a bulletproof vest to protest the new campus carry law. The law, which came into effect July 1, allows anyone over the age of 21 to carry a concealed weapon on University campuses. “The disturbing part of the policy for me is that it is concealed,” Willmott said. “It’s kind of a don’t ask, don’t tell kind of a policy, and so, you’re just kind of expected to forget that they’re probably there. And in that sense, you’re kind of living in a lie.” When doing research for his film “Jayhawkers,” which tells the story of Kansas basketball player Wilt Chamberlain, Willmott said the people he spoke to often had no knowledge of the racial segregation taking place around them.

He said that instead of large signs, businesses would opt for smaller signs that went unnoticed.

“And that’s what this policy is all about,” Willmott said. “They don’t want it to be visible, because if it was visible, if everybody was walking around with a bulletproof vest on, people would say, ‘Oh my God, is this a warzone? What’s going on here?’ And yes, it is a warzone. No one’s started shooting yet. Yet. But we don’t know how many people have guns.” Willmott said having guns “welcomed” onto campus can obstruct the free flow of ideas in classrooms when controversial topics like race and religion are discussed.

“As a whole, it just puts a damper on free speech for everyone,” Willmott said.

Braden Robinson, a junior from Wichita, was in the classroom when Willmott announced his gesture of protest. Robinson said he thinks Willmott’s gesture will be effective in reminding people about the reality of concealed carry.

“I have mixed feelings about guns. I don’t think they’re all bad. I can see the reasoning for wanting to carry one,” Robinson said. “But I just don’t think that a place that promotes free speech should have guns. That would definitely affect someone’s willingness to talk, especially if they have an opinion that might be unpopular.”

In a handout titled “Why I Decided to Teach in a Bulletproof Vest,” Willmott wrote that he sat down next to a Muslim professor during a recent open meeting about the new law. Willmott said the professor expressed her fear of this law, and said it would “affect free speech in her class.”

“Students are scared, professors are scared,” Willmott said. “I think even the administration is frustrated and feeling a little helpless right now. And so, for me, the vest becomes a way for this invisible gun to be exposed.”

The mental health of students can be at risk in college, and guns can make it worse, Willmott said.

“My father died when I was in college,” Willmott said. “Those kinds of things can cause depression, those kinds of things can cause changes in your mental outlook. And if a gun is then involved, those things can lead to tragedies.”

Out & About

Filmmakers producing documentary about Garden City’s unique immigrant identity

Two independent filmmakers are in production on a new documentary film focusing on Garden City. According to a press release, filmmakers Bob Hurst and Tess Banion FMS MA, 2011 - in collaboration with lifelong Garden City resident and former mayor Nancy Harness - are exploring the history of Garden City, Finney County and the many immigrant groups that have come to call the area home over the last 100 years and beyond.

Director Bob Hurst’s interest was piqued when he read a newspaper account of the thwarted terror plot planned last fall targeting Garden City’s Somali community. Today, he believes that is only part of the story that Garden City has to tell.

Ours is a country of immigrants, and Garden City is a really fascinating example of how some cities adapt and embrace change,” Hurst said. “It seems like Garden City has always been one of those, which is unique for a smaller city.”

Producer Tess Banion helped write a grant five years ago with scholars from the University of Kansas to explore immigrant communities on the Great Plains. That grant was not awarded but her interest never waned.

“There are lots of places in the United States that attract immigrants looking to find work and a new life, but I found through my research, and continue to find, that Garden City is different,” she said.

Filming has begun and will take place in and around Garden City over the next year. The filmmakers hope to finish the film by summer 2018.

**Recognitions and Accomplishments**

FMS student **Jacob Hood** reports that his film *Flying* will be screened at the Orlando Film Festival this year. The festival takes place between October 19 and 26.

*Flying* is also an Official Selection of the 2017 Royal Starr Film Festival, October 12 – 15, at the luxurious Emagine Theatre in Royal Oak, Michigan.

**John Tibbetts** and **Ron Wilson** were recognized for their years of service to KU during the 2017 Employee Recognition Ceremony last spring. This is KU’s annual event to honor faculty and staff for their years of service to the University of Kansas.

John Tibbetts and Ron Wilson, thank you for your service and for inspiring us!
Recognitions and Accomplishments

Dean Carl Lejuez appoints Tamara Falicov as interim associate dean for research for the College

Professor Tamara Falicov, professor in the Department of Film and Media Studies, will serve as the research associate dean focused on the arts and humanities. The role of associate dean for research is of great importance to the advancement and success of research-intensive universities across the country. These roles allow universities to remain competitive amid dwindling levels of support for scientific research and the arts locally and nationally. At KU, it is critical that we maintain our excellence in teaching and research and that we support our faculty and students in their work.

Professor Germaine Halegoua to receive the 2017 James W. Carey Urban Communication Grant

Professors Germaine Halegoua and Jessa Lingel (University of Pennsylvania) received the 2017 James W. Carey Urban Communication Grant from the Urban Communication Foundation and the International Communication Association for their research on urban broadband networks. The project, “Invisibility and hypervisibility: Failures of imagination in urban broadband networks,” investigates social and political tensions and opportunities around public use of “dark fiber” networks and LinkNYC. Halegoua and Lingel will present some of their initial findings and analysis at the Association of Internet Researchers Conference in Tartu, Estonia this October.

Juli Stone Pitzer has accepted an Assistant Professor of Mass Communications tenure-track position at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. She will teach courses in multimedia production and mass communications. Congratulations, Juli!
Recognitions and Accomplishments

"Firedance" short film by KU student to be recognized at international festival

Hunter Harding, a senior from Montgomery, Texas, created the short film "Trippy Firedance" for an experimental film production class last fall. Unbeknownst to him, the short film would go on to receive multiple invites to film festivals and awards.

Harding is currently a film major and has created a number of films during his time at the University. "Trippy Firedance" is his most popular film yet.

The 2017 Josiah Media Festival was the first film festival Harding was invited to for "Trippy Firedance." Harding was awarded first place in the Experimental category, earning a $250 gift card to a New York City-based electronics store. The Josiah Media Festival will take place Oct. 19 to Oct. 21 at the URBAN-15 Studio in San Antonio, Texas.

"Trippy Firedance" also received an honorable mention in the Jack and Lavon Brosseau Creative Awards. The Brosseau Creative Awards runs out of Lawrence’s Spencer Museum of Art. Awards are given to students who submit projects that excel in either writing or any other form of diverse media.

Most recently, Harding was invited to the BlackBox Shortfilm Festival. The film festival is a bit far from home, being held in Biberstein, Switzerland. According to the festival’s website, the BlackBox Shortfilm Festival invites international films in three categories: short film, art film and experimental film.

"[The festival] screens a bunch of avant-garde art and experimental film from around the world," Harding said. "I think every populated continent on the Earth is being represented in some way."

The festival takes place Sept. 23, and Harding is currently applying for a travel visa to see his film screened. He may not receive it in time.

The film was created with Adobe After Effects, taking original videos from YouTube and editing them to mold with a music base. The film depicts a column of fire between fans, spliced with firemen and a volcano, all matched up with a fast, electronic beat.

"The project was to create a time-manipulated dance," Harding said. "Basically you could manipulate time, whether the video plays in slow-motion or is sped up, or plays forward or in reverse. Then use that to create some sort of a dance using found footage."

The idea of combining music with film has been influential to Harding’s work, as it is also the basis of “American, 21,” a film Harding worked on with Lawrence musician, Mark Robinson.

“We put together this new album idea, EDM, kind of dance music, and I showed [Harding] a few [songs],” Robinson said.

Harding said over the summer he worked on his newest project titled “The Chase,” and hopes to premiere it at a festival in November. This project is one of many Harding plans to create while continuing his dream to become a filmmaker.

“My dad’s a pilot, my grandpa was a pilot, so obviously that was the road I was steered down,” Harding said. “But I felt like I would regret it if I didn’t try.”

Watch the film on YouTube: https://youtu.be/yl09tizGWhc
Recognitions and Accomplishments

KU Filmmaker Wins Top Award in the 2017 International Josiah Media Festival

-- PRESS RELEASE --

This year, the Josiah Media Festival will celebrate its 11th consecutive year as one of the world’s longest-running film festivals exclusively for young filmmakers 21 and under. Based in San Antonio, Texas, this festival has received increased international attention and participation each year.

During the 2017 call for entries, arts group URBAN-15 received over 1800 entries, 217 of which were eligible for adjudication by a panel of filmmakers and film critics. Out of these 217 films hailing from 38 countries, we have now selected the 54 best that will screen at this year’s festival. We are excited to announce that "Trippy Firedance" by Hunter Harding has won 1st place in our Experimental Film category. Harding is a student in KU’s Film and Media Studies department.

When Marcus and Nancy Neundorf met with URBAN-15 directors in 2007, no one could have envisioned that a memorial screening of films by their recently deceased son, Josiah Neundorf—a talented young media artist from San Antonio, Texas who succumbed to bone cancer in 2006—would evolve into an internationally-recognized film festival. Since its founding, young filmmakers participating in the Josiah Media Festival have gone on to receive acclaim at other film festivals worldwide, garner attention from national and international media, and begin thriving professional careers.

This year’s Josiah Media Festival will take place at the URBAN-15 Studio in San Antonio from Thursday, October 19 through Saturday, October 21st. We will screen the 54 selected entries, including twelve prize-winning films in four genre categories (animation, narrative, documentary, and experimental). An awards ceremony will follow the final screening, featuring live Skype conversations with winning filmmakers from around the world. Details on winners, tickets and times will follow in separate press releases.

Harding writes: As a spirited multi-medium artist, filmmaking has proven to be my preferred method of expression as it embodies all facets of art in one. From high-energy experimental film and music videos, to intimate narrative features, my projects aim to induce an entirely immersive experience for audiences.

Most of my work as an undergraduate film major at the University of Kansas has an emphasis on exploiting the relationship between the soundtrack and visual elements. Through rhythmic cutting and precise time manipulation, Trippy Firedance floods the frame with energy and reinvents multiple pieces of content into a single, synthesized spectacle.

Watch the film on YouTube: https://youtu.be/yl09tizGWhc
Summer Internship Report

By Cait Frisbie — Recipient of an FMS Out-of-State Internship Scholarship

This summer, I had the pleasure of interning with Interloper Films in Pasadena, California. Over the course of the summer I worked primarily in post-production, but also did some social media work.

To start out, I worked on pulling archival footage from the documentary, Brand: A Second Coming (2015). I then sent this footage to the financiers in London, who are using to promote a new documentary they will be filming with Russell Brand. This process took up several weeks of my internship.

Then, the CEO of Interloper, Ondi Timoner, assigned me to work on editing a rough cut of a film she had shot in 2011, but never had an opportunity to make into a final project. This project is called SendLove. While I am unable to give many details about this project, I can say that this was an eye-opening experience.

I spent weeks editing SendLove, trying to pick out the story. Ondi was in New York City all summer filming her new feature, Mapplethorpe, and none of the other people in the office had worked on the project. I spent a lot of time sorting through footage.

After weeks and weeks of sifting through footage and compiling the 46 hours of footage into a 45-minute documentary, I finally had a rough cut. Editing a 45 minute-long documentary is definitely different from editing the short films we make in class, but it was just as rewarding as any of the other projects I have done in the film department.

Towards the end of the summer, I moved away from editing and worked on transcribing interview footage and organizing dozens of binders containing camera logs for the TV show, Jungletown. I also worked with one of Jungletown’s associate producers, Kimberly Arcega, and started pulling footage for a documentary that Ondi will be making, based on the TV show Jungletown.

In addition to working on Brand: A Second Coming, SendLove, and Jungletown, I worked on different ways to promote Masterclass and Lean Content, two of the resources Interloper offers to aspiring filmmakers and content creators.

Even though I was only there for a summer, I learned a lot! I learned the importance of organization in the film industry, especially the organization of footage.

It’s also important to keep records, which Ondi is extremely good about. She has duplicates of everything for each office we work out of. Without having these records, we would have never found the bits and pieces of footage we needed to send to the Brand financiers in London.

The most important thing I learned all summer is that I am more passionate about film than I ever even imagined! You don’t know how much you truly love something until you totally immerse yourself in it. And the people you meet along the way really make a difference in your experience. If you surround yourself with amazing people, you can do amazing work. Those people are the ones who encourage you to finish the daunting task you have ahead of you and will cheer you on along the way. No matter how far away you are from them, they will be there for you. Even though I am back in Kansas now, I still keep in touch with the incredible people I worked with at Interloper and we keep each other informed of opportunities in the film industry.

With my last semester in the film department, I’m prepared to take more opportunities and make the most of my time here at KU. This internship has made all the difference because I know 100% that this is what I want to do for the rest of my life. Between what I have learned at KU and the experience I had this summer, I have the skills I need to succeed in this industry and I’m confident that I can do any project if I set my mind to it.
Over the course of this past summer, I was fortunate enough to intern at a creative advertising agency called EideCom located in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, about fifteen minutes away from downtown Minneapolis. Before my internship, the agency had worked with clients along the lines of Polaris, Mercedes AMG and Children’s Cancer Research Fund, to name a few. The agency specializes in audience experience on many levels of the advertising industry and in all aspects of the services they offer, such as commercials and live events.

Shortly after getting acquainted with all of the staff that I’d be working with for the summer, I was put to the unfamiliar work of researching and drafting up a capabilities deck, which is a marketing tool in the form of a handout that highlights all services that the agency offers to potential clients. I learned quickly that I enjoyed designing things and working to make something ordinary look naturally appealing to the human eye. I think working on a design-related project in my first weeks of the internship added a positive perspective to what I would be embarking on next.

In the coming weeks, everybody around the office was steadily preparing for one of the biggest commercial shoots they had ever done. Never before had I seen such an extensive pre-production process and I was nearly overwhelmed by how many revisions were cycled through before getting to the final drafts.

I was given various tasks around the office such as taking notes as well as slating shots on location scouts. I also assisted the head editor by animating still photos to look more dynamic via the method of parallaxing.

The actual production days were some of the most fun I’ve ever had, and I don’t think I’ve ever been more excited to wake up at four in the morning as I was on the first day. I worked alongside the creative director most days, helping him to keep consistent with the original storyboard. Later in production and on some other smaller shoots I was able to work as an assistant camera to the director of photography, a position I can see myself doing in the future. The concept of painting with light was very intriguing and I tried to absorb as much information on set as possible.

As the summer progressed, I started to notice that I was learning little things that you can’t always necessarily learn in school, such as certain film industry terms or how to act while on set. I learned about how each person on set plays different but equally important roles that contribute to the overall success of the final product. All of this has really helped me further understand the kind of roles I would like to play in my future career as a filmmaker or general content creator.

This internship and the opportunities it has provided for me have added to my knowledge of real-world experience. I not only feel more confident in my practices but also feel like I can teach others and share what I have learned. Above all, this internship has helped me significantly narrow down my decision on what I would like to do when I graduate, and for that I am very grateful.
Several FMS alumni and others from Kansas, including Joshua Nathan, Clint Spillers, Bryant Mudd, Jordan McNeile, Troy Hauschild, Grant Babbitt, Caleb Knueven, Marshall Wetta, Rebecca Basaure, and Allen “Fieldhouse” Sanders, are all “working on a little movie” together in Los Angeles. The film is a big budget major motion picture directed by a famous director who directed other well-known films and is based on a cult classic novel. It will be released in 2018. Right now it’s a Hollywood secret so we can’t divulge any more information.

Bryant Mudd, FMS BGS 2013, reports that he has been working as the director’s assistant on the upcoming movie The Mountain Between Us. Watch the trailer on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jyzGKXBOxA

Trevor Mowry, FMS BGS 2016, reports that he is working as a Motion Designer/Editor in the Office of Public Affairs right here at KU.

Patrick Clement, FMS BA 2015, reports that his film Rabbits was an Official Selection at the Free State Film Festival in Lawrence, June 27 - July 2.
Academic Calendar

August 21 - First day of classes
August 25 - Last day to add, change, or enroll online
September 4 - Labor Day Holiday - No classes, offices closed
September 18 - Last Day to Add or Swap a Class

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 counter in 230 Summerfield.

Sign-up for editing rooms by signing the edit room schedule posted on the editing room door (418b Summerfield). Pick up the key in the FMS office (230 Summerfield).

Check with your instructor or John McCluskey, Assistant Technical Director, for more information.

Follow us

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

Twiter: @KUFMS, @KUSchoolofArts, @KUCollege

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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