The rhythms of the academic life continue to provide excitement and refreshment with each passing season. We finished the school year with a whirlwind of activities.

I was delighted to find a great many Chapman alumni such as Katelyn Lieber working at the Cannes Film Festival when I visited in May — proof positive that not only do our alumni get interesting and challenging jobs, but that our alumni are broadening our international connections through jobs with international companies and national film commissions.

Graduation brought our great friend Steve Mosko, president of Sony Television, to campus as a most practical yet inspirational commencement speaker (see article in this issue). The summer months were filled with exchanges and expeditions as our students traveled to Ghana, Korea and Taiwan and we hosted students from Singapore and Thailand as well as launching our first summer filmmaking camp for high school students to great success. Thirty young people from all over spent two weeks on campus getting their hands dirty making films and taking part in a variety of workshops and trips to Hollywood.

One bittersweet moment during the summer was our goodbye party for Vicki Bunkley, our invaluable master of all the details of schedules, contracts and so much more that have made this school work for more than two decades. As the very first employee I hired, Vicki has been by my side through thick and thin and will be sorely missed.

The fall semester is underway with great excitement as we welcome the very accomplished actress/director Betty Thomas as our Filmmaker-in-Residence. She has wealth of experience to share with our students. I think students will be excited by the tremendous classes being put together by our amazing adjuncts. Producer Michael Phillips (Taxi Driver, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, The Sting) is teaching a class on the films of Kurasawa, and Harry Ufland (producer, Crazy Beautiful, One True Thing; longtime agent for Martin Scorsese and Robert DeNiro), is bringing an all-star roster of talent, such as Amy Pascal and Roger Birnbaum, to his Success in Media class.

It’s going to be a great year. Stay tuned!

FROM HOLLYWOOD HEAVYWEIGHTS

Trusted Professor Harry Ufland knows how to get students’ attention. Last semester he taught enthusiastic students from a variety of majors how to “Option Books in Film and TV.”

A distinguished producer and talent agent himself, having representing clients such as Martin Scorsese, Robert De Niro, Jodie Foster, Harvey Keitel, and Ridley and Tony Scott, this term Ufland is teaching Success in Media and bringing in some of the most successful people in the industry to share their perspectives on the industry today.

Guests so far have included Roger Birnbaum (owner, Spyglass Entertainment; co-CEO and co-chairman, MGM), Amy Pascal (co-chair, Sony Pictures Entertainment, chair, Columbia TriStar), Howard Weitzman (attorney for clients including Marlon Brando, Michael Jackson, O.J. Simpson and many more), Skip Brittenham (attorney for clients including stars and studio execs, from Tom Hanks to Tom Rothman, from to Oprah to Bob Shaye and Ridley Scott), and Jeff Berg, chairman and CEO of International Creative Management, talent agency for some of the biggest names in the business.

ADVICE ON CAREERS:

• “You’ve got to have a point-of-view, an opinion, a perspective. And you’ve got to be able to articulate, share, and sell that point-of-view.” Birnbaum
• “Never let your ego matter more than your ambition.” Pascal
• “If you don’t understand the financial architecture on which industries reside, you won’t benefit from your own work.” Berg

THOUGHTS ON THE CHANGING NATURE OF THE BUSINESS:

• “If you don’t know how you’re going to market your movie going in, you won’t know coming out.” Pascal
• “People can smell a dog (a terrible movie). There’s too much access. Everybody knows everything.” Pascal
• “You’ll see bigger hits, but the middle and bottom will get crushed.” Brittenham
• “If you’re doing it the way you’ve always done it, you’re dead.” Brittenham
• “The traditional media/entertainment business is smaller, but there are more people working in non-traditional jobs.” Berg
• “There is opportunity coming out of chaos.” Berg
TRACKING TRENDS
IN DIGITAL ARTS EDUCATION

The dramatic impact of technology on education was the dominant theme of the Annual Educators’ Symposium, hosted each year by Dreamworks Animation at the annual SIGGRAPH computer graphics conference.

Widely recognized as an expert on both the animation/visual effects industry and digital arts education, Professor Bill Kroyer, director of Chapman’s digital arts program, was a panelist at the symposium held in August in Vancouver, Canada.

The invitation-only conference brings together the top sixty educators from the world’s leading universities, art and film academies to discuss recent trends and innovations in both education and the professional industries they work with.

Kroyer reports these conference “take-aways”:

- To stay relevant and effective, the modern educator must spend as much or more time focusing upward and outward, to both administration and professional interests, as “downward” to students.

- Ironically, today’s students are advised to “network sideways” to their fellow students, who have a much higher probability of keeping them informed of new trends and connecting them to employment opportunities.

Kroyer also attended panels asking how education can serve students in their careers. With many students able to master “click and drag” learning on their own, the university must serve them better by creating opportunities for real-world collaborative creative experiences, the “Hollywood Animation Educator’s Forum panel concluded.

At What Industry Needs New Graduates to Know, industry professionals explained that the hiring paradigm has completely flipped in the last few years. Where a “generalist’s knowledge” of many skills was once considered most desirable — with the assumption that the new worker could be taught specialization — the current trend is to seek specialization in a skill that will allow the new worker to step immediately into a production role.

“The ironic assumption is that the specialist will absorb the broader skills of a generalist and then offer that extra value to the employer,” Kroyer says.

SONY PRESIDENT ADVISES GRADS

As President of Sony Pictures Television, Steve Mosko oversees the development and marketing of programming that reaches more than 430 million households worldwide.

In May, he shared his life experiences and advice with the graduates in both Orange and — via the Internet — in Singapore at Dodge College’s commencement ceremonies.

Mosko, who was once turned down for an internship by a station that he later bought, advised the graduates to “Have a plan” and “Chase your dreams.” Recognizing the story of how he was rejected for an internship because of his “C” average grades, Mosko recounted that as a corporate executive his philosophy of hiring interns revolves around finding people who are passionate about working in the business, not about grades.

Another highlight of the ceremony was the “speech” presented by Dodge College student Jessica Pauletto (BA/PFA ‘10) recipient of the Chevronnet Award, the highest honor at Chapman given annually to the outstanding graduating senior. Pauletto sang her remarks a cappella. As one faculty member commented on her performance, “Aretha Franklin would have been proud.”

DIRECTOR BETTY THOMAS NAMED FALL 2011 FILMMAKER-IN-RESIDENCE

Director Betty Thomas (Dr. Doolittle, John Tucker Must Die, Ready Bumch Movie and I Spy) is mentoring students and screening her work as the O. L. Hallev Film-in-Residence for the fall semester.

“We are thrilled to have one of the most commercially successful women directors in the world here to work with our students,” says Dean Bob Bassett. “Her incredible filmography, which includes acting, directing and producing, gives her depth of experience that our students will find fascinating.”

Although she studied painting in college, a dare led Thomas to attend improv workshops that eventually led to Chicago’s Second City improv troupe, where she performed with other then unknown actors such as Bill Murray and John Candy.

Moving to LA to open a Second City theater, she did a five-line audition for Hill Street Blues, “that changed my life.” Her breakthrough role as police officer Lucy Bates earned her six Emmy nominations and one win for best supporting actress in a drama.

When the show ended in 1987, Thomas returned to The Second City in Chicago where she directed the next show, starring Bonnie Hunt and Mike Meyers, eventually leading to her first TV directing job on Hoagerman. After a few years of directing TV and winning an Emmy for a Dream On episode, she directed her first movie, Only You, an indie film starring Adam McCarthy and Helen Hunt.

Thomas’ filmography also includes directing Alex in the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel, The Late Shift, and many TV shows as well as producing Can’t Hardly Wait, both Charlie’s Angels, and Surviving Christmas.

VISUAL EFFECTS COLLABORATIONS MENTORED FOR SUCCESS

As cowboys battle aliens on the big screen, more students want to include visual effects in their films — everything from animated characters who will interact with live actors to matte paintings that provide a setting in the mountains of Tibet.

Wherever their imaginations take them, Dodge College students look to their peers studying Digital Arts to help create the “reality” of their films.

To “monitor, support and protect” the work of these potentially complex projects, Professor Bill Kroyer has designed the Dodge VFX (DVFX) Committee, which will match live action and Digital Arts students to help them define the scope and nature of their work so that they can prepare and succeed.

“Young filmmakers underestimate the time and complexity of the effects they imagine,” Kroyer says. “Students who haven’t worked with effects often have no idea how many hours even the simplest effect can demand. For more complex elements, they may be setting themselves up for serious problems without the mentoring this process will provide.” Students who submit work to the DVFX Committee will get help defining the parameters of the work and be matched with Digital Arts students who have the expertise to provide those effects. The Committee will also mentor and advise filmmakers during production.

“It’s a win/win situation,” says Kroyer. “Film students will have a better chance of getting the effects they want and Digital Arts students will have opportunities to develop skills in projects that actually make it to the screen. Everyone will learn more about the collaboration these kinds of projects require to succeed.”

In May, professor Bill Kroyer presented a talk on “Making Tron: Computer Graphics in 1982” at the FMX Conference in Germany. She has designed the Dodge VFX (DVFX) Committee, which will match live action and Digital Arts students to help them define the scope and nature of their work so that they can prepare and succeed.

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INTERNSHIPS TAKE STUDENTS FROM CANNES TO COMIC-CON

“The Cannes Film Festival is a spectacle in itself, but to experience it from the inside? I can only use three words to describe it: exhausting, exhilarating and enriching,” says Emily Huston (BA/Film Studies ‘12), who worked as an assistant at the Lightning Entertainment booth.

After spending the spring semester studying in the France, 16 Chapman students decided to stay for an extra two weeks to intern for various distribution and production companies during the festival. The experience gave them an insider perspective on the film business as well as up close encounters with Jude Law, Brad Pitt and other celebrities. Huston found herself greeting clients, scheduling appointments, answering phones, showing trailers, maintaining screener and sales logo, and supervising market screenings.

Aubrey Davis (BFA/CRPR ’13), worked for IM Global. “We would check in potential buyers, take business cards, hand out pamphlets, 3D glasses and whatever else,” says Davis. “It was a fun way to see how TV shows interact with their network and studio,” Vallentine says. “It was a great way for me to get to know producers, and – a fun bonus – attend Comic-Con for the studio. He is now interning at the Syfy Channel where he’s doing similar work. “It’s been a great way for me to see how TV shows interact with their network and studio,” Vallentine says. 

“For Davis, the best experience at the festival was walking the red carpet. “I was extremely lucky to get tickets to five red carpet premieres, including ‘Tree of Life’ which won the Palm d’Or.’”

Greg Keveryan (BA/Screenwriting ‘12), who worked for Archstone Distribution, saw how a film gets packaged for production and how it gets distributed. “There is a lot more than just a good story that goes in to making a film,” says Keveryan. “It takes hours of searching, negotiating, and even begging to get a film rolling.”

Back in the U.S., Ayder Bick (MFA/FTP ’12) is helping bring history to life at her internship for Think Factory Media, where she has been assisting in pre-production on the new History Channel mini-series, The Hatfields and McCoys. Starring Kevin Costner and Bill Paxton, this series dramatizes the largest post-Civil War American family feud in history.

As part of her internship, Bick also had an opportunity to do voiceover narration on a sizzle reel, for a new, undisclosed reality television series. “Reality television is my niche,” Bick says, “so I feel like I found my place here.”

During his internship at NBC Universal’s Universal Cable Productions in Development, the studio responsible for USAi and Syfy’s Royal Pain and Warehouse 13, Andrew Vallentine (MFA/FTP ‘12), served as the executive producer for a team of interns that won first place in NBCUniversal’s Intern pilot program.

“It takes hours of searching, negotiating, and even begging to get a film rolling.”

“We went through one round of pitching for NBC executives against six teams,” Vallentine says. “After we won, we got to put together a 20-minute verbal pitch, as well as a packet with a creative outline of the series, business plan, marketing plan, digital media plan, and budget, which we presented to the comedy executives at NBC. It was an amazing opportunity to network with some of NBC’s highest level executives.”

Vallentine had the chance to participate in development meetings, watch cuts, write script coverage, listen in on “note calls,” where network executives give feedback to producers, and – a fun bonus – attend Comic-Con for the studio. He is now interning at the Syfy Channel where he’s doing similar work. “It’s been a great way for me to see how TV shows interact with their network and studio,” Vallentine says.

TV PILOT COMPETES WITH INDUSTRY PROS IN INDEPENDENT PILOT COMPETITION

For the third year in a row a pilot entirely created by Dodge College students has been honored as a television for the 2011 New York Television Festival Independent Pilot Competition, beating out countless entries by other students and industry pros.

Coyotes, a raw drama created and written by Katie Mathewson (BA/SW ’10) and directed by Hans Sahl (MFA/FTP ’11) and Robert Amadon (BFA/TBJ ’11), follows Geblin, a Mexican-American teenager who struggles to live a normal life as he helps his parents smuggle immigrants across the border.

A product of the Narrative Television program, Coyotes “had a very complex script with complicated production requirements. It’s unlike anything I have ever seen,” says Professor James Gardner, who served as advisor to the production.

Coyotes is competing with many recognizable names from television, including Richard Kind (Curb Your Enthusiasm, Spin City, Mad About You), Jason Mewes (Clerks, Mallrats, Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back), and Sam Page (Greek, Curb Your Enthusiasm, Mad Men, Desperate Housewives), all vying for a major network contract.

“I am very proud of our students,” says Gardner. “They shut this pilot in five days exactly like the pros.”

ALUM’S SCREENPLAY ATTRACTS ACTION STAR

When Andy Knauer attended the ground-breaking ceremonies for Marion Knott Studios in 2004, he had no idea that the guest speaker would someday star in a big budget feature movie that he wrote. But Arnold Schwarzenegger, guest speaker at that Chapman event, recently signed on for the lead role The Last Stand, a feature written by Knauer (MFA/Screenwriting ’06) which will begin filming this month in New Mexico.

While a grad student in the screenwriting program at Dodge College, Knauer had an internship at Lionsgate Studios where he befriended Hermey Perla, a production executive. “Every time I finished a new script I would send it to him for feedback,” Knauer says. “He liked Surface and forwarded it to a manager who subsequently signed me.” In 2009 Hermey convinced Knauer to write an action movie, which became The Last Stand, a crime thriller about a small-town sheriff (Schwarzenegger) who must apprehend a Mexican drug kingpin and an army of gang members.

“There’s such a core of action in Schwarzenegger’s performances,” says Knauer. “He’s a huge fan of his and never in a million years did I think I would ever get to work with him, so this is a dream come true.

Had I known Arnold would be playing one of my characters I would have tailored the role for him. Fortunately by the time he came on board my work was done so another writer got to do that.”

The Last Stand sold in November of 2009 and Knauer was paid a moderate fee to do some re-writes on it. It was his first script sale and he is now represented by an agent at William Morris Endeavor. The film is scheduled for release in January 2013.

Coincidentally, the film will be directed by Korean director Kim Ji-woon, who attended the Pusan West Film Festival at Dodge College in 2009 for a screening of his feature film A Better Version of Life. Knauer has spoken to Kim on the phone a few times and looks forward to hanging out on the set with him for a few days when The Last Stand goes before the cameras.

“He shot the pilot in five days exactly like the pros.”

ATTRACTS ACTION STAR
The experience of working with the Taiwan students made me realize that filmmaking is a borderless craft and expanded my understanding on how global our industry has become,” says senior Ngoc Ho (BFA/CRPR/OC ’12).

Eight students from each school were selected to collaborate with Ho and her fellow Dodge College students on the creation of “coming of age”-themed short films. They also participated in traditional events and toured industrial facilities.

In Taiwan, students were walked through the step-by-step process of creating news broadcasts in two hours or less using motion capture at NextTV. The group also visited the Central Motion Picture Studio Corporation, a film studio with a unique back-lot featuring a traditional Chinese town, where they hope to shoot a ghost story during next summer’s exchange.

They also met with one of Taiwan’s top editors and producers and the Taipei Film Commission, and visited a Buddhist temple in an older neighborhood in Taipei, rode bikes along the river, waded in natural hot springs, and dined on “strange but delicious” street cuisine.

The students in South Korea were also treated to local traditions and sight-seeing excursions, including a trip to the Joint Security Area of the Korean Demilitarized Zone that separates the south from the north where they were able to cross the physical line into the North.

“An extraordinary experience,” says student director Michael Van Orden (MFA/FP/DR ’13). “I wouldn’t give that experience up for anything.”

The Destination Africa films will debut on December 8 in the Folino Theater.
When they’re teaching, grading papers, advising or visiting film sets, Dodge College faculty undertake a variety of creative work of their own.

Among their recent accomplishments:

Professor Ross Brown enjoyed a publicity tour celebrating the publication of his book Byter-Sized Television. Create Your Own TV Series for the Internet including interviews with newspapers and radio stations including The St. Louis Examiner, The Seattle Times, and a radio show called For Your Ears Only (formerly Newswear On the Air) which broadcasts internationally on 177 Armed Forces Radio stations. The book has a companion website at http://bytersized.net/

Professor Emily Carman is revising her book manuscript, Independent Stardom: Female Stars and Freelance Labor in 1930s Hollywood, for its final round of peer review. She has also received a contract with the British Film Institute Press for Hollywood and the Law with co-editors Professors Paul McDonnell (University of Portsmouth, UK) and Philip Drake (University of Stirling, UK) and Eric Hoyt, (Ph.D. candidate at the University of Southern California). Her essay “Hollywood is a Woman’s Town: Aging and Freelance Stardom in the Studio System” has been accepted for a special edition of Celebrity Studies on female celebrity and aging.

Professor Judy Kriger completed her book Animated Realism: A Behind The Scenes Look at the Animated Documentary Genre and is building an accompanying website that explores the marriage of animation and documentary filmmaking. The book explores how "the intimacy, imperfection and charm of the animated form is providing live-action and animation directors with ways to tell stories, humanize events and convey information not easily adapted for live-action media." It includes interviews with pioneers in the form including Yoni Goodman, animation director of Oscar-nominated Waltz with Bashir, and includes previously unpublished materials such as storyboards and hand-drawn sketches.

Professor Bill Kroyer developed and produced a pilot for a new children's TV series called Taxi Dog, based on the best-selling book by Debra and Sal Bartracca. A distribution deal is being negotiated.

Professor Nam Lee is working on a book about Korean film director Bong Joon-ho (Mother, The Host). Her analysis of his films will focus on the relationship between genre filmmaking and local politics and also his achievement of "commercial auteurism" — or his success with both the critics and at the box office.

Professor Sally Rubin received an Emmy nomination in the category “New Approaches to News and Documentary Programming” for The Virtual Mine, a 3D Second Life virtual-world experience that simulates coal mining life. Appalachian culture and the effect of mountaintop removal on a community — topics explored in her PBS documentary Deep Down. The documentary, which aired last year as part of PBS’ Emmy-winning documentary series Independent Lens, profiles the people and community divided over a mountaintop-removal coal mine in Kentucky and facing an uncertain economic future in hard times. While one woman leads her neighbors in a legal battle to stop a coal mining company from moving into her hollow, a friend and neighbor considers signing away the mining rights to his backyard, a move that would forever change life in their community in eastern Kentucky.

Professor Jeff Swimmer is writing a book profiling how the work and storytelling of the world’s documentary filmmakers is being shaped by new technologies in production and marketing.

S he led the marketing efforts for the Harry Potter films, the highest grossing film franchise in history. She was director of photography for the acclaimed film Rambling Rose, nominated for two Academy Awards. Now, Dawn Taubin and Johnny Jensen are joining the faculty at Dodge College this fall as professors of PR and Advertising and Cinematography, respectively.

Taubin is one of the top marketing executives in the business. During her six-year tenure as President of Marketing for Warner Bros., Pictures the studio reached the $1-billion mark at the domestic box office every year. Among the films marketed under her leadership were The Matrix trilogy, Batman Begins and Academy Award® winning films The Departed, Happy Feet and Million Dollar Baby. At Warner Bros., Taubin was responsible for all aspects of the marketing, with an annual marketing budget of $800-million.

Now head of her own marketing consulting firm, Cinema Vision, Taubin was named Entertainment Marketer of the Year by Advertising Age in 2002 and was listed on The Hollywood Reporter’s Women in Entertainment "Power 100” list for six years, rising to #13 in 2007.

Jensen, an ASC cinematographer, brings more than 40 years of industry experience to Chapman, including working early in his career on such classics as The Godfather and The Godfather: Part II, as well as numerous other studio releases. Now, he will bring his experience and extensive credits — including Batman Begins, The Matrix, The Departed, Happy Feet, The Godfather: Part II, Million Dollar Baby, The Aviator, and Academy Award® nominated films Rambling Rose, Ireland’s Eye, and A Bottle of Smoke — to the classroom as he joins the cadre of Dodge College’s top-notch faculty.

In addition to being a member of the prestigious American Society of Cinematographers, Jensen belongs to the International Cinematographer’s Guild, the Director’s Guild of America, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences and the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.
Sam Argier (BFA/TVB ’03) has won his second Emmy Award for weather news reporting. Argier is the morning meteorologist at KIRO 7 Eyewitness News, the CBS affiliate in Seattle. Argier earned his first Emmy Award in 2007 while at KMRV Television in Palm Desert, the NBC affiliate serving the Coachella Valley. He also holds a bachelor’s degree in geosciences — broadcast meteorology from Mississippi State University.

Alan R. Baxter (BFA/Film Prod. ’02) and his co-writer, Rosemary Alderete, have been very successful with their TV pilot script, “Crossing.” This year they have won second place in the Indie Gathering Film Festival, a Gold Remi Award at 2011 WorldFest-Houston Film Festival and first place in the Ventura Film Festival.

Beth Belew (BFA/Film and TV Prod. ’02) has recently made a big career shift and has moved out of production and into development as Vice President of Rive Gauche (http://www.rivegauchetelevision.com/).

Mike Bernstein (BFA/Film Prod. ’11) did a spot for a competition this past month for the toy company Wild Planet, and they liked it so much, not only did they purchase the spot but they hired him to do a whole TV campaign. This will be Bernstein’s first straight hired television commercial and he’s hoping to use the money to fund other interesting projects on the side.

James Brady (BFA/Film Prod. ’10) has been working at The Mill for just about a year and was recently promoted full-time to the 3D department. Brady has been working on previz for a Dunkin Donuts spot for their NY office and getting ready for some Toyota Prius and Old Spice spots.

Gavin Carlston (BFA/Film Prod. ’00) independent short film Chum screened at 1 Reel/Bumbershoot, Amanda Island, Bodega Bay, Cleveland Int’l, and Seattle Int’l Film Festivals.

Teavis Culver (BA/PRA ’11) currently works as an Account Coordinator at Echo Media Group, one of Orange County’s top PR firms. He was able to land the position upon graduation last spring after interning at Echo Media Group during his last semester at Chapman University. In addition to several internships, during his Chapman career Culver served as Associated Students’ Commissioner of Communications and Delta Tau Delta’s Vice President. He received the Spirit of Chapman Award in 2010 and was a Bateman PRSSA Case Study Competition participant.

Ben Dynek’s (BFA/Film Prod. ’03) independent short film Neverere Road won Best Horror Film at the HollyShorts Festival. It also screened at the Burbank Film Festival, Palm Springs Int’l Shorts Fest, and the SoCal Independent Film Festival.

Samantha Flinn (MFA/FP ’11) is now at CAA as an assistant to Chris Andrews in Motion Picture Talent.

Jeremiah Jones’ (BFA/Film Prod. ’03) independent short film Car Jack won Best Short Film at the Cleveland Int’l Film Festival. It also screened at the 1 Reel Bumbershoot, Feel Good, Newport Beach, and Seattle Int’l Film Festivals.

Marcus Kaye’s (BA/Screenwriting ’10) internship at RKO Pictures has lead to full-time employment as a Development Assistant.

Rebecca Kirsch (BA/Screenwriting ’05) is a staff writer on the TV series Leverage, now airing its fourth season Sundays on TNT. This season, Kirsch wrote “The Grave Danger Job,” and co-wrote the mid-season finale, “The Queen’s Gambin’ Job” with colleague M. Scott Veatch, which aired Sunday, August 28. Kirsch worked previously as the writers’ assistant on the Leverage pilot and the first three seasons of the series, and wrote the Season 1 episode, “The Juro #6 Job” and the Season 3 episode, “The Gone Fishin’ Job.”

Todd Luoto (BFA/Film and TV ’03) has been fortunate enough to spend the last five years programming short films for the Sundance Film Festival, but all good things must come to an end. Luoto will be leaving his post at Sundance in order to tell his own stories and shoot his own feature this spring.

Katie Mathewson’s (BA(Screenwriting ’11) pilot script, “Coyotes,” is a semi-finalist in the Next TV 2011 Writing and Pitch Competition and the 2011 Independent Pilot Competition at The New York Television Festival. Mathewson is currently working as the receptionist at Berman Braun.

Chris Marris Pillerio (BFA/Film and TV Prod. ’01) directed Brittany Spears’ new video “I Wanna Go” and has been nominated for a MTV VMA Award, Best Rock Video, for the The Black Keys video he directed, “Howlin For You.”

Lindsay D. Mayer (BA/Com/Ad minor ’05), a producer under ABC Digital Studio, was part of the Disney/ABC Television Group’s Digital Media team that took home an Emmy for Outstanding Creative Achievement in Interactive Media for its Oscar® Digital Experience that gave fans a live look at the Oscars® before, during and after the telecast. Mayer has also produced Goyo Anatomy webisodes, Backstage at Dancing with the Stars and was the lead producer on the CMA Music Fest and the CMA Awards each year in Nashville. This is the team’s fourth Emmy win.

Michael Mohan’s (BFA/Film Prod. ’02) independent short film Ex-Sex screened at Atlanta, Bermuda, Dallas, Florida, Little Rock, Maryland, Nashville, Provincetown, SNSW, and Toronto Worldwide Shorts (Canada).

Elyse Mueller (BA/PRA ’10) is an anchor and associate producer at www.OneMinuteNews.com, a startup newscast that makes 1 minute news videos targeting Generation-Y.

Nicholas Orzech’s (MFA/FP ’07) independent feature film Mambitas (based on his award-winning grad thesis short film) screened at the Los Angeles Film Festival, New York Int’l Latino Film Festival, West Coast Film Festival in San Juan Capistrano.

Max Page (BA(Screenwriting ’10) is currently the head writer and editor for a daily deal company called Social Mammoth, who delivers daily discounts on local businesses and also gives its users 10 percent in return for referring their friends to the site. Page is loving his new role.

Julia Prescott (BA/FS ’11) is now a staff writer on The Aquahuman Super Bowl for The Hub network. She previously had a position as a writer at Mad TV.

Hans Sahni (MFA/FP ’11) has partnered with another writing grad on rerwires for a spec TV pilot. Sahni has succeeded in selling two original web series ideas to a commercial production company. He recently wrapped production on a pilot for one of those series, which we shot under the same circumstances as the interim TV pilots — high page count, little prep time and a tight shooting schedule — but thanks to the experience and knowledge gained in the interim class, the production went smoothly. Stay tuned for the final product.

Brett Simmons (BFA/Film Prod. ’04) film Mark of Love, was released on DVD this July. Simmons served as writer and director and worked with a number of Dodge College alumni: Jeff Dolen (BFA/Film Prod. ’04) cinematographer, Zac Hargrave (BFA/Film Prod. ’06) editor, Jeff Pace (BFA/Film Prod.) sound mixer/designer, Tyler Trautman (BFA/Film Prod. ’07) sound/voiceover, Tashi Trieu (BFA/FP ’10) colorist, and Justin Lutsky (BFA/FP ’05) digital intermediate.
Mian Adnan Ahmad (MFA/Film Prod. ’09): *Heat*: Best Fantasy/Sit-Fi Film at Comic Con, Berkshire, Silent River, Tulsa.

Joseph Albano (MFA/Film Prod. ’09): *Clown City*: Best Student Film at Tupelo, Comic Con.

Mike Bernstein (MFA/Film Prod. ’10): *Chill Pill*: Best Student Film at DeadCenter, Ivy, Kansas City, Litchfield Hills, Tallahassee.


Brian Faye (MFA/Film Prod. ’10): *Jeremy*: Best Student Film at Phoenix, Best Drama Short Film at Reno, Rising Star Award at Rhode Island; Big Bear, Breckenridge, Silent River.

Christopher Fernandez (MFA/Film Prod. ’10): *Bensath*: Buffalo Niagara, Orlando, Rome, Tel Aviv, Tulsa, Williamsburg.

Alexander Gaeta (MFA/Film Prod. ’11): *Shoot the Moon*: Director’s Choice Award in Awards; Austin, Colorado, Encounters (UK), New York.

Ori Geduldman (MFA/Film Prod. ’12): *King Eternal*: Kansas City, Sedona, Vancouver (Canada), Williamsburg.

Nadia Hamzez (MFA/Film Prod. ’09): *Faison Cluj Comedy (Romania)*, Israel, Europe, Silent River, White Sands.


Michael Moore (MFA/Film Prod. ’10): *Basic*: Audience Award at Woods Hole; Best Animation Sedona, Best Student Animation Durango, AniMazing Spotlight, Big Bear, Blue River Plum, Breckenridge, California Animation, Comic Con, Hell’s Half Mile, Kansas City, LA Comedy, Philadelphia Film & Animation, Port Townsend, Sarasota, SideWalk Moving Pictures, Silent River, Tupelo, Twin Cities, Waterfront, Williamsburg.


Grant Reid (BFA/Film Prod. ’11): *Insect*: The Musical; Grand Prize in Reichoboh Beach Student Film Awards; Atlanta, New Orleans, Williamsburg. *Je Man*: Breckenridge, New Fest, Provincetown, Tampa Int’l G2L.

Taylor Rummell (BFA/Film Prod. ’11): *Inside Out*: Best Actor at LA Comedy; Best Student Film at Grand Rapids; Feel Good, Tacoma, Temecula.

Gusnismat Sandho (MFA/Film Prod. ’11): *Honeymaking*: Bend, Chicago South Asian, New Orleans, Ojai, Santa Fe Independent.

Cameron Sawyer (MFA/Film Prod. ’09): *Shi* A Fox: Audience Award at Waterton, Best Student Film at Whistling Woods (India), Best Family Film at Big Bear; Hell’s Half Mile, Silent River, Tallahassee, Tulsa, Tupelo.

James Sweeney (BFA/Film Prod. ’12): *The First*: Honorable Mention at Athens; Atlanta, Palm Springs Int’l Shorts.


Zach Wichter (BFA/Film Prod. ’12): *Elevation Day*: Honorable Mention in Rehoboth Beach Student Awards; 1 Reel/Bumberstick, Carmel, CMJ Conference, Twain Harte.

**DOCUMENTARY SUCCESSES**

From the Community Voices program:

Among Gians (Chris Cresci BFA/Film Prod. ’12, Ben Mullinkosson BFA/Film Prod. ’12, Sam Waldman): Best Short Documentary at Columbia Gorge; American Conservation, Chagrin, DocMiami, Doc NYC, DocUath, Hot Springs, Sacramento, Salon, Topanga.

Breaking Through (Maurriona Zangarella BA/TBJ ’12, Dan Duran BA/TBJ ’13, Jake Taylor BA/TBJ ’14, Kristen Moore BA/Screenwriting ’11): Semi-finalist in Angels Awards; Chagrin, Newport Beach, SoCal Independent.

Food For Thought (Alexandra Maman BFA/TBJ ’12, Elizabeth Hartnett BA/TBJ ’13, Serena Fehlter BA/TBJ ’12, Victor Anquinta BA/TBJ ’13): Activist, Awareness Fest, Big Bear, Breckenridge, Silent River.

Hold My Hand (James Parker BFA/Film Prod. ’13, Virginia Thomas BA/TBJ ’11, Ruby Stopping BA/TBJ ’13, Bobby Moser BA/TBJ ’12): DocUath, Topanga.

Joyce (Ruby Stopping BA/TBJ ’13, Bobby Moser BA/TBJ ’12, Ben Mullinkosson BFA/Film Prod. ’12): Hot Springs.

The Modern Man (David Thompson BA/Film Prod. ’13, Malca Chershad BA/TBJ ’15, Haley Quartzone BA/TBJ ’14): DocMiami, Topanga.

Mountain Man (Alexandra Santoro BA/Film Studies ’12, Jonathan Formica BA/TBJ ’12, Bobby Moser BA/TBJ ’12, MJ Bailey BA/TBJ ’11): American Conservation, Atlanta, Biografilm (Italy), Newport Beach, SoCal Independent, Topanga.

A Salton Soul (Greg Balkin BFA/Film Prod. ’12, Mike Agnew BFA/Film Prod. ’13, Tim Kressin BFA/Film Prod. ’12): Bend, Chagrin, DocUath, Topanga.

Shy’s Superman (Arielle Fisher BFA/Producing ’15, Josefine Borrmann BA/’12, Taylor O’Sullivan BA/Film/Producing ’13): Awareness Fest, Int’l Family, SoCal Independent.

World Wide Apart (Brendan Nahmias BA/TBJ ’11, Paul Hextall BA/’13): Chagrin, DocUath, Topanga.

From the Destination Africa program:

In our Hands (Josefine Borrmann BA/’12): Atlanta Int’l Documentary, Chagrin, Fullboard, Riverside.

Lost and Found (Kiah Jones MFA/Film Prod. ’09, Jonathan Formica BA/Film Prod. ’12, Alexander Gaeta BFA/Film Prod. ’11, Rob McClelland BFA/Film Prod. ’12, Rob’s Fest, Starfest ’12, Jonathan Formica BA/TBJ ’12, Earth Day BA/’10): Awareness Fest, Breckenridge, Gasparilla, Riverside.

Povilion to Positive (Marti Diamond MFA/Film Prod. ’12, James M. Parker BA/TBJ ’13, John Morley BA/TBJ ’13, Virginia Thomas BA/TBJ ’11, Amber Hurley JD/LAW ’12, Toshio Vo BA/TBJ ’11): Awareness Fest, Big Bear, Biografilm (Italy), Breckenridge, Chagrin, Newport Beach, Riverside, Santa Cruz.
CREATING A SOUND “MIX” FOR FACULTY LEADERSHIP

As a sound designer and documentary filmmaker, Kowalski brings an understanding of the technical and artistic challenges that permeate teaching in Dodge College. Similarly, he has direct experience and an intimate appreciation for the value of collaboration in the classroom, on the set, and in leadership. His primary leadership goal is “to create and nurture an environment in which all the members of the Dodge community feel that they are meaningfully involved in the life of the College.” As a filmmaker who has made a number of films examining how communities work, Kowalski believes that “a community functions best when all its members have voice and stake in that community, and all its members understand and share its goals and vision.”

He sees his role as soliciting input, sharing the thinking behind decisions, and making sure all voices are represented in the decision-making process.

“I couldn’t be more delighted that Mike has joined our leadership team,” says Dean Bob Bassett. “He brings a fresh perspective and great energy that will play a key role in continuing our drive for academic excellence on all fronts.”

Kowalski has worked on films on topics ranging from music to true crime, including such diverse subjects as the operations of the L.A. coroner’s office and the life of a legendary Chinese opera star. He is currently writing a book on how sound design can expressively tell a story.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Busan West Asian Film Festival, November 11–13, will feature films selected primarily from the festival held in October in Busan, South Korea, known as the Cannes of Asia. Korean director Bong Joon-ho will be honored at Chapman as the recipient of its Busan West Icon Award, and will screen his hit film *The Host* in 3D on Friday, November 11. He will also teach a Master Class on writing and directing.

Ticket prices and film and schedules can be found at www.busanwest.com.

The Sikh Art and Film Festival (SAFF) returns to Marion Knott Studios November 18–20. SAFF provides a venue for artists to present their “Sikhcentric” films, art and music to the broader community with the intent of showcasing their talents and generating increased awareness of Sikh culture.

For tickets and information, visit www.sikhlens.com.

**SUMMER FILM ACADEMY**

For two weeks the students lived on campus, attending intensive classes throughout the day — and often into the late evenings — and enjoyed field trips in and around Hollywood. The inaugural class worked in teams, mimicking the studio approach modeled in the Dodge curriculum, rotating key creative positions and utilizing professional studio equipment while producing three short films. At the end of the two weeks, they celebrated with a screening of their films.

“The camp was more than anyone could have expected,” says Rafe Larson, a senior from Portland, Ore. “Not only did we have hands-on experiences with the equipment from day one, we had incredible mentors who helped us along the way. Because they all came from different aspects of the film world, we really did get the whole package.”