Director’s Chair

Dear Students, Alumni, Faculty, and Friends of FVS,

The year has flown by since I last wrote, and it has been a rich one in terms of honors, activities, and student success.

The first piece of excellent news came in December, when FVS was awarded a $9,000 ITaP grant for FVS Tier 1 Instructional Equipment. It was used to purchase cameras and other equipment that will make student films and other projects better and more convenient! Many thanks to Jason Doty and Bobby Chastain for identifying needs and helping put the information together.

Next, I am pleased to announce that FVS 261 and FVS 442, have been approved for inclusion as option courses on the Approved Course List for the Certificate in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program. I hope you will join me in congratulating instructors Jason Doty and Bobby Chastain for identifying needs and helping put the information together.

The ADDYs have a student category, but these students worked on the professional level alongside HMP. The students that were involved were: Matt Westbrook (Writer, Assistant Director), Katie Lennox (Writer), and Mollie Kuramoto (Writer).

This semester, Professor Beate Allert taught the very first World Cinema course. Other exciting things are in the works, and we will let you know when they are finalized.

Patricia Hart
Director of Film and Video Studies

FVSO News:

A lot of exciting things are happening in FVSO! We’ve been developing a web series that will be filmed in the style of the director of the week. FVS T-shirt order forms will be passed out at our next meeting. “Like” us on Facebook for more information. Our next few meetings will be 3/21, 4/4, and 4/18 in SC G60 from 5:30-6:30. Come join us!
Class Recommendations

“There are a lot of great history classes we get to take as film students. I would also advise other film students to get hands on experience. Ultimately, if you want to go out into the field, there are a lot of classes that will help with that. The Big Ten Production course and Digital Cinema 442 are great courses for this, live action web streaming sports and making your own mini movie. . . what could be better?”

-Jarom McLiver

Screenwriting

“This is a class geared towards learning how to properly format and write an actual full length feature film script. This class would be very helpful to anyone who is thinking of pursuing a career in writing for television or film. The reason I am taking the class again is to improve my skills and think of a new idea for a potential movie idea, which I could enter into a screenwriting contest.”

-Amanda Robertson

Big Ten Network

“BTN has been a whirlwind of experience. If you are looking for hands on knowledge and really diving into the world of camera production then this is the class for you. Bobby Chastain is the professor and you could not ask for a more knowledgeable one. He does a great job of instructing us and letting us take control of the games. Producing Purdue’s sports games has given me the opportunity to learn much more about film then most classes, and I have gotten the opportunity to network with real film crews as well. Nothing beats learning production like the ability to use all of the equipment, which is exactly what this class offers.”

-Nick Cipollina

Editing I

“This is a class that you need to dedicate time to . . . hours of time. It is a huge skill to learn and you can implement this into so many future projects. The class provides you with a necessary skill to be in film, and helps expand your creative abilities, as well as your film abilities.”

-Megan Cramer

History of Film

“This is a required class that you absolutely need an open mind for; the movies, and the teacher, challenge the way you not only look at a movie, but also at how you shoot your own movies. Absolutely read what is asked and underline what is important in the article, and watch the movies and make note of things that stick out; just these few things will help you gain a whole level of understanding with your movies.”

-Megan Cramer

Student Testimonial:

“Interning at the Hall of Music has been incredibly beneficial for my overall education and future career. I was immediately hired following the completion of a 13-week internship last year, and I’ve been offered the opportunity to continue working here after graduation. While working at the Hall, I’ve gained valuable experience in everything from pre-production to post-production. I’ve had the opportunity to film on shoots, work live events including sports, and have my videos shown to thousands of people at a time. I am very thankful that I get to work with an incredibly knowledgeable group of people, who are always available and happy to give advice and critique my work. It was with their guidance that I won first place in a film festival this past summer.”

-Katie Lennox

Katie has also just been honored as one of Purdue’s “5 Students Who . . .” for the month of April. Let’s give a big congrats to Katie!
Global War on Terror and the Movies
by Nick Cipollina

FVS 491, Global War on Terror (GWOT) and the Movies, continues the study of Terrorism already begun in Terrorism and the Movies. In that course Professor Ben Lawton asked us to consider, among other things, “What is Terrorism? How do you distinguish between a terrorist and a freedom fighter? How has Terrorism constructed in films ranging from Mel Gibbon’s The Passion of the Christ to Angelina Jolie’s In the Land of Blood and Honey.” He also challenged us to write a definition of Terrorism that could be adopted by the United Nations.

“The Global War on Terror and the Movies, Professor Lawton said, “will focus more narrowly on the movies made about the conflicts in Southwest Asia, from Iran, to Iraq, Somalia, and Afghanistan, and the events leading up to them starting with Ben Affleck’s Argo, both because, somewhat ironically, it just won the Academy Award for Best Picture and because it will offer the opportunity to analyze how the overthrow of Iranian Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddegh in 1953 generated “blowback” that has affected us for over 60 years.” He went on to add that the course might culminate with Zero Dark Thirty, not because that film signifies the end of the Global War on Terror, but because it marks the transition to a seemingly endless conflict without an identifiable objective.

When asked what he wants students to take away from the course, Professor Lawton’s response was “I’m really not sure. As you know, typically, I start a course with a number of questions which I discuss and debate with my students. Inevitably, the answers are not what I had thought they would be. Thanks to student brainstorming, they evolve inevitably over time. As usual, we will look at films (both fiction and non-fiction) in a somewhat historical chronological order and compare the ‘reality’ constructed by the films with what could and should have been known at the time and with what we can and should know now.”

He added that, “to the extent possible, I will include films from the “other” point of view. I am also very interested in studying how this war has affected American military personnel and their families and, of course, the peoples of the region: Iranians, Somalis, Saudis, Kuaitis, Iraqis and Afghans.”

The class will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30-1:20. Movie Screenings will be from 2:30-5:20 on Wednesdays. Next semester, Professor Lawton will also continue to teach Italian 330, Italian Cinema, one of the film courses that satisfies the aesthetics core requirement.

FVS 491: Possible Films

The Power of Nightmares: The Rise of the Politics of Fear
Blackhawk Down
The True Story of Blackhawk Down
Charlie Wilson’s War
Obsession
The Road to Guantanamo
Why We Fight
United Flight 93
Control Room
Fahrenheit 9/11
Gunner Palace
Team America
Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers
American Dreams
Ground Truth
Home of the Brave
Valley of the Wolves
War Tapes
World Trade Center
Body of War
Grace is Gone
No End in Sight
Redacted
Rendition
Taxi to the Dark Side
Standard Operating Procedure
Stop Loss
Where in the World Is Osama Bin Laden
Body of Lies
The Hurt Locker
Shadow Company
The Tillman Story
Act of Valor
Restrepo
Three Kings
Argo
Zero Dark Thirty

In August I finished my short film "Your Milkman" which I know Patty and Jason got a chance to read early drafts of. It didn’t turn out quite as planned, but it was one of the most fantastic educational experiences I’ve had in my short career and I was able to meet and work with some of the brightest up and coming talent and crew in Chicago which helped me grow tremendously. It was selected by three of the five festivals we entered it into and now we’re wanting to do a public online release of it . . . ”

See the rest of this story on the Purdue Film and Video Studies Facebook page! The FVS Alumni Yearbook is a way of cataloging where the Purdue FVS Alumni are and what they are currently doing. It will become an archive for current FVS students to see what careers are out there. FVS Alumni, please contribute your stories. Send a picture and your information to Allison Werner at werner4@purdue.edu. Current students, get your Alumni friends to send in their stories! This will be a great way to connect current students with FVS Alumni!

FVS Alumni Yearbook Feature

Daniel Skubal
Film Faculty Achievements

Beate Allert

Beate is currently teaching a new World Cinema Class (FVS 491), which 32 students are enrolled in.

Her published work since the fall newsletter is listed below.

“Trübe” as the Source of New Color Formation in Goethe’s Late Works Entoptische Farben (1817-1820) and Chromatik (1822)” in Goethe Yearbook GY 19 (2012): 29-47.


The book chapter, “Vom Augenblick zum Anblick: Herder und die Laokoöndebatte” was accepted for publication. This book chapter results from the paper which Beate Allert presented at the International Herder Society Conference in Castle Beuggen near Basel in Sept 2012.

Bobby Chastain

Bobby has been invited to participate in a panel at the annual conference of the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) this April titled: “The Feminine Mystique: Integrating and Encouraging Female Production Students in Live Student Sports Broadcasts.” He also served at BEA as reviewer for a documentary pre-production research competition.

In August, he became a Certified Professional Trainer for Avid Media Composer at the Pro level. He was already a Certified Trainer at the User level. Congratulations, Bobby!

Lance Duerfahrd


Patricia Hart


Jen William

Presentation: “A Cognitive Approach to the Life Story on Screen: Advantages and Limitations.” Presentation at CLA roundtable/symposium on the topic of (auto) biography, Purdue University, August 2012.
Students in Action

Below are students, Denver Bailey, Matt Westbrook, Olivia Andrus, Jack Klink, and Benjamin Mullin working during their internship at Hall of Music Productions. These past couple of months they have been working closely with Stephen Hall and Allison Werner on developing videos for Housing and Food Services. If you have a story, a short film, or pictures that you would like featured in future FVS Newsletters, please contact Patricia Hart or Benjamin Lawton.

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