

FILM STUDIES BULLETIN

Fall 2017

Note that most Film Studies offices and mailboxes have relocated to **Building 30** during the renovation of Craig-Lee.

Be sure to like us on Facebook ([@RICFilmStudies](#)) for news, events, information, and more! Subscribe to our channel on YouTube ([RIC Film Studies](#)) to see examples of some of the great work being made by our students!

STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to our May and August 2017 Film Studies graduates: **Kathryn Bowen** (*summa cum laude*), **Brian Catalano**, **Patrick Connolly**, **Mitch DeAngelis** (*summa cum laude*), **Ryan Gill** (*cum laude*), **Adam Haley**, **David Posman** (*summa cum laude*), **Robbie Rhodes**, **Tom Sack** (*cum laude*), **Spencer Serra** (*summa cum laude*), **Elizabeth Spencer** (*cum laude*), and **Kyle Stumpff**!

Additional congratulations go to **Spencer Serra**, awarded the Mark W. Estrin Film Studies Award, which is given to a graduating senior of exceptional merit.

Aly Picard was awarded our Tess Hoffmann Film Studies Scholarship for 2016. This is a scholarship worth well over \$3,500!

Congratulations to our Film Studies Talent Award winners for Fall 2017: **Cameron Evans**, **Robert Gagnon**, and **Tiara Vazquez**. They received awards adding up \$3,500! We'll send out a call in December for Spring 2017 submissions.

Congratulations to **Amanda Poulin** for being inducted last semester into the 3.5 Society, which recognizes especially high-achieving freshmen.

Last April, **Elizabeth Spencer** and **Julian Borges** were each nominated for Student Leadership Awards: Liz for the Alan Chille Leadership Excellence Award and Julian for the Rising Star Award. Congrats to both for their well-deserved nominations!

Priscilla Montero worked last semester and over the summer as an intern for award-winning documentary filmmaker and alumnus Christian de Rezendes ('00) on his latest project on the history of the village of Slatersville.

Over the summer, **Rebecca Norman** worked as an intern for the media coordinator at The Met, the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center.

Students interested in doing an internship should contact Vincent Bohlinger, the internship coordinator for Film Studies.

Our Film Studies students are active across campus! **Sara Pocaro** works as a tutor at the Writing Center (in case any of you ever would like help with your papers!).

Julian Borges is participating in the National Student Exchange Program and will be spending this semester at Texas State University, where new student orientation included Hurricane/Tropical Storm Harvey. He reports that all was okay in San Marcos. We are confident that he is representing us well!

The **Ocean State Film Society** is looking for a few good filmies to complete its slate of officers for this academic year. If you have any interest in creating and planning film-related events this year, please be in touch with **Rebecca Norman** or faculty advisor Vincent Bohlinger. Upcoming events will be announced via e-mail, the Film Studies website, and Facebook.



RECENT & UPCOMING EVENTS

Rosalind Sibielski was selected from the entire faculty to give the keynote address at First-Year Convocation during the first week of classes. In her fantastic, inspiring speech, she described being in exactly the same situation twenty-five years ago as a first-year student at RIC herself. She offered three points of advice that she wished she had known back then: don't be afraid to fail, push to be outside your comfort zone, and never hesitate to seek help from your professors.

On Saturday, 16 September, we welcomed alumnus **Paul Baker** back to RIC for the East-Coast premiere his new short film *The Boxer*. He lives out in Los Angeles and has had the opportunity to work with the likes of Kenneth Branagh, Tom Cruise, Hugh Jackman, Ed O'Neill, Al Pacino, Sam Raimi, Martin Scorsese, Oliver Stone, Susan Sarandon, and fellow RIC alumna Viola Davis. Baker discussed his career and offered advice to students on how to navigate the world of film festivals.

On Wednesday, 20 September, we were delighted to host filmmaker **Remington Smith**, who screened his powerful documentary *Rubbertown*, about the environmentally poisoned residential community beside chemical factories in Louisville, Kentucky. Smith spoke with us

about his career and the making and marketing of this important film.

On Tuesday, 24 October, we are hosting **Paul Thompson**, who works as a video assist up in Toronto. He's worked on over 40 feature films, from Academy Award-winners such as *Room* and *Life of Pi* to big-budget action films such as *xXx: The Return of Xander Cage*, *Suicide Squad*, *RoboCop* (2014), *Resident Evil: Afterlife*, and *The Incredible Hulk* (2008) – not to mention cult classics such as *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, and *Bride of Chucky*. In conjunction with the Gothic Melodrama unit in Vincent Bohlinger's course on Melodrama and Action (FILM 352), we're screening *Crimson Peak* and Thompson will discuss his experiences working on that film plus two others – *The Shape of Water* and *Pacific Rim* – with acclaimed director Guillermo del Toro.

In honor of some major film talents the world recently lost, we will be hosting a series of commemorative screenings this semester. For the French acting legend Jeanne Moreau, we will screen *Elevator to the Gallows* (Louis Malle, 1958), the crime film that made her a star. This film – which notably predates Godard's *Breathless* – is famous for its jazz score by Miles Davis. For the one and only Jerry Lewis, we will be screening *The Nutty Professor* (1963), his very loose adaptation of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and one of several of his masterpieces in which he was both star and director. In honor of Tobe Hooper we will be screening his landmark horror film *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* (1974).

ALUMNI NEWS

Our Film Studies alumni were well represented among the winners of the

Providence 48-Hour Film Festival this summer. Of the 43 teams that competed, 10 films were chosen for the 'Best Of' screening – and at least 2 of those 10 films had a strong RIC presence. **Tom Palleschi** ('16), **Amanda Bussman** ('16), **Alex Petrarca** ('17), and **Ryan Gill** ('17) were all involved in making the short film *Not for Sale* for Climactic Event, a film-making studio that Tom cofounded. *Not for Sale* won for Best Use of Line. **Aran Lyster** ('15) co-wrote the short film *Homestead* for Root Beer Studios, which won Best Editing, Best Cinematography, Best Sound Design, Best Acting, and Best Film. *Homestead* now heads to Filmapalooza 2018 in Hollywood and represents Providence in competition with other city winners from around the world.

Kathryn Bowen ('17) works full time as the Media Clerk at Grafton Middle School up in Massachusetts.

Adam Haley ('17) works for Steer Digital Media, a local production company.

Alex Petrarca ('17) was accepted and given a partial scholarship to Brooklyn College's MFA Program in Cinema Arts specializing in Post-Production. Alex has decided against going to graduate school for the time being.

Over the summer, **Spencer Serra** ('17) and **Mitch DeAngelis** ('17) were hired by RIC's Institute of Portuguese and Lusophone Studies World Studies to make a film about the Day of Portugal at Providence WaterFire.

Last April, **Amanda Bussman** ('16) worked as the Key Production Assistant on the film *The Santa Files*, starring Ed Asner. One of those she supervised was **Tom Palleschi** ('16), who worked a few days on set as a Production Assistant.

Dayle Decker ('16) works at Mystic Aquarium as the tech for the sea lion shows. She currently is also working on a Halloween video for the aquarium. She reports that not even employees are allowed to squeeze the sea lions.

MacKenzie Langlais ('16) just earned her Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) at RIC in Elementary Education specializing in teaching English as a second language. She turned down a job offer from EPIK (English Program in Korea) and is instead teaching second grade in Bethel, Alaska. She packed everything up in her boyfriend's 92 Chevy and drove for two weeks across the U.S. and Canada to Anchorage, Alaska. She then hopped on a plane with everything she had for this great adventure in the Alaskan bush!

Anastasia Lillpopp ('16) worked as a costume assistant on *The Burning Woman*, directed by Jake Scott and produced by Ridley Scott. Anastasia inaugurates a grand new tradition for us in Film Studies, as her Film Theory class (FILM 454) voted to focus on films by Ridley Scott that semester and then she went and worked on one of his films after graduation!

Joe Sherry ('16) had his Fulbright fellowship to Austria renewed for a second year. He is living in Sankt Georgen am Längsee, which he describes as "what could be the most beautiful place I've ever been," and is teaching English at two high schools: Bundesgymnasium Tanzenberg and, take a breath, Höhere Bundeslehranstalt für Wirtschaftliche Berufe Sankt Veit an der Glan.

Aran Lyster ('15) works as a writer and content creator for the Lego Channel on YouTube. You can see some of his recent work in the Lego series *Rebrickulous*.

Erica Tortolani ('13) is currently in her second year at the Ph.D. program in Communication with a concentration and certificate in Film Studies at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. She is currently coediting an essay collection on the German Expressionist and Hollywood director Paul Leni for Edinburgh University Press's "ReFocus" series. (Erica's senior honors thesis at RIC was on German Expressionist film!)

Over the summer, **Rawley Chaves** ('12) was hired as a production assistant for HGTV's *Island Life*.

FACULTY NEWS

We are thrilled to welcome back **Robert Albanese** ('00), who returns to RIC after earning an M.A. in Popular Culture from Bowling Green State University and a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Iowa. His dissertation is titled "Paying for Attention: Narratives of Control and the Cultural Economies of Attention, 1990-present," and his research interests include Stanley Kubrick, New Hollywood Cinema, Marxist cultural theory, and late-twentieth/early twenty-first century popular culture.

Derek Dubois has published his essay "A Supernatural Spectacle: Film Style within the Prologue of *Black Swan*" in the journal *Supernatural Studies*. Additionally, his screenplay *Miss Diagnosis* has been selected as a semi-finalist in the 2017 ScreenCraft Horror Screenplay Contest.

In early October, **Kathryn Kalinak** gave an invited lecture at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland for a special conference there on "Popular Song and Film." Her talk, titled "Popular Music and the Invention of the Movies," discusses William Dickson's *Experimental Sound Film* from 1895.

Vincent Bohlinger had an essay on the Spanish sand animation *Zepo* (César Díaz Meléndez, 2014) published in *Short Film Studies*. Students studied this stunning and haunting film in his Animation class last semester. He also has a review of the book *A Companion to Russian Cinema* (Birgit Beumers, 2017) forthcoming in *Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema* and a review of the Russian film *Guppy* (Vlad Furman, 2017) forthcoming in *KinoKultura*.

Bonnie MacDonald had two monotypes she made accepted for the "Down East" exhibition at the Saco Museum in Maine. The exhibition is a juried show for the Monotype Guild of New England and runs through October. She also had a painting accepted for the juried show "Faces and Figures" for the Pawtucket Arts Collaborative. Her painting is on display at the Mill Gallery in Pawtucket through the beginning of November.

