SPOTLIGHT!

Faculty

**J. Christian Jensen** is an Oscar® nominated filmmaker and educator whose storytelling explores the tensions between political ideology, science, religion, modernization and traditional values. He seeks out intimate, human stories that provide insight into larger social movements and institutions. Jensen received an MFA in Documentary Film and Video from Stanford University.

Screen Cultures PhD

**Reem Hilu** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Screen Cultures Program interested in the history and theory of digital media and the interrelations of gender and technological change. Her dissertation, “The Family Circuit: Gender, Games, and Domestic Digital Media Culture,” constructs an account of the introduction of computing and digital media into domestic space, exploring how everyday objects in the home, such as televisions, telephones, appliances, and toys, were embedded with computer chips and digital technologies beginning in the 1970s. Her other research interests include video game history, educational technology, and transmedia games. Reem has presented her work at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies and the Society for the History of Technology, and will be presenting at the American Studies Association conference in November.

This summer, Reem participated in the Summer Institute in Cologne as part of a seminar entitled Queer Becomings and Unnatural Intimacies. While in Cologne, she had the opportunity to enrich her work on gender and computing during an excursion to the labs of the Roberta Initiative – a project that aims to encourage young girls’ interest in STEM fields. Working in teams, seminar participants programmed their own robots and learned about the lab’s approach to inspiring girls’ interest in technology through improved teacher training and software design. In her own work, Reem similarly explores girls’ computer use and her article on computer-mediated talking dolls and girls’ play cultures is forthcoming in the fall issue of The Velvet Light Trap media studies journal.

MFA in Documentary Media

**Iyabo Kwayana**’s (Class of ’17) film MACARRÃO screened as part of the Palm Beach Film Festival’s Coming of Age Shorts 2 program. The film is also slated for the Newport Beach Film Festival and screened at the Pan African Film Festival 2016 in February. It won Best Narrative Short at the BlackStar Film Festival, and screened at the Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film Festival and Zanzibar International Film Festival. MACARRÃO advanced to the semi-final round of the Student Academy Awards and was shortlisted by BAFTA’s short film competition. Iyabo’s THE OFFERING AND LIBERATION is touring with The Black Woman Is God film series that has made a stop at SOMArts in San Francisco and will soon be traveling to New Orleans. Iyabo’s work as a Director of Photography was also featured in the short film ALL MEN ARE FLOWERS, which screened at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival April 21 through April 28 and will continue its festival run at NY at the 2016 KAFFNY.

She is the founder of the Solidarity Project, a study abroad, film and photography program that teaches youngsters between the ages of 9 and 14 the fundamentals of photography and video production and takes them education culturally enriching trips around the world.

MFA in Writing for Screen + Stage

**Cat Davidson** (Class of ’17) is a writer and actor from the Chicagoland area and this summer she was awarded the Television Academy Internship in the TV Scriptwriting - Drama category. She became the writer’s intern on the series “Major Crimes”, a procedural drama that airs Monday nights on TNT. As the writer’s intern she sat in the writer’s room taking notes on the current episode they
were breaking. Her job included helping the script coordinator and writer’s assistant with their duties like note-taking during the room and production meetings, proofing episode drafts, and helping with the live Facebook chats. She also was able to shadow the writer on set and engage with the directors, actors, and crew. She often shadowed the showrunner, especially when he went to post-production, sitting in on preview sessions with him as he gave the editor notes.

Working for “Major Crimes” was an incredible, eye-opening, and extremely educational experience, especially as a writer. While she is interested in screenwriting, tv writing, and playwriting, her appreciation for the world of television grew immensely through her summer experience. As a result of being able to work and observe the functions of almost every department on “Major Crimes” and especially through shadowing the showrunner she solidified her goal to become a showrunner one day. It was great to watch the words that the writers wrote become dialogue for the actors and see the different camera angles and the director’s interpretations of the scenes. It was even more incredible for her to see those long shots on set turned into a face-paced action sequence that lasts less than a minute in the editing room.

As for now, she continues to work on several screenplays, pilots, and stage plays. Cat is really looking forward to her second year in the MFA program. Her most recent play she is working on is entitled DIAMOND EYES, a period piece set in the early 1920s centering around an affluent African-American woman who finds herself in a tough place between societal ruin and the fate of her illegitimate daughter. As a writer she is interested in creating strong diverse female characters and giving voice to the stories that have so often gone untold or are overlooked.

MA in Sound Arts and Industries

Patrick Hockberger (Class of ’17) will begin the MA in Sound Arts and Industries program in its inaugural year this fall. Last fall he applied to be a producer at the political radio program The Majority Report with Sam Seder. He didn’t get the job, but was encouraged to pursue a passion project. In 2015 more than 40 toddlers in the U.S. got their hands on guns and shot people. Patrick was frustrated that no one was reporting on the models or manufacturers of these guns, so he began submitting Freedom of Information Act requests. The project grew into synesthesia - a 43-episode opera with several hours of original music, distributed as a podcast. Each of the 43 episodes is released on the one-year anniversary of one of these tragedies, and subscribers are notified of new episodes on their phones at the precise moment the gun went off 12 months earlier. Between Two Earbuds called it “heartbreaking… hauntingly beautiful and incredibly important” and named “gun 1 - .380 cal. handgun” one of January’s best podcast episodes. Opera Box Score, the nation’s only opera talk show, invited Patrick on and called it “a brand new art form... who has done a podcast opera before?” Jay Soderberg, former head of podcasts at ESPN, called it “one of the most creative and important projects” around. synesthesia has also been featured on iTunes. For more visit hockberger.com.

RTVF Undergraduate

Harrison Atkins’ (Class of ’12) first feature, LACE CRATER, was shot in December of 2014 and has since premiered at TIFF as well as several other film festivals around the world. It premiered theatrically at the end of July, 2016, and is now available to watch online. Much of Atkins’ work explores themes of asymptotic intimacy within the context of romance and platonic friendship. At the moment, he is drawn to the dissonant intersection between surrealism and naturalism, and has had the honor to work with naturalistic filmmaker Joe Swanberg, who produced LACE CRATER and funded the film through his Chicago-based production company, Forager Films. Recently, Atkins was an editor and associate producer on Swanberg’s new Netflix series EASY, which premieres September 22nd.

Currently, Atkins’ is editing filmmaker Josephine Decker’s newest feature and plans to direct another feature of his own this winter. He has several projects in various stages, including an animated experimental comedy series he wrote. Keep up to date on his upcoming work or see his past short films (CHOCOLATE HEART, BLISSFUL BANQUET, DOOR ON THE LEFT) on his website: harrisonatkins.com
NEW FACES: WELCOME!

Faculty | Lecturers | Adjuncts

Kathleen Moynihan Falls will be teaching Writing the Comedy Screenplay this fall. She started out as a screenwriter but also writes middle grade and young adult novels. Her debut novel, *Dark Life* (Scholastic Press, May 2010), has deals in eighteen international markets and is in development at Disney with Image Movers and the Gotham Group producing, and Academy Award-winner Robert Zemeckis attached to direct. *Dark Life* was featured on The Today Show when it was selected as the July 2010 pick by Al Roker for “Al's Book Club for Kids.” In 2011, *Dark Life* was named to the master list for Florida’s statewide reading initiative, The Sunshine State Young Reader’s Award; nominated for Vermont’s Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award 2011/2012; and Kat was awarded a Juvenile Literary Award by The Friends of American Writers’. The sequel, *Rip Tide*, was released by Scholastic Press in August, 2011. Both books were awarded the designation, “A Junior Library Guild Selection.” Kat is currently working on a dystopian YA trilogy, *The Fetch*, acquired by Scholastic Press in a 3-book deal for publication beginning in Fall 2012.

Maria Finitzo joins us as an adjunct this fall, teaching Writing for Documentary Media and Story Structure for Doc Films. She is an RTVF alumna, with an MFA in Writing for Screen + Stage and is a two-time Peabody award-winning social-issue documentary filmmaker. She has been producing and directing documentary films for network television, public broadcasting, cable TV and the Internet for more than 25 years. Her body of work has been honored by every major broadcast award granted to documentary films. Maria’s films demonstrate a depth and breadth of knowledge and expertise, tackling a wide variety of subjects including the controversial science of stem cell research, the command and control of nuclear weapons on an international level, and the complex psychology of adolescent girls.

Jesseca Simmons is the new Cinematography Specialist. Jesseca recently graduated from the MFA in Doc program and is replacing Calum Walter, who is now a lecturer specializing in sound. She is an artist and filmmaker exploring the infinite possibilities that manifest themselves by blurring the boundaries of genres. Her work reflects a wide range of interests and she feels truly blessed to recently have her work screened both nationally and internationally. Last summer, Jessaca was a Southern Exposure Film Fellow for the Southern Environmental Law Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Her film is currently being used by universities and nonprofits to help raise awareness about Alabama’s natural resources and environmental issues. Jessaca is from Watsonville, CA where 20 miles north she received her BA in Politics from the University of California, Santa Cruz, followed by an MFA in Documentary Media at Northwestern University. Her film *EMERALD ICE*, a docu-fantasy about the American poet Diane Wakoski, is an official nominee for the 2016 ASC Vilmos Zsigmond Award. Jessaca’s feelings on film are ever-changing, but today she has chosen to evoke the words of Georges Bataille: “There are explosives everywhere that perhaps will soon blind me. I laugh when I think that my eyes persist in demanding objects that do not destroy them.”

Calum Walter is an RTVF full-time lecturer specializing in sound. He was filmmaker-in-residence specializing in cinematography, and has deep training and a long practice in sound arts. He will be teaching undergraduate courses in sound, working to enhance the sound on curricular and co-curricular student projects. He will also continue to help make RTVF a sound-centric culture, including participating in the new MA in Sound Arts & Industries, as well as MFA in Documentary Media and MFA in Writing for the Screen + Stage. Calum is a filmmaker, artist and sound designer. He has a BFA from the University of Colorado where he studied filmmaking with an emphasis on sound, and later received a MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He continues to do sound design and recording for his own films, and has collaborated with numerous artists as cinematographer, sound recordist and designer. His work has screened widely at places including New York Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Rotterdam International Film Festival, FIC Valdivia, Ann Arbor Film Festival, the Klub Katarakt Experimental Music Festival and the Big Ears Music Festival.

Screen Cultures PhD

Raised in Denver, Colorado, Crystal Camargo is a recent graduate of the University of Denver where she received her BA in International Studies, Spanish, and Gender & Women’s Studies. The completion of her undergraduate thesis “Lights, Camera, Adversity: The Misrepresentation of Latinas in Hollywood,” exposed Crystal to her true passion and completely changed her career path. Crystal is interested in examining how American television targets the U.S. Latin@ population through the comparison of English and Spanish-language telenovela adaptations.
NEW FACES: WELCOME! CONTINUED

Her research interests include bilingual media, critical race/ethnic studies, Latin@ studies, and the politics of gender and sexuality. When not exploring the outdoors, Crystal enjoys cooking, traveling, and gardening.

Carter Moulton recently finished serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand. He received his masters degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he researched movie audiences, cinemagoing, silent cinema, and emerging technologies in film production, distribution, and exhibition. His work has appeared in CineAction, Media Fields Journal, and The New Review of Film & Television Studies.

Jason Nebergall holds a BA in Cinema from The University of Iowa and an MA in the Humanities from The University of Chicago. His work has focused on exploring how and why the American cinematic avant-garde is represented in popular media. His masters thesis investigates the evolving use of elements of the avant-garde in the work of 1950s television personality Ernie Kovacs.

Ben Riggs is a graduate of Teachers College, Columbia University (MA, Communication and Education) and the University of New Mexico (BA, Media Arts). He has worked with learners of science and technology in a variety of settings and taught high school science for four years in his hometown of Albuquerque. He’s interested in how our ways of knowing develop with and through film and television, particularly as those ways relate to the nature of science, and especially in spaces and with texts where learning science may not be a primary goal. He loves and hates insects, the human body, amusement parks, and other gross things.

MFA in Documentary Media

Pam Austin is a Canadian-born filmmaker and media scholar. She was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta, but recently completed her undergraduate degree in Cultural Studies at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. She was the Festival Director for the 10th Annual FOKUS Film Festival, and has several years of production experience working at The Banff Centre, TV1 in Montreal, and various not-for-profit groups. She is fluent in both French and English, and can speak some Italian. Through this program, she hopes to develop her voice as a filmmaker and an artist, and to dive into the world of documentary film.

Yu Bai is originally from Shandong, China. Born in a family atmosphere rich in art, she regards documentary as the best way to combine her interests. Yu received her degree in Television Directing from Communication University of China. Her documentary A SOLITARY ART was awarded Best University Students’ Work in the 5th China Academy Awards of Documentary Film. Yu interned at a local Chinese TV station, for a documentary production company, and a video website. Yu is particularly interested in traditional Chinese culture as well as social issue filmmaking and hopes to make documentaries that promote critical awareness.

Kai Allen Blakley is a Chicago-based filmmaker, photographer, and war veteran. He holds a BA from Columbia College Chicago and is currently producing work in Micronesia. Before attending school, Kai spent five years in the U.S. Army traveling between Europe and Asia. He attributes the experiences during this period to have fueled an interest in foreign culture and passion for cinema. At Northwestern he plans to further his knowledge of the production process in order to craft emotionally engaging films that tackle complex issues with a degree of sophistication, neutrality, and depth.

Elodie Edjang-Mengueme is 22 years old and a graduate of the University of Georgia. Her undergraduate degrees are in advertising and anthropology. She was born in France but grew up in Georgia, U.S.A. She is fluent in French and English and is in the process of learning Italian. Elodie is drawn toward people, driven narratives, and social documentary. While at Northwestern, she is interested in learning how to expand her storytelling capabilities and technical skills. Currently, she is spending her time traveling.

Peter Franco studied filmmaking at Carleton College in Minnesota where he received a Princess Grace grant to make his thesis THE LAST OF FALL, a fiction film about a high school football star struggling to avoid coming to terms with his sexuality (32nd Reeling Film Festival). After graduating he worked in post-production on a documentary about the global conflict between traditional and industrial agriculture. Most recently he traveled to North Carolina to shoot a nonfiction project called HOG COUNTRY. He hopes to learn from and collaborate with others on his own projects, help in post-production on other projects, and cultivate his interest in and study of music and sound.
Kyeongbok Lee was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea. He received a BA in History from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. When he first came to the United States, Lee learned English by watching lots of American films, an experience that set him on a path to becoming a filmmaker. In addition to interning at the Seoul Broadcasting System in South Korea, Lee’s short films have screened at the DMZ Documentary Festival in South Korea and have won multiple awards at Emory University. Lee has an interest in social issue documentary filmmaking that supports disenfranchised and underrepresented people.

Stephen Van Vleet Nelson is from Boise, Idaho. He speaks English, and received a Bachelors degree in Theater and Media Arts at Brigham Young University. His interests lie mainly in documenting the human existential dread that inevitably comes from failure, disaster, and self-loathing. Other than that he loves hanging out with his pals out by the beach. He is currently finishing his first feature length documentary about religious courting rituals and hopes to experiment with self-distribution.

Nearly a decade away from the classroom, Joyy Norris is happily brushing off retirement this Fall to pursue her dream of becoming a documentarian. A native of Chicago’s Southside, Joyy spent her post-undergrad years working in school offices, on indie film shoots, as a freelance writer, and currently a program assistant with the Rebuild Foundation’s Black Cinema House, culminating in a wealth of subjects to explore. With a love of the unknown and overlooked, Joyy seeks the stories and storytellers that go forgotten in the progression of modernity.

Sandeep Reddy Pamulapati was born in India, raised in the Middle East, studied in an American university, and worked with the Irish. Apart from English, he speaks Telugu and Hindi, but considers English to be his first language. Sandeep majored in Communication at Northwestern University’s Qatar branch, with a concentration in filmmaking. After graduation, he worked as an editor at a production company in Qatar working on a series of films documenting the behind-the-scenes of the 2016 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. Sandeep sees documentary film as something that can transcend cultural differences while still remaining relevant. Documentary films can peel back the layers and show the subject as it truly is.

An Omaha native, Chad Wallin relocated to Colorado after spending a number of years traveling abroad. He received his Bachelors in International Studies and Music from the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he worked as an audio engineer. A musician and songwriter, Chad has always been interested in both sound and film. He has been a student and employee of Semester at Sea and studied documentary filmmaking under Academy Award-winner Paul Wagner. In 2012, he founded a cultural exchange program that connected students in Ghana with a classroom in Kansas City through Skype. Chad hopes to create culturally immersive films and to continue to write and perform music.

Heqiuizi Wang was born and raised in eastern China, in an area called Water Town. She is a graduate of Communication University of China with a BFA in Television Production and previously interned for Greenpeace. Wang is interested in gender issues, environmental issues, and the delicate balance between objectivity and subjectivity in documentary. During the past year, she has been working on a documentary about a young couple leaving their university in London and returning to China to have a baby together.

MFA in Writing for Screen + Stage

Leah Bognanni was born in South Korea, adopted, and raised by Italians in Malden, Massachusetts. She graduated with a BA in English and a minor in Media and Screen Studies from Northeastern, where she produced a ten-minute play festival and wrote a short film about two men who pose as Catholic priests to acquire free housing in a rectory. She is currently writing an interactive play, a screenplay, and an animated film. In addition to writing for the screen and stage, Leah loves slam poetry and painting.

Josefina Valenzuela Cerda hails from Chile and graduated 2nd in her class from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile with a Bachelors in Audiovisual Direction. She has developed content for production companies ranging from mobile app games for education to fiction webseries and docu-reality television shows. Her documentary short Steam View was the Official Selection Youth Talent at the Sanfic and Valdivia International Film Festival. Josefina worked as an international flight attendant for over a year, and served as a screenwriting assistant for national telenovelas. She loves to travel and experience different cultures and peoples.
Kristen Field was born and raised in Melbourne, Australia. She received her Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Monash University in Melbourne after writing an undergraduate thesis on the presence of the outsider in the plays of Sarah Ruhl. Her work has been performed in both Australia and the United States. Her first full-length play, SHE WILL FADE AT THE FINISH, was part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival in 2014 and her short play 1 AM was named Best Play in the Youth Category of Eltham Little Theatre’s Ten Minute Quickie Competition in 2012. Currently, Kristen is writing reviews and opinion pieces for the online publication Lucifer’s Monocle.

Born in Seattle, Gail Gilbert has lived all over the world. She has a degree in Radio-TV-Film from Northwestern University, and a certificate in the Basic Program of Western Literature from the University of Chicago. Her career as a film editor grew out of her background as a still photographer and has been fine-tuned as part of the Chicago advertising community, for which she has edited high-end national TV commercials for over 20 years. She compares her role as an editor to that of a collage artist -- manipulating images and sounds over time.

Joe Giovannetti is a Chicago-based playwright, actor, and director. He holds a BA in Theater and Performance Studies from North Park University, where he has continued developing the university’s program post-graduation as a playwright and guest instructor. In addition, Joe is a company member with MPAACT, the Ma’at Production Association for African Centered Theater, and a founding member of InGen Productions, a company focusing on turning 80s and 90s movies into musicals. His directing credits include the musicals The Lockout, about the 2011 NBA lockout, and Welcome to Earth.

Ellie Goodman hails from Canada and recently received her Honours B.Sc. at the University of Toronto, where she studied Psychology and Philosophy. Despite this academic achievement, Ellie describes herself as “a comedy nerd,” studying improvisation at The Second City and Bad Dog Theatre in Toronto. Her other interests include: playing golf, eating pizza, and worrying about the amount of time she spends doing these things. Ellie hopes that one day she will be able to confidently describe herself as a comedy writer and performer at the beginning of her bio, rather than hidden deep in the middle.

Hannah Ii-Epstein, born and raised on the North Shore of Oahu, recently graduated with a BA in Fiction Writing at Columbia College Chicago. She writes fiction, poetry, screenplays, plays, and musicals. She is a Co-Artistic Director, Board Member, and Founding Member of Nothing Without a Company (NWaC). Her work has been produced by NWaC, Kumu Kahua Theater, Fury Theatre’s SAST, Mary-Archie’s Abbie Fest, and Nothing Special Production’s Fight Night. Hannah has also participated in 24 Hour Fests for NWaC, Silent Theatre, and CCC. Her film SWEET won Best Film Runner Up in Chicago’s 48 Hour Film Project in 2015.

Melissa Kong is a Chicago actor and writer. She earned her BA in Theater from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She’s studied abroad in London at LAMDA and is a graduate of iO and Second City. Her sketches have been produced at Second City’s de Maat Theater and Mary Scruggs Works by Women Festival. As an actor, she’s had the pleasure of working with many Chicago companies including Silk Road Rising and the sketch group Stir Friday Night. Her writing has placed in several competitions, most notably her screenplay TINA FEY IS MY FRIEND, which was a semi-finalist at the Austin Film Festival.

Priyankar Patra was born and raised in Kolkata, India and graduated from Asutosh College, University of Calcutta with a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication and a specialization in Film Studies. He has worked as a reporter at The Telegraph and with the Mumbai-based event management company, Only Much Louder. His interest in filmmaking dates back to high school, when his short film The Broken Nest was an official selection at the 9th Kolkata Short Film Festival. Priyankar’s writing often reflects the city of Kolkata and its socio-economic problems. His dream project is to adapt the Indian epic Mahabharata.

Joe Shetina is a writer originally from Joliet, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a BA in Sociology. At UIUC, he wrote and acted in several short plays with members of the theatre department and one of his plays, FRAGMENTATION, was the subject of a semester-long series of workshops and readings. Currently, he is working at The Art Theater, Champaign’s premier independent movie theater. In June, his short play, Oil Sick, will be performed as part of the Acorn Theater Project’s Nature Monologues. His free time is spent watching Bette Davis movies and cultivating a strong camp aesthetic.
NEW FACES: WELCOME! CONTINUED

**Lars Steier** graduated from Lewis & Clark College with a BA in History. For the last five years, he’s worked as a sportswriter, contributing to newspapers including The Oregonian and Tampa Tribune, and most recently The Chronicle, a paper in Southwest Washington where he’s currently a staff reporter. Lars has also written about film for Oregon Arts Watch, and has been involved with the non-profit Northwest Film Center as a volunteer, intern and employee. Lars’ passion for film and storytelling extends to his experience cleaning popcorn spills at an independent movie theater in Portland.

**Benjamin (B.J.) Tindal** is a playwright, director, and spoken word poet from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He graduated Oberlin College with a BA in Theater and Africana Studies. He has worked with a number of organizations dedicated to the success of early playwrights, including Philadelphia Young Playwrights and New Dramatists in New York. He is a member of the Intiman Theater Festival’s Emerging Artists 2016 in Seattle, Washington.

**MA in Sound Arts and Industries**

**Nathan Fink** attended Colorado College, where he earned his B.A. in English Literature and wrote his thesis on the process of canonization in house and techno music, examining electronic music’s transition from marginalized communities to the mainstream. Since graduating, he began working for WFMT Radio, managing web content, social media and customer service for Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin. With sound, Nathan has previously focused on the effect of an audio piece on listeners and its place in a larger cultural context, but he hopes to gain an equivalent understanding of the process of audio production, the science of sound, and audio’s role as part of a larger toolbox when it comes to fields like podcasting and film production.

2015 was an exciting year for **Patrick Hockberger**, opening for pop star Robin Thicke, running the Indianapolis Marathon, and backpacking through the Balkans with his sister. This year he has devoured 230 books and launched a podcast. Patrick is thrilled to be returning to Northwestern where he received his undergraduate degree in music composition. After graduate school, he would love to work in sound for film or television.

**Russell Gillespie** is a Senior Technical Support Specialist for Northwestern’s School of Education and Social Policy. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Composition from Oakland University where he received the Matilda Wilson Award for Outstanding Student in Composition. His interests lie at the convergence of Music and Technology as highlighted by his work as a Trainer for Apple and Guitarist/Keyboardist for Nick Shaheen and The People. Through this program, Russell seeks to explore the connections between sound, sight, and emotion that lie at the core of human interaction in both the physical and digital realms. He believes the interfaces we utilize hold a pivotal role in what we communicate, and seeks to gain mastery of their design and operation.

**Xiameng (Summer) Lin** is from Fujian, China and speaks Chinese and English. In January 2016, she graduated from Knox College (Galesburg, IL) with a double major in psychology and music. She loves collaborating with people and is particularly interested in merging different art forms. Summer’s favorite work by far is a dance improvisation project she did in reaction to friend Zach Heyde’s composition “Phoenix,” which is available on Youtube. Recently, she has been organizing jam sessions and music workshops in her hometown where ideas of improvisation and “jamming” with other musicians are foreign to most people. Summer is looking forward to learning contemporary production tools and working with new people who share the same interests.

**Chris Maves** lives in the Roscoe Village neighborhood of Chicago. He is a graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago where he studied sound but emphasized in photography, primarily practicing black and white film and alternative processes. He has been a Luminarts Visual Arts Competition finalist with his images. Though his background is in art, he is interested in learning the technical aspects of sound engineering. Outside of the arts, Chris loves to travel, is a beer geek and, most importantly, is a die-hard hockey fan.

**Adam Mizner** is a production and post-production sound mixer. Growing up as a musician in Rockford, Illinois, he performed with multiple bands before pursuing sound design for film. He has since completed his undergraduate degree from Columbia College Chicago and worked as a sound mixer on Season 30 of MTV’s “The Real World” among many other feature films and independent shorts. For the last three years he has taught filmmaking classes for young adults. Through this program at Northwestern he hopes to fine-tune his understanding of how a well-thought out sound mix can help bring artwork to life.
NEW FACES: WELCOME! CONTINUED

Andrew Peterson is from Naperville, Illinois and graduated from Grand Canyon University this April with a degree in Film Production. Over the past four years at GCU, he won school-wide film festivals, took second place at Campus Movie Fest in Los Angeles, and was an official selection in the New Jersey Film Festival. Despite learning and pursuing film the last four years, Andrew hopes to learn as much as he can about music and audio engineering during his time at Northwestern. In the past year, he has recorded much of his own music and worked on freelance audio projects to push himself towards that goal.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Zina Camblin is developing a new play with SheAter theater company in conjunction with Cincinnati Shakespeare Company. The play had a successful reading this summer and will go into a staged workshop in December. She also completed a commission for Vagabond Inventions theater company in New Orleans, exploring post-Katrina effects on public education and race.

Scott Curtis published an essay on science and animation in the latest issue of Discourse (Fall 2015) and an essay on early uses of medical cinematography on Harvard's REMEDIA site. Also in 2015-2016, he gave invited talks at the Chicago Film Seminar, Stockholm University, Indiana University, and the University of Zurich, and he organized and programmed the Fourteenth International Domitor Conference in Stockholm. He is now Past President of Domitor, the international society for the study of early cinema.

Zayd Dohrn and Rachel DeWoskin are developing a series for BBC America. Set in Beijing, the series is based on DeWoskin’s memoir of the same name, “Foreign Babes in Beijing”, which chronicles her personal experiences as a soap opera actress on Chinese television. Manage-ment’s Dan Halsted is producing along with Andre and Maria Jacquemetton (Mad Men).

Chaz Evans’ organization VGA Gallery, which he co-founded and serves as Director of Exhibitions & Programs, has been written about in the August 10, 2016 edition of the Chicago Reader. The story follows William Chyr (VGA’s first artist in residence) as well as other great Chicago-based video game work. VGA exhibited work from Chyr’s game Manifold Garden last October at Mana Contemporary. Also, with VGA, he co-curated an exhibition of video game oriented artists and art oriented video game developers at the Arcade Gallery at Columbia College Chicago called GAME ART VS. ART GAME. The exhibition features artists Feng Mengbo, Porpentine Charity Heartscape, Tale of Tales, JODI and more. It aims to create a shared cultural context between the video game and contemporary art worlds. It opened August 18 and runs until October 28. There will be a reception on September 23 and an open play night on October 21. VGA put on its second annual benefit night called HARDCORE/CASUAL at the Indie City Co-op on September 9. It was a night that supported game art in Chicago, play work by VGA artists, and a chance to see where many of Chicago top developers work. VGA is also presenting a new video game focused on Chicago history called Dateline: Bronzeville with the support of the Rebuild Foundation and the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust. The show will run from September 30 to December 18 at the Rebuild Foundation’s Dorchester Art and Housing Collaborative Center. The exhibition is supported by a generous grant from the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust. Aside from the VGA events, Evans has a collaborative art work running at Open House Contemporary. It’s an installation called ALARM that pertains to issues of privacy, domesticity, and the sharing economy. It was created with artist Erik Peterson and is a part of the exhibition FRESH SHEET that runs until September 23. On Saturday, August 13, he helped organize an exhibition of fine art prints and glitch art for this year’s Bit Bash, the Midwest’s largest indie-game festival.

Erik Gernand was a 2016 recipient of a Charles Deering McCormick Lectureship for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. His play THE BEAUTIFUL DARK was presented in Los Angeles at The Road Theatre’s Summer Playwrights Festival in August.

“In his teaching, Erik Gernand draws upon his industry experience in managing a video production company for nearly a decade and the multiple award-winning short films he has written and directed.”

The documentary BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, edited by Kyle Henry, won The National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association Excellence in Documentary award. Also, his short documentary HALF-LIFE OF WAR screened as part of the Chicago Park District’s Chicago Onscreen Showcase.

Stephan Michael Moore was one of the keynote speakers at the Sonic Environments Conference at Queensland Conservatorium in Brisbane, Australia in July. The conference was co-sponsored by the Australian Forum for Acoustic Ecology and the Australasian Computer Music Association. While there, he performed his composition “Basaur” to close the conference’s main concert. His group Evidence performed the composition “Losperus” at the annual New Interfaces for Musical Expression (NIME) conference, also in Brisbane. Evidence also showed a sound installation “Meridional Transitive” at the Balance Unbalance Conference in Manizales, Columbia in May. He was one of the leaders of a conference workshop on field recording practice. His sound installations “Sisyphus 2.0” and “Chorus for Untrained Operator” were shown at the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts in upstate New York from late July through early August.

Brett Neveu and David Tolchinsky co-curated SICK BY SEVEN, seven plays/films about the nature of illness in the modern world, at Chicago’s A Red Orchid Theatre as part of the theatre’s Incubator Series, from June 17 to 26. The program was produced by Sarah Gitenstein and included works by MFA program assistant/MFA alumna Shannon Pritchard, former RTVF professor Melika Bass, Neveu, Tolchinsky and others. SOC students interning on this project via a URAP grant included Mary Anane, Alex Gold, and Christopher Edward Reichert. The show’s poster and postcard, designed by Ken Pagni under Tolchinsky/Neveu/Gitenstein’s direction, received Awards of Excellence from the University and College Designers Association. The show received press from Broadway World on May 3; Splash Magazine on June 8; and Splash Magazine on June 22.

“This is a remarkably entertaining, important and thought-provoking incubator series, about the nature of illness in the modern world” – Debra Davy, Splash Magazine

Miriam J. Petty was elected to the Society of Cinema and Media Studies Board of Directors. She began her three-year term with SCMS on July 1, 2016.

Ariel Rogers’s essay, “Scaling Down: Cinerama on Blu-ray,” was published in the anthology Screens, edited by Dominique Chateau and José Moure (Amsterdam University Press); and her chapter on special/visual effects in classical Hollywood was published in the volume Editing and Special/Visual Effects, edited by Charlie Keil and Kristen Whissel (Rutgers University Press).
Özge Samanci was invited as a guest speaker to DePaul University’s Writing the City Class on April 27 and participated in panels at the Evanston Literary Festival at the Evanston Public Library on May 7 and the Printers Row Festival on June 12. She gave a talk for Northwestern’s MS in Leadership for Creative Enterprises Program on May 9 on Northwestern University’s Evanston campus. She presented “Dare to Disappoint” at the juried comics exhibition CAKE 2016 at Chicago Alternative Comics Expo June 11 and 12, 2016.

Jacob Smith and Neil Verma’s co-authored book “Anatomy of Sound: Norman Corwin and Media Authorship,” about the work of Norman Corwin, who was one of the most important, yet understudied, media authors of all time, is now available on Amazon.


Ines Sommer’s new documentary COUNT ME IN will be offered to PBS stations across the nation starting October 7th. Presenting station WTTW will air the film in late October and also host a public screening and panel at the Chicago Cultural Center prior to the broadcast. COUNT ME IN follows several ordinary Chicagoans who are part of an experiment in direct democracy that gives them direct say over publicly funded projects in their neighborhoods.

Lynn Spigel published her essay “Back to the Drawing Board: Graphic Design and the Visual Environment of Television at Midcentury,” in Cinema Journal, Summer 2016. She also co-curated the online blog “TV Title Art,” (for Cinema Journal) with Mark Quigley (UCLA Archive). She was in residence and delivered visiting lectures at Stockholm University, from June 2 to 20, 2016. She delivered a keynote address (titled “TV Hospitality”) at the Screen Conference in Glasgow on June 26, 2016.

Debra Tolchinsky is continuing production on her documentary feature, TRUE MEMORIES AND OTHER FALSEHOODS, concerning memory formation and contamination in regard to the criminal justice system. The film focuses on three individuals affected by false memory. During the summer Deb filmed with Penny Beerntsen, whose story was touched upon in the recent Netflix series, “Making a Murderer.” David E. Tolchinsky is the associate producer. More information can be found on her website: http://crossxproductions.com

David Tolchinsky’s film THE COMING OF AGE, which he was commissioned to write and which he co-produced, was accepted to the Global Mixx Film Shorts Festival in Chicago. It screened multiple times on August 20, at the SAE Institute Theatre. It was also accepted into the Long Island Film Festival and received a nice review in UK Film Review. He’s currently in preproduction on his new psychological thriller Cassandra.

Calum Walter’s work was featured in issue 66 of Cinema Scope Magazine and his film TERRESTRIAL played recently at Images Festival, Indielisboa, CUFF, Oak Cliff Film Festival and the Big Ears Music Festival. He also has an upcoming show on October 9 at Roots and Culture Gallery alongside filmmaker Nellie Kluz.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

PhD in Screen Cultures


MFA in Documentary Media

In May, film composer Joshua Abrams visited with NU students to talk about the collaboration between filmmakers and his scoring process. Abrams has composed soundtracks for the Kartemquin Film features Life Itself, The Interrupters, The Trials of Muhammad Ali, Almost There Project and Unbroken Glass.
On May 23, Andrea Meditch of Back Alley Entertainment (BS degree in Communications and Media from Northwestern) visited with the Class of 2016 MFA in Documentary Media students to talk about her career in documentary. Meditch has executive produced films that have won Oscars and Emmys. She executive-produced the 2009 Oscar-winner Man on Wire and Oscar-nominated Encounters At The End of the World, by Werner Herzog, as well as Grizzly Man.

The MFA in Documentary students, faculty and staff joined with the Chicago film community to celebrate Kartemquin Films 50th Birthday celebration at Chicago’s Harris Theater. The event was attended by 1,000 guests including award winning filmmakers, critics, and the who’s-who of Chicago’s filmmaking community.

For three consecutive nights, the Class of 2016 cohort premiered their thesis films at NU’s Block Cinema to packed audiences. Each night featured four films with the student filmmakers participating in Q&As with audiences following the screenings. For a list of the films and a brief synopsis, please visit Block Museum.

Ashley Brandon’s (Class of ’17) film WHERE WE’VE BEEN premiered at the Midwest Independent Film Festival on August 2nd. The film was created in Kyle Henry’s Narrative Techniques class.

Carlos Cova’s (Class of ’16) short documentary RIDE FAST NOW won the Audience Award at the Student Cuts 2016 festival in Slovenia.

Hasan Demirtas’s (Class of ’17) film TIGHT SPACE will be premiering at Chicago's Ethnographic Film Fest – Collected Voices. The festival runs August 11 through October 2016, culminating in an awards ceremony on October 24. Demirtas has also won an award from the Buffet Institute Keyman Modern Turkish Studies for production on his upcoming thesis film that will shoot in Turkey.

Mina Fitzpatrick’s (Class of ’17) documentary short RUN OF SHORT was selected for Chicagoland Shorts Volume 2, which premiered at Facets on May 14. The selected shorts will tour nationally and will be coming soon to VOD and Blu-ray. Fitzpatrick also had a Kartemquin Films feedback lab for her in-progress documentary, TWO TOGETHER. The film examines the emotional complexities of Korean culture, family expectations and adoption practices.

Tim Fryett’s (Class of ’17) documentary short OF A FEW DAYS screened as part of the shorts program for the 45th New Directors/New Films, organized by The Museum of Modern Art and Film Society of Lincoln Center. OF A FEW DAYS also screened at the Ethnografilm Festival in Paris on April 1 and at AFI Docs on June 25.

Jasmine Huff’s (Class of ’16) short documentary UNPACKING SOUL screened at Angelo State University’s Doing Auto-ethnography Conference in March 2015.

Congrats to the Class of 2016: The MFA in Documentary Media program said goodbye and congratulations to the first MFA in Documentary Media cohort as the Class of 2016 celebrated with their commencement and hooding ceremonies. Good luck with the next steps of your careers! It was a tremendous two years.

MFA IN WRITING FOR SCREEN + STAGE

On May 13th the MFA hosted their annual Festival of New Work and Writer’s Panel. The theme of this year’s panel was “Writing Fact and Fiction,” with writing panelists Lisa Cortes, Deidre O’Connor, Laura Eason, and Aaron Carter, moderated by Zayd Dohrn.

“4 by 4: 4 New Plays by 4 New Playwrights” featured work by recent Class of ’16 MFA graduates Urasa Por Burapacheeb, Roger Q. Mason, Lin Tu, and Kate Tucker Fahlsing. It was produced at Stage 773 on June 12.

Adam Tyler Hughes’s blogged about his internship experience in Los Angeles at Red Hour Films and David Zucker Entertainment.
STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Four members of the Class of 2016 were selected for the Araca Project, an initiative of The Araca Group (producers of URINETOWN, WICKED, A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE) to foster young entrepreneurs from Syracuse University, University of Michigan, Florida State University, Yale University, and Northwestern University. Kate Tucker Fahlsing will be co-producing her new play ACROSS THE PARK. Diana Losen and Mercedes Lake will be co-producing Mercedes’ new play TAUGHT, directed by classmate Thomas Murphy.

Roger Q. Mason’s (Class of ’16) short play LIZZY premiered at the Ensemble Studio Theater’s first one-act play festival.

ALUMNI NEWS

MFA IN WRITING FOR SCREEN + STAGE ALUMNI

Will Arbery (Class of ’15) is the 2016 Northwestern University Awardee of the Edes Foundation Prize.

Elizabeth Archer (Class of ’15) opened her world-premiere play TROLL at Fraud & Pony Theatre in Chicago this summer.

Farhan Arshad (Class of ’10) has been staffed on CBS’s upcoming series “Man With a Plan” starring Matt LeBlanc and directed by James Burrows. Farhan, a member of the 2016 Disney Storytellers program, has also written for ABC’s “Dr. Ken” and “Kirby Buckets” on Disney XD.

Carrie Barrett (Class of ’09) was featured in a hulu commercial.

Chad Eschman (Class of ’13) attended a one-month residency with 360 Xochi Quetzal in Chapala, Mexico, in December 2015 to January 2016. While there, he wrote a new full-length play, HELLFIRE, which is in development. He is also writing, producing, and co-starring in his new short film, NEVER STOP, which had an Indiegogo fundraising campaign in August 2016. The film shoots in October, 2016. neverstopfilm.com.

Sarah Gubbins (Class of ’10) is writing the pilot for Jill Soloway’s (“Transparent”) new Amazon series “I Love Dick,” - the pilot of which is available on Amazon - as well as co-writing Soloway’s feature film TEN AKER WOOD. Read her interview with current MFA Second Year Kate Royal about representation, art, and writing on After Ellen. She was also interviewed by Vogue.

Caitlin Kunkel (Class of 09) wrote an article for the Second City Network.

Jenni Lamb’s (Class of ’13) play MESSINA received a staged reading as the culmination of her time in the 2015-2016 Goodman Theatre’s Playwrights Unit.

Alumni-founded theatre collective Living Room Playmakers is expanding to Los Angeles, with Chad Eschman serving as Managing Director. Their first full-scale production will premiere in fall 2016. Jessy Lauren Smith (Class of ’12) will serve as Managing Director of the Chicago branch of the company, which also has a show going up in fall, 2016.
ALUMNI NEWS CONTINUED

Shannon Pritchard (Class of ’14 and MFA in Writing for Screen + Stage program assistant) was one of the writers featured in Brett Neveu and David Tolchinsky’s SICK BY SEVEN series at Chicago’s A Red Orchid Theatre, as part of the theatre’s Incubator Series.

Jen Spyra (Class of ’12) wrote two articles for The New Yorker’s Shouts & Murmurs section: “To the Class of 2050” and “Some Thoughts on My Engagement Ring.” She is also performing more on The Late Show where she is a writer.

RTVF Undergraduate Alumni

Jess Carleton (CWMP Class of ’05) was in a Purina TV commercial.

Laurel Cohen (Class of ’15) was hired by eharmony to direct a commercial, available to view on Vimeo.

Greg Porper’s (Class of ’12) co-created pilot “Don’t Tell Larry” is one of NYTVF Independent Pilot Competition’s official selections.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT NEWS

RTVF Chairman David Tolchinsky presented Seth Meyers at Commencement for Meyers’ honorary degree.

The MA in Sound Arts and Industries welcomes its first class of students starting fall 2016. It is a one-year interdisciplinary program that provides a unique place for learning about and creating sound work, utilizing the resources across the Radio-TV-Film Department, the School of Communication, and the greater sound community at Northwestern.

As of September 1, Professor Jacob Smith finished his term as Director of Graduate Studies for the Screen Cultures Ph.D. program. Professor Miriam Petty is the new Director of our Ph.D. program.

At the end of the summer, Bill Bleich concluded his latest term as the Associate Chair of the department and Associate Director of the MFA in Writing for Screen + Stage. Starting September 1, Associate Professor Zayd Dohrn has taken on those two roles.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 28-29: 24 Hour Theater Festival hosted by the MFA in Writing for Screen + Stage

October 13-14: Sound Designer and Director Gary Rydstrom

October 20: Screening of the documentary LIFE ANIMATED

October 21-23: First-Year Filmmakers
The Department of Radio/Television/Film
The School of Communication
Northwestern University

Located at 1920 Campus Drive, Evanston, IL 60208

David Tolchinsky: RTVF Chairperson, Director of MFA in Writing for the Screen + Stage
Zayd Dohrn: RTVF Associate Chairperson, Associate Director of MFA in Writing for the Screen + Stage
Roberta Stack: Director of Undergraduate Programs
Lynn Spigel: Director of the Screen Cultures Center
Debra Tolchinsky: Director of MFA in Documentary Media
Ines Sommer: Associate Director of MFA in Documentary Media
Miriam Joanna Petty: Director of Graduate Studies in Screen Cultures Program
Jacob Smith: Director of MA in Sound Arts and Industries

www.communication.northwestern.edu/departments/rtf/about