

## FILM STUDIES BULLETIN

### Spring 2016

#### STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to our January 2016 Film Studies graduates: **Marvin Brito** and **Brad McGarry** (*cum laude*)!

We bid farewell and best wishes to **Christine Bjornstal**, a visiting student last semester from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point as part of the National Student Exchange Program. This semester we welcome **Jonathan Wright**, who is a visiting student from Wheaton College in Illinois.

A number of our students worked as extras on the set of *The Purge 3* last October, including **Christine Bjornstal**, **Amanda Bussman**, **Enrique Castaneda-Pineda**, **Dayle Decker**, **Alec Ematrudo**, **Michael Kimbrough**, **Samantha Lariviere**, **Tom Palleschi**, and **Elizabeth Spencer**. When you see the movie, be on the lookout for them in the presidential debate scene!

Last semester, **Anastasia Lillpopp** was an intern for the art director and production designer of the film *Dark Pledge* for Synthetic Cinema. She also worked as a prop master for the filming of *Hollow Children* with American Horror Films Productions. Over winter break, she was hired by her former *Dark Pledge* supervisor to work as a set decorator for the television show *The Cobblestone Corridor*.

**Ryan Gill** worked last semester as an intern for award-winning documentary filmmaker Christian de Rezendes ('00) on his latest project on the history of the village of Slatersville.

Last semester, **Dayle Decker**, **Monay McNeil**, **Tom Palleschi**, and **Alex Petrarca** participated in a documentary practicum with **Soren Sorensen**. Working with RIC's School of Nursing, they planned and filmed a project on RIC's use of 'standardized patient actors' – people trained to display symptoms of illnesses – for the training of nurses. The end result is their short film *Mobile Simulation Strategies for the Classroom*.

The **Ocean State Film Society's** officers for this semester are **Dayle Decker** (President), **Tom Palleschi** (Vice President), **Amanda Bussman & Joe Sherry** (Co-Treasurers), and **Anastasia Lillpopp** (Secretary). We will be posting announcements about upcoming Film Society events via e-mail, the Film Studies website, and Twitter. Be on the lookout for Scene-It Night and the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Ocean State Film Festival!

#### RECENT & UPCOMING EVENTS

In October, Sapinsley Hall served as a movie set for the filming of *The Purge 3*. After filming, twenty-one Film Studies folks were able to attend a special Q & A session arranged by President Carriuolo with two of the film's crew: line producer Luc Etienne and assistant location manager Mike Buonanno, plus Steven Feinberg, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Film & Television Office.

Last November, the Film Studies Program and the Ocean State Film Society proudly cosponsored the premiere of *SlimeBuck: A Strange Tale of a Boy and His Monster* to a packed house! The screenplay for the film was written by **Kyle Cerilli** ('08), who passed away from Duchenne muscular dystrophy in April of 2014. **Andrew Cate** ('09) - one of Kyle's former classmates - helped work on this film as well as helped shape a documentary on Kyle's life.

This January we will be hosting a commemorative screening of *Medium Cool* (1969) in honor of the late great Haskell Wexler. Later this semester we will host a screening of *Je tu il elle* (1975), a tour de force in honor of cinematic genius Chantal Akerman.

This March, we are excited to host two talks from comic book artist and scholar (and closet superhero?) **Justin Hall**. On Tuesday, 22 March, he will be speaking about the publishing history of the golden age of comics to **Rosalind Sibielski's** First-Year Seminar on Superheroes. On Wednesday, 23 March, he will be discussing the history of feminist and queer underground comix. His talks are made possible by RIC's Committee on College Lectures.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Erica Tortolani** ('13) works as a Communications Assistant for the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island, which involves all eleven institutions of higher education in the state. She has been teaming with an organization called The Collaborative in order to promote higher education research that can inform public policy. She is also studying German!

**Geoff Riccio** ('11) is the founder of Riccio Productions, which specializes in sports photography, media production, and promotion. His clients include Adidas, Cornell, Duke, Harvard, Madison Square Garden, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, MIT, the University of Maryland, and USA Wrestling. He was active in the Committee for the Preservation of Olympic Wrestling, which successfully fought to keep wrestling as an Olympic sport. For two years running, he has won the 'Paramount Promotion' award in the annual Elite Level Sports Marketing contest. He was awarded the

2015 'Man of the Year' by the New England Wrestling Association, and one of his photographs placed Bronze in the 'Incredible Sport' category in the 2015 Photograph of the Year contest from *Better Photography* magazine.

**Kelly Kreiser** ('09) worked as a production assistant, then as an assistant to the co-executive producer, and then as an assistant to the executive producer on the acclaimed HBO series *The Newsroom* (2012-2014). She is currently working as an assistant to the executive producer on *Ballers*, another HBO series – this one starring The Rock!

## FACULTY NEWS

**Soren Sorensen's** film *My Father's Vietnam* is continuing its world tour. This month it played at the Flagler Film Festival in Palm Coast, Florida, where it has been nominated for Best Director (Documentary) and won(!) Best Documentary Feature. Later this spring it travels to Johannesburg for RapidLion, the South African International Film Festival. Next fall it heads to the UK International Veterans Film Festival in Aberystwyth, Wales.

**Vincent Bohlinger** will be traveling to Atlanta this March for the annual conference for the Society of Cinema and Media Studies to present his paper "Indecent, Inhuman, and Will Tend to Corrupt Morals': Censoring Soviet Films in the U.S. in the 1920s-1930s." He organized and is chairing the panel "Soviet Cinema of the 1920s-1950s: Ideology, Psychology, and Genre."

All of the above is just a smidgen of what is going on these days. Please contact Vincent Bohlinger, Director of Film Studies (vbohlinger@ric.edu), if you have any information for our next bulletin!