

IN PRODUCTION

FOR STUDENTS, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF DODGE COLLEGE OF FILM AND MEDIA ARTS AT CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

FROM THE DEAN A NEW VENTURE LAUNCHED

The whirlwind of attention surrounding the launch of **Chapman Entertainment**, our new venture into feature film production, has been heady, to say the least. I have received phone calls and emails from alumni, industry people and Chapman friends from around the world. The level of interest bodes well for the success of the many next steps in moving this venture forward. I encourage interested individuals to contact **Travis Knox** at tknox@chapman.edu.

There have certainly been many other activities of note in recent months, including all eight of our students on the Expedition Documentary reaching the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro; our recent Women in Focus conference, skillfully moderated by the incredible **Dawn Hudson**, recently named CEO of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; and the many terrific pre-release screenings we have been able to bring to our students in Dodge through our friends at Fox Searchlight.

As I look back over the past year, one highlight that stands out was my trip to the Sundance Film Festival in January. I have been to Sundance many times, but had taken a break for a couple of years. Feeling that it was time to go back again and see how things had changed, I was immediately struck by a key difference — Chapman alumni were everywhere! Every time I came out of a film or visited an industry venue, I encountered another Chapman alum working in the business, including a number of PRA alumni. I was delighted to see and spend time with:

- **Ben York Jones**, '06 Film Production, who co-wrote the feature *Like Crazy* that sold for \$4M to Paramount and took the U.S. Dramatic Competition Grand Jury Prize
- **Mike Mohan**, '02 Film Production, whose short *Ex-Sex* screened at the festival (cinematography by Elisha Christian BFA '02)
- **Kathleen Remington**, '05 PRA, ICM
- **Cherish McDowell**, '06 PRA, Warner Bros. International Television Distribution
- **Nick Hines**, '99 PR, Access West Marketing
- **Christina Walton-Weston**, '09 PRA, a documentary producer, who worked as prop master on two features in the festival, *Circumstance* and *Sound of My Voice*
- **Ty Sanga**, '09 MFA, whose thesis film *Stones* screened at the festival (produced by Jessie Creel MFA '09, cinematography by Richie Yau MFA '09, editing by Dennis Alaniz MFA '09, production design by Sarah Pott MFA '09)
- **Raelyn Tepper**, '11 Film Production, working as an intern for Christina Walton-Weston

I came away from Sundance with the sense of the growing reach of our alumni in the business with each passing year. It's a trend I know will continue.



Chapman grad Travis Knox will manage Chapman Entertainment operations.

CHAPMAN ENTERTAINMENT IN THE NEWS: FEATURE FILM COMPANY OFFERS POST-GRAD EXPERIENCE

Newspapers, industry publications and websites from India to Argentina carried the news that Dodge College of Film and Media Arts was taking a giant step toward another first — the creation of a feature film production and distribution company named Chapman Entertainment. Although several other universities have tried similar ventures, none have been structured like the Chapman company, which will provide opportunities for Chapman alumni to play key creative roles in feature productions.

“The goal is to help our talented alumni transition into the business,” says Dean Bob Bassett. “Students in our program make short films, but short films are not the currency of the industry,” he explains. “Making a feature is a far more complex venture and yet it’s difficult for graduates to convince production companies or studios that they are ready to handle the size and scope of a feature production. We know and trust the talents of our alumni and so we have created Chapman Entertainment to give them feature opportunities earlier in their careers.”

Chapman Entertainment plans to produce five to ten films a year in the micro-budget range (\$250,000 – \$625,000) — films that combine standout literary material with star actors in both lead and supporting roles to ensure productions achieve premium artistic quality, with the strongest sales potential.

Films will be chosen primarily based on their appeal to a younger demographic that is more likely to embrace and access new media distribution channels. Funding will come from a combination of equity partners who will share in profits and donors whose philanthropy will support the educational mission and objectives of the post-graduate feature film experience. Dodge College will contribute facilities and equipment on a published rate basis factored into each film’s budget.

Accomplished producer **Travis Knox**, a 1993 Chapman grad, will oversee development, production and all day-to-day operations for Chapman Entertainment. Knox’s recent credits include Warner Bros.’ *The Bucket List* (Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman), and New Line Cinema’s *Hairspray* (John Travolta, Michelle Pfeiffer, Christopher Walken and Queen Latifah). Knox previously served as Executive Vice President of Feature Development at Storyline Entertainment.



VARIETY

The Hollywood Reporter

Los Angeles Times

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

indiatimes

SCREEN DAILY

ARGENTINA STAR

MALAYSIA SUN

DODGE COLLEGE STUDENTS RUN CITY'S TV CHANNEL

Dodge College students studying television now have a cable channel to call their own. Professor Pete Weitzner and a student team have begun managing two local cable channels for the City of Orange “Public Access” Channel 6 and “Government” Channel 3. Previously these channels were run by Time Warner. The new partnership strengthens Chapman’s ties to the local community, solves a logistical problem for the city, and provides students a unique outlet for their creativity — one that is guaranteed to reach more than 30,000 homes!

Chapman secured the rights to manage the local cable channels because a 2007 law allowed large cable providers to stop funding public television, forcing the city to shoulder all the costs of production, or lose the channel entirely. Luckily, Dodge College faculty were quick to answer President Doti’s call to assist Orange, and preserve the community’s right to the airwaves by managing the channel. As part of the deal, Chapman will receive a portion of the revenue generated by cable customers to help purchase equipment and cover channel expenses; in return, students tape local government and live events for Channel 3, and program broadcast content, including original student shows, every day for Channel 6.



Dodge students direct a broadcast for the City of Orange.

Chapman students now manage broadcasting city council and planning commission meetings and will tape several live events each year. Any concerns about staffing were happily lifted by the flood of students interested in participating in the project. “Producing Mayors’ Breakfasts may not be why students chose TV/Film as a profession,” says Weitzner of the opportunity, “but it’s a chance to produce important events that will be broadcast.”

CHAPMAN'S INTERNATIONAL REACH IN SPAIN



Dean Bob Bassett joined Chapman alumnus Don Zirpola '70 at the biannual conference of CILECT, the international association of film schools. Zirpola, a professor at Loyola Marymount University is president

of CILECT, which has 178 member schools in 56 countries. Several Dodge faculty attended the conference in Barcelona, Spain where, Dodge College Senior Associate Dean Dezso Magyar made a well-received presentation on directing.



▲ Trustee Professor Michael Phillips (*The Sting*, *Taxi Driver*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*) receives a poster from his favorite sci fi film signed by students in his Science Fiction in Cinema class. Phillips will be teaching a class on master director Arika Kurosawa in the fall. Phillips brought several guests, including director Robert Zemeckis, actor Richard Dreyfus and Academy Award®-winning visual effects supervisor Richard Edlund (*Star Wars*) to his class.

EXCEPTIONAL INDUSTRY ADJUNCTS RECOGNIZED

Chapman honors adjunct faculty who have made exceptional contributions to their field as trustee professors. Dodge College has been privileged to nominate and receive approval from the Board of Trustees to recognize several of its top adjunct faculty in this way. Honorees include Academy Award®-winning producer **Michael Phillips** (*The Sting*, *Taxi Driver*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*), production executive **Madeline Warren**, talent and literary agent **Harry Ufland** (clients include Robert DeNiro and Martin Scorsese), and artist and animator **Sheldon Borenstein**.

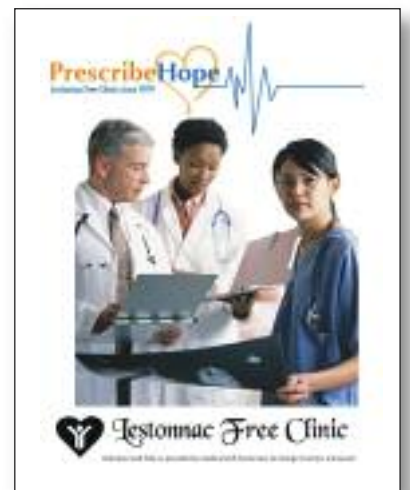
CHAPMAN PR DEVELOPS A PRESCRIPTION FOR CHANGE FOR LOCAL NON-PROFIT

Last fall, the Lestonnac Free Clinic, based right next door in Santa Ana, Calif., presented our PR students with a unique problem in the world of public relations: a surplus of customers.

In the case of this volunteer-run, non-profit medical clinic, a surplus of clients became a significant organizational challenge. On the heels of the 2008 economic collapse, an exodus from expensive medical insurers meant one thing for Lestonnac: a deluge of new customers, up 84 percent in one year.

As part of the *PR Campaigns* class, which focuses on students creating campaigns for local non-profits, the students who tackled Lestonnac’s problem decided to leverage the clinic’s guiding principle, volunteerism, to solve their overcrowding problem. The solution? To focus their efforts on recruiting more volunteer doctors, and specifically those who had recently retired from private practice. And so, the *Prescribe Hope* campaign was born.

Ed Gerber, the Lestonnac representative who worked with the students, was absolutely bowled over by the enthusiasm, creativity and obvious expertise of the Chapman students. He is currently implementing *all* of the team’s suggestions; the clinic’s publications already sport their redesigned logo, local hospitals now display posters advertising the clinic’s services, and a golf tournament designed to recruit local doctors went off without a hitch, bringing the clinic media coverage, as well as a much-needed cadre of new volunteer physicians.



FACULTY NOTES

Professor Ross Brown has just published *Byte-Sized Television: Create Your Own TV Series for the Internet*, a first-of-its-kind, step-by-step guide to writing, producing, editing and marketing your own original web series. Based on the groundbreaking *Byte-Sized Television* courses he created and teaches at Chapman, Professor Brown’s book shows the aspiring creator how to navigate the creative process just like the pros, giving readers the tools to take ideas and turn them into fully developed, polished web series.



Professor Adam Rote answers questions on the red carpet at the Atlantis Down premiere.

Professor Judy Kriger is completing a book on animated documentaries, *Animated Realism*, scheduled for publication by Focal Press next year. Her award-winning animated film *Souvenir* screened in the Jerusalem Cinematheque’s Yom HaShoah program in Israel in December.

Professor Adam Rote served as visual effects supervisor on the film *Atlantis Down*, an independent sci fi about bizarre occurrences on a space shuttle, which had a red carpet premiere at the Mann’s Chinese Theater in Hollywood on the opening day of the Los Angeles Italia 2011 Film Fashion and Art Festival. He also served as VFX supervisor on *Wreckage*, starring Aaron Paul from TV’s *Breaking Bad*.

Professor Jurg Walther filmed the “Wynton Marsalis and Eric Clapton Play the Blues” jazz concert at Lincoln Center in New York for broadcast on PBS. He also completed principal photography on a documentary about musician/record producer Jeff Lynne (Electric Light Orchestra, Traveling Wilburys), including interviews with Tom Petty, comedian Eric Idle (*Monty Python*), Sir Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr and Olivia Harrison.

CHALLENGES AT 19,000 FEET

DOCUMENTARIES

Having just hiked for 13 hours to reach the summit

of Mt. Kilimanjaro on five hours sleep, Liz Hartnett was exhausted. But as luck would have it, the group of eight Chapman students and two professors had descended to camp about five minutes before the 40 porters who made their trip possible. For Hartnett, a Television/Broadcast Journalism major focusing on documentary filmmaking, the moment was golden.

Rather than resting, she forced herself to go back to work — filming the porters setting up camp.

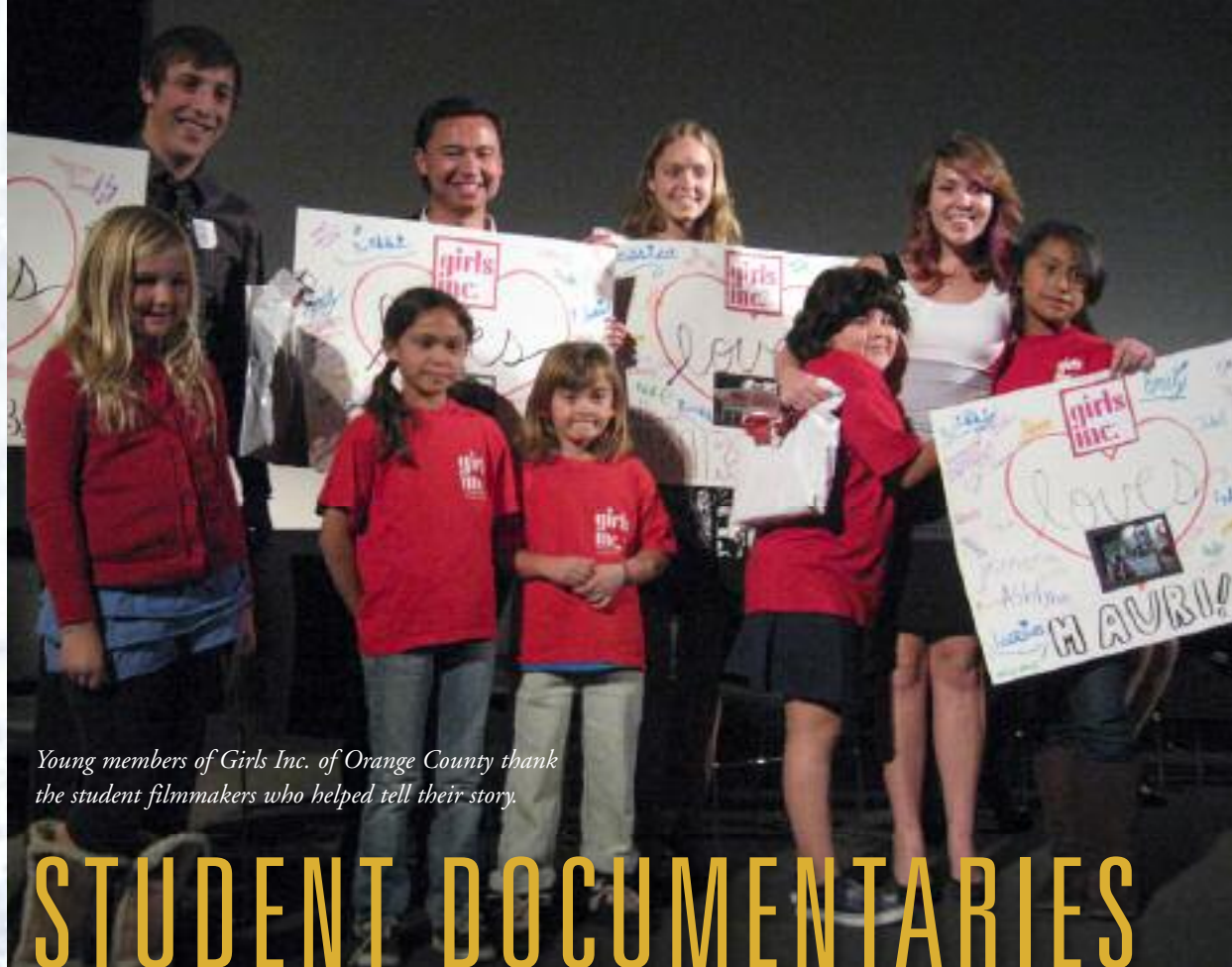
“At times when you could feel the altitude, and had been hiking for nine hours, it was difficult to film and focus on the film you were making,” she says. “I missed opportunities to get footage that I needed, but as the trip continued I was able to force myself to shoot even at my weakest moments.”

Like all of the students traveling with Professors Jeff Swimmer and Jurg Walther in the Expedition Documentary class, Hartnett was making a personal documentary on the subject of her choice. Her film profiles the lives and choices of the porters who make it possible for people like herself to have the experience of a lifetime at the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

The group is also completing a 3D film on their trip as part of growing opportunities to use 3D technology offered by Dodge College. Professor Swimmer found the “big, open, grand vistas” of the African landscape great elements for 3D filmmaking. The students used a new portable 3D camcorder on loan from Panasonic.

“Being physically taxed and staying focused on the film was really hard. With thin air, decision-making falters and heads get mushy,” says Swimmer. “But being at those high altitudes and the summit were exactly the times when we needed our brains to be firing on all cylinders so we could capture those indelible moments.” Or, as Hartnett puts it, “The trip challenged me both physically and mentally, but overall made me a better filmmaker and human being at the same time.”





Young members of Girls Inc. of Orange County thank the student filmmakers who helped tell their story.

STUDENT DOCUMENTARIES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

EXPLORING LOCAL ISSUES

"The documentary genre can and will make the world a better place," says Mauri Zingarelli (BFA/Film Prod. '12) one of the 15 students who participated in the Community Voices class last Fall. "I now know what I want to do with my life: I want to spread knowledge and power through documentary film."

Each semester Professor Sally Rubin selects non-profit organizations in Orange County about which students create short documentaries. "Community Voices helped me realize the awesome potential in combining entertainment and activism," adds Zingarelli. "In a more specific sense, it opened my eyes to the beauty of Orange County. That such selfless organizations exist here blew my mind. I am proud to say I live in Orange County, surrounded by so many generous and hardworking people."

Zingarelli was part of a team of four who documented Girls, Inc., a non-profit organization aimed at empowering young girls. Their documentary *Breaking Through* screened at the Newport Beach Film Festival.

The documentary *Mountain Man* screened at both Newport Beach and the prestigious Atlanta Film Festival. The film profiles Joel Robinson, founder of the non-profit organization Naturalist For You that takes community members on nature walks through the breathtaking scenery of Orange County's "unknown" canyons and waterfalls.

Two other documentaries made in the Community Voices class are screening in the Awareness Fest in Los Angeles this month: *Food For Thought*, which profiles the Second Harvest Food Bank in Irvine, and *She's My Superman*, about a women's shelter.

"There is nothing that drives learning more so than passion," says Ariel Fisher, co-director of *She's My Superman*. "Our group wanted to learn how to make this film creative and beautiful because we didn't want to let down the women at the shelter. This drove us to work harder than any grading system could."

TAKING ON INTERNATIONAL CAUSES

Travelling outside of Orange County, the Destination Africa class took 17 students to Botswana and Tanzania to profile NGOs in those countries. Led by award-winning documentarian and Professor Jeff Swimmer, the students created five short documentaries:

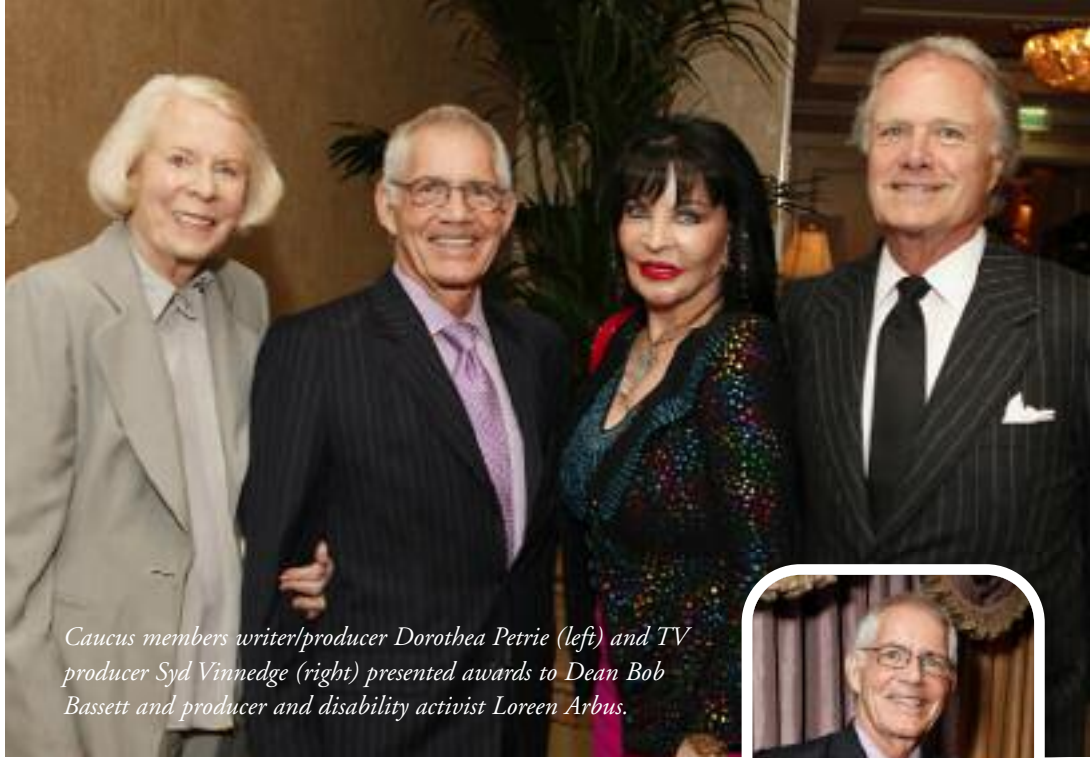
Lost and Found profiles the Hope Mission, which helps orphans and unwanted kids in Botswana leave their dangerous life on the streets and provides them with education and a stable home.

Positive to Positive tells the story of a young girl from Botswana who, upon learning of her HIV positive status, decides to join a youth dance and theater organization to share her story and educate and empower other youth.

The Stars Know Our Home profiles the organization known as The First People of the Kalahari, which advocates for the rights of the native San people who have been moved into relocation camps after having their homes and land in the Kalahari Desert taken away by the government of Botswana.

We Come From Jambiani documents the discrimination that disability groups face in Zanaibar as well as the extreme poverty that exists on the island.

"Filming a documentary was an amazing way to get to see how people in Tanzania really live and not just see tourist attractions," says Bobby Moser (BFA/TJB '12). "The trip created a burning desire inside me to help others through film," says Gregg Lillie (BFA/Film Prod. '12). "It showed me I have power with the camera; and it showed me that there are people out there who don't have the technology and resources to get help."



Caucus members writer/producer Dorothea Petrie (left) and TV producer Syd Vinnedge (right) presented awards to Dean Bob Bassett and producer and disability activist Loreen Arbus.

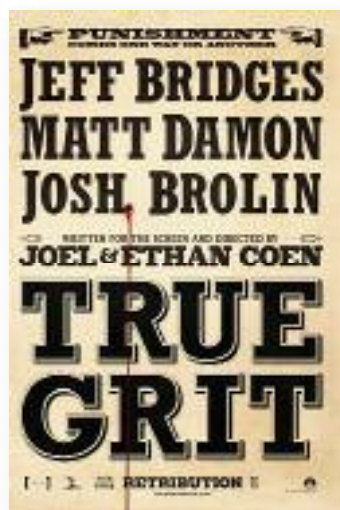


DEAN BOB BASSETT HONORED BY CAUCUS FOR PRODUCERS, WRITERS AND DIRECTORS

Surrounded by key community leaders from Orange County, including **Larry and Kristina Dodge** and Millennial Studios Campaign Chair **Paul Folino**, Dodge College Dean **Bob Bassett** was honored for his support of and commitment to the entertainment creative community with a Special Educator's Award at a gala dinner at the Beverly Hills Hotel in April.

The Caucus, which also provides grant support to student filmmakers (Chapman students have been recipients of these grants over the years), is described as the creative conscience of the television industry. The organization stands for better and more meaningful television, a mission shared by Dodge College. "We have a common aim, to make this society a better place through telling stories that change people's minds, change people's attitudes, and we're training the young people who will help do that," Bassett said on accepting the award.

Dean Bassett joins exclusive company in receiving this award; UCLA and USC deans were previous recipients.



PRE-RELEASE AND SPECIAL SCREENINGS BONUS FOR DODGE COLLEGE STUDENTS

Students who see as many films as possible enrich their filmmaking vocabulary. Having the opportunity to see pre-release screenings in the Folino Theater is a special perk for Dodge College students.

Students got a first look at Jeff Bridges and Hailee Steinfeld in the Coen brother's *True Grit*. Before the film, the audience got a look at Steinfeld's performance in what her mother said was her last student film, *She's A Fox*, directed by Dodge College student Cameron Sawyer. Clips from Sawyer's thesis film previously screened nationwide during a profile of Steinfeld, nominated for an Oscar for her performance in *True Grit*, on the CBS program *Sunday Morning*.

Other pre-release screenings, courtesy of Fox Searchlight, gave students the chance to follow Ed Helms to *Cedar Rapids*, watch Paul Giamatti wrestle with his conscience in *Win Win* and jump out of their seats during *Insidious*. Keep an eye on the Dodge website for upcoming screenings.

A special screening early this semester brought actor/director Tony Goldwyn and *Conviction* to the Folino stage. Classic film screenings included the newly restored *The Complete Metropolis* and *Jalsaghar*. Documentary screenings included *Dear Zachary* and *Inside Job*. As a final treat for our students before spring break we hosted a Scream-a-Thon. All three of the *Scream* films were shown back-to-back in the Folino Theater in advance of the release of *Scream 4*.

TRON SCREENING SHOWCASES BILL KROYER'S LEGACY

Months before it was released on DVD, students were treated to a screening of *TRON: Legacy* (2010) in full 3D. In addition to amazing action sequences and a pulse-pounding soundtrack from superstar duo Daft Punk, *TRON: Legacy* showcases some of the most impressive 3D animation ever put on film. Following the screening, Professor Bill Kroyer's guests from Digital Domain, the film's primary Visual Effects company, answered questions and explained how effects were designed and created. Professor Kroyer, who helped create the computer effects for the original *TRON*, provided a unique perspective on the evolution of the cult classic.

During the semester, students also heard from Pixar director **Ralph Eggleston** (*Toy Story*, *Ferngully*); **Richard Baneham** (*Lord of the Rings*), who explained the animation techniques used to create the Na'vi in *Avatar*; longtime directing team **Ron Clements** and **John Musker** (*Little Mermaid*), and **Simon Wells** (*Prince of Egypt*) who touched on his early start in *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*.

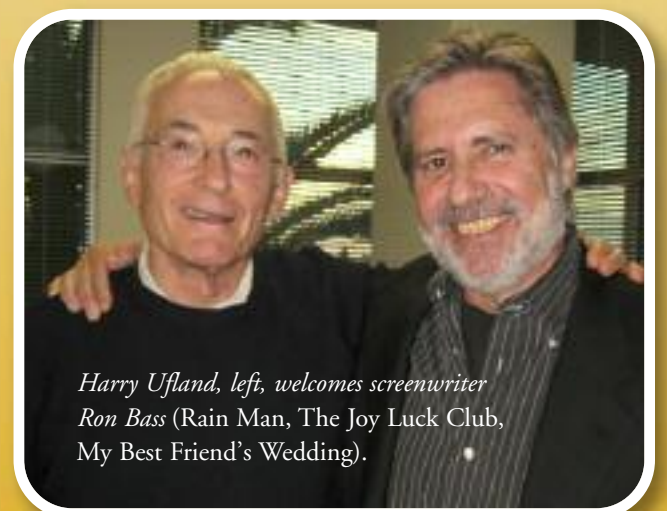


FINDING GREAT STORIES

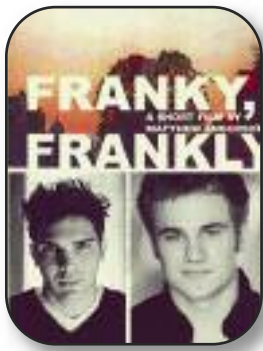
Finding a good book or article and negotiating the rights so that it can be adapted as a movie is a process students may dream of, but few understand. Enter agent **Harry Ufland** who has taken Dodge College students on a guided tour of the world of literary rights during the spring semester, accompanied by some of the biggest, most successful names in the business.

Among the guests visiting Ufland's Optioning Books for Film and TV class were **Alan Ladd Jr.**, former chairman of 20th Century Fox; writer **Scott Silver**, nominated for an Oscar for Best Screenplay for *The Fighter*; literary agent **Lynn Pleshette**, who in one year sold motion picture rights to *Cold Mountain*, *Broke Back Mountain* and *Memoirs of A Geisha*; and **Jocelyn Diaz**, the HBO executive who helped launch the new series *Game of Thrones*.

Ufland's goal is to help students "be clear and self-sufficient about the process and learn how to build relationships with young agents, subsidiary rights people etc." In addition to learning how to find and identify commercial literary properties, Ufland asked his students to research publishing companies and create a contact book including all of the information gathered in the class as a resource.



Harry Ufland, left, welcomes screenwriter Ron Bass (*Rain Man*, *The Joy Luck Club*, *My Best Friend's Wedding*).



Matthew Anderson (BFA/Film Prod. '10) is currently in post-production on a short film titled *Franky, Frankly* starring **Mikandrew Perdaris** (BFA/Screen Acting '11), Allan Hyde (Godric of *True Blood*) and Bella Dayne. The film was written, directed

and edited by Anderson, produced by **Kevin Slee**'s (BFA/Film Prod. '11) company Artistic Analogies, shot by **Jordan Black** (BFA/Film Prod. '11) and co-edited by **Craig Orsland** (BFA/Film Prod. '11). The film follows a young man over the course of a night, drifting between relationships, as he comes to the realization that he is still a child and needs to grow up.



▲ **Nathaniel Atcheson** (MFA/FP '08) will be premiering his film *Dead Herring* in May 2011. Atcheson wrote and directed the film with fellow alumni in other key roles. **M. Elizabeth Hughes** (MFA/FP '08) produced with **Benjamin Kantor** (MFA/FP '08) serving as cinematographer. *Dead Herring* is about six friends who are called together under the guise of an emergency, only to find themselves at the center of an elaborate scheme concocted by a mysterious mastermind who threatens to kill them if they do not obey his instructions.

Gavin Carlton's (BFA/Film Prod '00) short independent film *Chum* has screened at the LA Shorts Fest, Anaheim, Cleveland, and Seattle Film Festivals.

Benjamin Dynice's (BFA/Film Prod. '03) independent short film *Nowhere Road* (written by **Ryan Parrott** BFA '03) screened at the San Luis Obispo Film Festival and Santa Catalina Film Festival.

Carlos Lopez Estrada's (BFA/Film Prod. '11) independent music video of the song "Groove Me" for the band Maximum Balloon screened at the SXSW Film Festival in Austin, Texas.

Todd Croak-Falen (BFA/Film & TV Prod. '02) is currently working as a receptionist at Sundance Institute.



Paul J. Higgins (BFA/TV Prod. '85), President of Athletes In Motion Sports Television, has joined PBS So Cal/KOCE as the Sports Producer/Anchor and will appear six times a week on *Real Orange* airing throughout the Southern California

television market. Higgins will cover professional, college, high school and youth sports with a positive and entertaining approach. In addition, he continues to expand programming on www.aimsports.tv and works with the ESPN Sports Networks producing and hosting. Higgins will be in Shanghai China to host the KIA X Games for the sixth consecutive year and will continue his coverage of PAC-10 football in the fall with ESPNU. Higgins and his wife are expecting their fifth child in August.

Casey Kasprzyk (BFA/Film & TV Prod. '01) is currently a producer on the Emmy award-winning daytime series *The Bold and the Beautiful*.

Andrew Kilcoin (MFA/Film Prod. '07) edited a feature documentary entitled *Shakespeare High* that screened at this year's Tribeca Film Festival. The film stars Kevin Spacey, Mare Winningham, Richard Dreyfus, and Val Kilmer. www.tribecafilm.com

Jillian Lynes (BFA/Film Prod. '09) has been working in the post-production world since January 2010. She loves her position as Vault Coordinator at New Hat, a boutique color correction and telecine facility in Santa Monica (newhat.tv). It is there she has been able to learn the technical side of post-everything from film cleaning and scanning to



navigating tape decks, as well as sharpening her Final Cut skills (for audio syncing and reel creating) to go with her Avid skills learned at Chapman. Prior to life at New Hat, Lynes worked as a marketing specialist for World Wide Motion Pictures helping ensure that independent foreign films have a voice here in the United States. (wwmpc.com). She also helped with art direction on fellow Chapman alum S. Mohen's feature film *True Perfection*, a mockumentary-style film about love, life, and fashion that wrapped in January. (trueperfectionfilm.com)



▲ **Andi Hamamoto Kowal** (Film Production '05, MBA '07) graduated from AFI's Producing Program in 2009, where she was the beneficiary of the HP scholarship award. Her thesis film *Eggbaby* was accepted into festivals including Berlin Asian Film Festival, Hawai'i International, Newport Beach, Los Angeles Asian, San Diego Asian, and the Seoul International film festivals. Since graduation, Hamamoto Kowal enjoyed a stint as a relationships writer for AOL and is finishing up a few film projects, including *Grey Matter* based on a Stephen King short story and a documentary on the consumer behavior of stay-at-home and single dads. She also moonlights as a professional photographer, working mainly on political campaigns, and teaches film theory at a Santa Monica area charter school. She volunteers her time to raise money for cancer research. In August of 2007, Andi married fellow Chapman grad, Tim Kowal (Law '09). They are expecting their first child, a girl, in July.

Jeff D. McCoy (BFA/Film & Television '03) was the camera operator on a feature film, *Love*, that screened at the Santa Barbara Film Festival, selling out the majority of its shows, including an additional showing that was added to accommodate interest. McCoy recently returned from Dubai, where he worked as the

ALUMNI SHARE CAREER INSIGHTS WITH SOON-TO-BE-GRADS

Some 40 alumni from across the entertainment industry in film, TV, marketing, and broadcast sat down as table hosts with more than 100 graduating seniors at the second annual Dodge College College to Career Night in March at La Vida Lounge in Los Angeles.

The alumni were invited to share their insights and firsthand knowledge of how to prepare for life after college at the event, which is organized like speed dating: each student gets to speak with several alumni, moving from table to table during the event.

"It was incredibly inspiring to see and meet so many Dodge alumni in such important and influential positions in the industry," says Kai de Mello-Folsom, who graduates this May. "It was heartening to see all of these successful people who have just gone out there and done it in literally all different parts of the industry. There was no 'typical' career path; each of these alumni seemed to have blazed their own way through. Every single person I met was so friendly, and so ready to help out a fellow, or soon-to-be, alum."

Some 200 alumni attended the Spring Alumni Mixer that followed the Career Night.



▲ (L-r) **Sinan Kanatsiz** ('97, COM/PR), Chairman and CEO of KCOMM, Inc., and his wife Kai, welcomed Kristina, Laurenz and Larry Dodge to the Anaheim International Film Festival, which Kanatsiz spearheaded and where the Dodges were honored. Some 5,000 people attended the festival, which screened 127 films.



◀ **Marc Messenger** ('86, Com/Film), (left) and his producer Phillip Hillenbrand of Blizzard Entertainment accept the award for Outstanding Visual Effects in a Video Game Trailer for the cinematic for World of Warcraft: Cataclysm given by the Visual Effects Society.

FESTIVAL SUCCESSES

first camera assistant on a television commercial series for Mercedes Benz, starring Roger Federer. This year he is merging his company McCoy Film Production with Victor Huber Photography to form a new company that specializes in both still photography and live-action production. They are looking for new office space in the Santa Monica area and plan to close their studio in Irvine.

Emily McGregor (BFA/Film Prod. '08) is the VP of production at Comediva.com, a new comedy site that's a one-stop shop "for a girl to get her giggle on." McGregor is in charge of overseeing all the video content production and acquisition and had an integral role in the design of the site. She also directed the web series "The Divas" and many of their promotional materials.

Holly Miller (BA/PRA '06) has recently transitioned within Local.com into an account management role. She works with a team managing Local.com's suite of network products, which consist of the company's private label local search platform and syndication network of over 1,000+ regional media (print, radio and broadcast) sites. Miller is also a competitive ballroom dancer and attends competitions all over the U.S. She competes with her partner in the International Standard 5-dance category dancing the waltz, tango, foxtrot, Viennese waltz and quickstep. Miller has a focus on entertainment marketing/PR and would like to extend her services to film students seeking to develop an integrated marketing campaign or promotional launch strategy for their film.

Noelle Novoa (BFA/PRA. '06), previously the communications coordinator at Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, has joined the Competitor Group in San Diego as an event coordinator. She will be managing Rock and Roll Marathons in cities across the United States, including Miami this fall.

Matthew J. O'Neill's (MFA/Screenwriting '05) spec script "Bait and Switch" was recently acquired by Universal Pictures to be developed as a possible starring vehicle for Mark Wahlberg, who will also serve as producer.



▲ **Kanarose Oonhateparuk** (MFA/Producing '08) had her script "The Given" selected for the Film Expo Asia Bangkok 2010 and was invited to make the film in Bangkok, Thailand. Recently, she opened a new restaurant featuring international cuisine, Kala Eatery, in Gardena, Calif., which also offers catering for film productions.

Andrew Putschoegl's (BFA/Film Prod '01) independent short *Hello Caller* won the Theatrical Distribution Offer award at the 2011 Slamdance Film Festival. It also screened at Cinequest, SXSW, Newport Beach, and the Vail Film Festivals.

Justin Simien (BFA/Film Prod. '05) recently started with Sony Pictures Entertainment as Social Media Manager for Crackle.com.

Justina Turner (BFA/Film Prod. '99) started her own production company, Asta Forever Films in her hometown of Huntington Beach with some of her friends. Launched in May 2010, Asta Forever Films specializes in web commercials, music videos, live bands, and special events. The Asta team has also written and completed an entire first season for a web series that launched on YouTube in March. *Room For Shenanigans* is a contemporary sitcom which deals with legitimate life situations with plenty of physical comedy and outrageous scenarios.

Mian Adnan Ahmad (MFA/Film Prod. '09) *Heal*: Audience Award at Beijing Student (China), Audience Award at Sacramento; Best Film and Cinematography Award at Hatchfest, Best Student Film at Victoria Film Festival (Canada), Frank Capra Award at Fallbrook; Amelia Island, Bend, Big Bear, Foyle (U.K), Newport Beach, Reynolda, Rhode Island, San Diego Asian, Tiburon, Treasure Coast.

Joseph Albanese (MFA/Film Prod. '09) *Clemency*: Best Horror Thriller at Int'l Student Hollywood, Best Short at Indie Gathering; Amelia Island, Atlantic City, Beloit, Big Bear, Brantford, Chicago Horror, Dam Short, Estes Park, Eugene, Flagstaff, Hell's Half Mile, L'Etrange (France), Naperville, New Orleans, Oklahoma Horror, Orlando, Other Venice, Route 66, Sacramento, SoCal Independent, Starz Denver.

Renee Baltzen (MFA/Film Prod. '09) *Gringo Loco*: Audience Award at Show Me Social Justice; Award of Merit at Los Angeles Cinema; Central Florida, Columbia Gorge, Los Angeles Women, Tiburon, Wisconsin.

Mike Bernstein (MFA/Film Prod. '10) *Chill Pill*: Best Screenplay Award at Hatchfest; Dam Short, DeadCenter, Ivy, Kansas City, Litchfield Hills, St. Louis Int'l., Tallahassee. *Royalty Free*: Downtown LA, Other Venice, Raindance, Red Rock, Temecula, Young Cuts.

Rachel Berry (BFA/Film Prod. '10) *Puck*: Chicago Int'l Children, Sedona Int'l.

Matt Brailey (MFA/Film Prod. '11) *Long Live the Duke*: Amelia Island, Port Townsend, Young Cuts.

Jon Byron (MFA/Film Prod. '11) *Perspective*: Best Student Film at Beaufort; Dam Short, Fort Myers, Int'l Family, Phoenix, SENE Film.

Daniel Dalimonte (MFA/Film Prod. '10) *The Haymaker*: Bermuda Int'l, Big Island, DeadCenter, Fallbrook, Kansas City, Litchfield Hills, Newport Beach, San Luis Obispo, Starz Denver, Treasure Coast, Vail.

Eric Day (BFA/Film Prod. '10) *The Unnatural*: Honorable Mention at Utopia; Fallbrook, Fantastic Planet (Australia).

Nick Erickson (BFA/Film Prod. '10) *Palm County*: Best Action Film at Int'l Student Hollywood; Action on Film.

Brian Faye (MFA/Film Prod. '10) *Jeremy*: Triumph of Spirit Award at Angelus; Best Actor Award at Bend, Best Student Film at Lake Arrowhead; Bahamas, Charleston, Fallbrook, Heartland, Int'l Family, Mammoth, Newport Beach, Phoenix, Riverside, San Luis Obispo.

Christopher Fernandez (MFA/Film Prod. '10) *Andre*: Award of Merit at Los Angeles Cinema; Best Suspense Thriller at Int'l Student Hollywood; Buffalo Niagara, Dam Short, DC Shorts, DeadCenter, Kansas City, LA Shorts, Sacramento; *Beneath*: DeadCenter.

Ori Guendelman (BFA/Film Prod. '11) *King Eternal*: Durango, Fallbrook, Kansas City, Newport Beach, NFFTY, Seattle Sci Fi & Fantasy, Sedona Int'l, Treasure Coast, Vancouver Int'l.

Nadia Hamzeh (MFA/Film Prod. '09) *Fiasco*: Amelia Island, Doha Tribeca (Qatar), Contravision (Germany), Mediterranean Comedy (Tunisia), Munich Int'l Student (Germany), Newport Beach, Treasure Coast.

Amy Kernan (MFA/Film Prod. '10) *Fig Season*: Best Narrative Short at South Dakota; Int'l Family,

Sedona Int'l. *The Things You Lose in the Ocean*: Jury Prize at South Dakota; Harlem Int'l.

Lucien Knotter (MFA/Film Prod. '11) *Abduct Me!*: Siouxland, Worldwide Shorts (Canada).

Garance Meillon (BFA/Film Prod. '10) *Violets Are Blue*: LA Femme, LA Shorts.

Michael Moore (BFA/Film Prod. '10) *Bait*: Best Student Animation at Durango, Best Animation at Sedona Int'l, Audience Award at SENE Film; Anaheim Int'l, Bermuda Int'l, Big Island, Charleston, Chicago Int'l Children, Dam Short, Fallbrook, Kansas City, Lake Arrowhead, LA Comedy, Nantucket, Newport Beach, NFFTY, Phoenix, Riverside, Sarasota, Sunscreen, Tupelo, WestChester.

James Nguyen (BFA/Film Prod. '10) *Beard the Lion*: Grand Prize (Asian category) in DGA Student Film Awards, **Regional Finalist in Student Academy Awards**; St. Louis Int'l.

Zac Petrillo (MFA/Film Prod. '10) *Between the Shadows*: Best Drama at Int'l Student Hollywood, Director's Choice Award at Angelus; Bare Bones, Bend, DC Independent, Durango, Kerry (Ireland), LA Shorts, Reynolda, St. Louis Int'l.

Ammar Rasool (MFA/Film Prod. '10) *Kingdom's End*: LA Shorts, Plus Camerimage (Poland).

Jocelyn R.C. (BFA/Film Prod. '11) *Pocket Elephant*: **Regional Finalist in Student Academy Awards**; NFFTY.

Grant Reed (BFA/Film Prod. '11) *Yes Man*: Anaheim Int'l, Atlanta, Cleveland Int'l, Connecticut LGBT, Honolulu Rainbow, Provincetown, St. Louis Q Fest, Victoria (Canada).

Malachi Rempen (BFA/Film Prod. '09) *La Nina del Desierto*: Best Short Film at Foursite; Best Drama Short Film at Reno; Burbank, Port Townsend, Temecula.

Ty Sanga (MFA/Film Prod. '09) *Stones*: All Roads, Fallbrook, ImagineNative, Los Angeles Asian Pacific, Newport Beach, Seattle Int'l, **Sundance**.

Cameron Sawyer (MFA/Film Prod. '09) *She's A Fox*: Audience Award Best Short Film at Sacramento, Audience Award at Siouxland, Best Student Film at Pune Int'l (India), Best Children Comedy at Int'l Student Hollywood; Amelia Island, Dam Short, IndieLisboa (Portugal), Lake Arrowhead, Ojai, Port Townsend, Red Rock, Rehoboth Beach, Sacramento, Tallahassee, Treasure Coast, Tupelo.

Michael Sasso (BFA/Film Prod. '10) *Nimble Digits*: Sunscreen, Victoria (Canada).

Taylor Sella (BFA/Film Prod. '10) *The Real Deal*: DeadCenter, Newport Beach, Young Cuts.

James Sweeney (BFA/Film Prod. '12) *The First*: Athens, Atlanta, NFFTY, San Francisco LGBT.

Jonathan Thompson (MFA/Film Prod. '11) *Mercy Grace and Crabmeat*: Honorable Mention at Dam Short; Florida, Newport Beach, Sacramento.

Megan Weaver (MFA/Film Prod. '09) *Without Wings*: Int'l Family, Lake Arrowhead.

Ora Yashar (MFA/Film Prod. '09) *Melting the Snowman*: Best Comedy at Int'l Student Hollywood; Poppy Jasper, Sacramento, Tallahassee, Temecula, Treasure Coast.

Nicole Zwiren (MFA/Film Prod. '10) *The Death of AIDS*: Award of Excellence at Awareness Fest, Best Documentary at Int'l Student Hollywood.

Dawn Hudson

Susan Cartsonis

Shana Feste

Mary Lambert

Cathy Schulman

Nancy Utley

Rebecca Yeldham



INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS DISCUSS WOMEN'S CHALLENGES

Exploring the challenges women face in the film industry, panelists at the 2011 Women in Focus conference discussed the strengths of not having “egos bigger than the task at hand” and the problems of “forgetting to fight for ourselves” in the process of fighting for the movie and the other artists with whom they work.

Moderator **Dawn Hudson**, executive director of Film Independent, and six women filmmakers spent the afternoon in Folino Theater examining independent filmmaking. Producer **Susan Cartsonis** (*Beastly, What Women Want*); writer/director **Shana Feste** (*Country Strong, The Greatest, Jonah*); director **Mary Lambert** (*Pet Sematary, Pet Sematary II*); Academy Award® winning producer and President of Mandalay Pictures **Cathy Schulman** (*The Illusionist, Crash, Employee of the Month*); Fox Searchlight Pictures President **Nancy Utley** (*127 Hours, Black Swan*); and producer and Los Angeles Film Festival Director **Rebecca Yeldham** (*The Kite Runner, Anvil! The Story of Anvil; executive producer Motorcycle Diaries*) shared their trials and triumphs. The conversation took place within larger context of the collapse of the economic model that sustained the studios for many years. Highlights of the conversation:



Shana Feste: A six-year-old boy who approached her on the set asked her to introduce him to the director. His response to the news that she was the director? “No, you’re not” — a fact that, at the age of six, he found impossible to believe.

Mary Lambert: “Say what you want to say, not what others want you to say. Your body of work is your voice. Think about what you want to say in your life.”

Cathy Schulman gave an overview of the digital shift facing the industry. “The business doesn’t make economic make sense right now,” but recognition of transmedia is vital — a movie may not be the most valuable piece of a project that starts as a comic book or anime and exists in many forms.

Advice for future filmmakers? Do your job like you’re not afraid to be fired. Don’t think about being a woman. Self-marketing involves gathering a community around a film and letting them push the film out. Keep control of your project by writing your own material. Listen to your own truth.

The event was sponsored by Twyla Martin, Bonny Schumacher and Harriet Sandhu.

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Dodge alum Ben York Jones (left) sells film at Sundance (see p. 1).



BASSETT AND KROYER KEYNOTE AT ANIMATION CONFERENCE IN BEIJING

The global reach of the entertainment industry was clearly apparent as Dodge College Dean Bob Bassett and Director of Digital Arts, Professor Bill Kroyer stood with Chinese colleagues for the opening of the 2010 Beijing International Conference on Animation Education. Invited to Tsinghua University in Beijing, Dean Bassett and Professor Kroyer addressed “Teaching Classical Storytelling in the Digital Age: The Challenge of Educating the Millennial Student.”

Professor Kroyer found their Chinese hosts “extremely interested in being involved in the world film community,” although he noted that questions of what films to let in and what to send out may prove a touchy question for the Chinese government. Although *Avatar* enjoyed a \$200+ million box office in China, second only to its U.S. box office, few Chinese films are available abroad and few U.S. films are allowed to enter China. Dean Bassett reiterated the value of the global reach of film in providing opportunities for cross-cultural understanding. “We need to hear each other’s voices,” he remarked in his speech.

The conference addressed a wide-range of topics — from motion capture to animation sound — all pertinent to a growing animation industry in China.

Prior to their arrival in Beijing, Dean Bassett and Professor Kroyer also visited Dongseo University in Busan, Korea, a partner school of Dodge College. Professor Kroyer shared his experiences in making the pioneering computer-animation/live action film *Tron* with a rapt audience there.