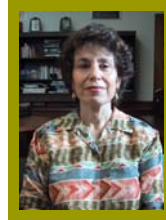


University of Pittsburgh

# The News Reel

## Film Studies Program Newsletter



Dr. Lucy Fischer,  
Director

### From the Director's Chair

**Lucy Fischer** (Professor and Program Director)

With the Fall of 2004 a new academic year begins, and we are pleased to be offering a series of stimulating courses. On the undergraduate level, in addition to our general requirements, we will offer classes this Fall on such topics as History of American Film, Hitchcock, Photography and its Social/Political Contexts, Film Theory, Film Noir, The Film Western, Science Fiction Cinema, Japanese Culture and Society through Cinema, Polish Cinema, Russian

Film, Czech and Slovak Cinema, Francophone Film, and Television Analysis. On the graduate level, we are offering Film History/Theory, Genre and Film, and Ethnographic Cinema. The specificity of these topics makes clear the depth of our curriculum.

We are also extremely pleased to welcome two new faculty members to the interdisciplinary Film Studies program (whom we hope to "profile" in some detail in future issues). **Dr. Mark Lynn Anderson** (Department

of English) comes to us most recently from Florida Atlantic University.

**Dr. Xinmin Liu** (Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures) comes to us most recently from Yale University.

Finally, we are very proud to unveil a newly revamped and revised Film Studies Website which Andrea Campbell and I have worked on for the past year. Please

visit it at  
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### Graduation Reception

On April 25, 2004, the Department of English and the Film Studies Program co-hosted a reception for their undergraduate graduating students. The event complemented the University-wide Commencement Ceremony. The funding for the reception came from FAS Dean **Patricia Beeson**, with the expectation that this reception will become an annual affair. The event took

place in the lobby of Posvar Hall from 9:00A.M. – 11:00A.M. The area in Posvar Hall was festooned with balloons, movie posters, and a standup cutout of *The Three Stooges* dressed in graduation gowns and mortar boards, which made for many a humorous photo opportunity.

The attendees included English Department Chair, **David Bartholomae**, Film Studies

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do."

-Mark Twain

Director, **Lucy Fischer**, Film Studies Associate Director, **Vladimir Padunov**, some English and Film Studies faculty, graduating students and their families. The reception was a wonderful opportunity for the English Department and the Film Studies Program to rec-

ognize their majors as well as to have students, parents, and faculty gather in a social setting. David Bartholomae announced



Chuck Kinder, Nancy Glazener, Lucy Fischer and David Bartholomae

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## Faculty Profile

### Keiko McDonald

"I'm like wine. Good teachers/researchers and fine wine need time to develop," says Keiko McDonald, Professor of Japanese Cinema and Literature. McDonald began her full-time teaching career at the University of Texas at Austin in 1974; her Japanese film course was the first to be offered at an American academic institution. The following year she joined the faculty of East Asian Languages and Literatures, the same year that the Asian Studies Program received a \$1 million endowment from the Japan Iron and Steel Federation for the development of Japanese Studies.

As one of the leading scholars in Japanese cinema, McDonald teaches a number of Japanese film courses. Among them are Japanese Culture and Society through Cinema, Westerns and Samurai Films, and Japanese Literature on Screen. Her film courses close quickly, and students sometimes wait up to three years to take her comparative film class on westerns and samurai films.

McDonald was a nominee for the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award and a recipient of the 1998 Asian Studies Teaching Excellence Award and the 2002 Tina and David Bellet CAS Teaching Excellence Award. She has lectured widely East and West as an invited speaker at conferences, film festivals, and a variety of cultural events to help bridge the gaps of language, culture and geographic distance. One of her most recent activities involved invited participation in the Yasujiro Ozu Panel as part of the 2003 New York Ozu Centen-



nial jointly organized by the Film Center of Lincoln Center and Columbia University.

She has also written extensively on both Japanese literature and cinema. Her major books include *Cinema East: A Critical Study of Major Japanese Films* (1983), *Mizoguchi* (1984), *Japanese Classical Theater in Films* (1994) and *From Book to Screen: Modern Japanese Literature in Films* (2000). She has also co-edited *Nara Encounters* (1997) with Professor Thomas Rimer, a colleague at Pitt, and recently completed two books—*Reading a Japanese Film*: (under contract from the University of Hawaii Press) and *The World of Hiroshi Shimizu, a Forgotten Veteran of Japanese Cinema*. McDonald is currently working on a book on Japanese women directors—a project supported by a Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship and a Japan Foundation Fellowship.

For many years, Dr. McDonald has served as academic adviser for Japanese majors. A number of her advisees are currently in Japan, participating in the Year-In-Japan Program.

As an avid athlete, McDonald has run more than thirty marathons. Her passion for running has ancient roots: the hope of having "a sound mind in a sound body." McDonald believes that teachers owe their students an appearance of balance. "A good humor and self-discipline, no matter how dark the day or strained this or that temper or ligament," she says. One student has described her as "the happiest professor on campus."

As an enthusiastic angler, McDonald has written many articles for Japanese fishing maga-

zines such as *Fishing Sunday* and *Anglers*. As a regular contributor to *The Epic World*, she has also written about intercultural exchange between East and West. McDonald also had cameo roles in two films shot in Pittsburgh: Ron Howard's *Gung Ho* (1986) and George Miller's *Lorenzo's Oil* (1992).

### Graduation (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

the names of each attending student and awarded each graduate a bound certificate of accomplishment. Afterwards, everyone mingled and partook of the refreshments offered. It was a lovely affair and just the beginning of what should become a highly anticipated, annual event. Many thanks to Jen Florian for all her hard work.



### Director's Chair (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

[www.pitt.edu/~filmst](http://www.pitt.edu/~filmst), and give us any feedback you think appropriate.

Have a good Fall!

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## Internship Opportunities

The Film Studies Program internship program has just gotten a boost with the recent appointment of **Ellen Bishop** as the undergraduate advisor. Bishop, who received her MFA in poetry in 1987 and her PhD in 1994, both from Pitt, has been a visiting lecturer since 1999.

“The program needed someone in a central position with a sense of what’s going on locally in the film industry,” she says. “So I have taken on that responsibility, and now all the undergraduates who want internships have to come through me first. It gives the students a point person to rely on who has the time and knowledge.”

Students will still have to register for their internship through the Office of Experiential Learning, but now they have a touchstone in the program to whom to go to for help, advice, and placement.

Bishop, who is teaching Introduction to Film Genres and Film Westerns this fall, has helped to place students in local television stations such as KDKA, cable stations, and smaller suburban stations. She sees an advantage to picking a smaller company with which to intern because it gives a student a better chance to try out different jobs.

“One student recently completed an internship with a Bethel Park station,” she says. “It was great for him because he was able to do everything, like filming footage for background stories and shorter spots. These jobs are very valuable—you get hands-on experience, and there’s room for small mistakes.”

Bishop is currently working

through a long list of contacts, getting more information on positions at all kinds of companies, including some surprising candidates such as Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild and the Carnegie Museums. Both arts organizations employ production crews for various events and activities, including art openings, artist spotlights, and concerts. Bishop also works with The Sprocket Guild, a Pittsburgh-based filmmaking organization, to find short-term assignments for students.

Bishop is also collaborating with the Film Studies advising office to move students through production courses as quickly as possible in order to get them involved in internships sooner in their academic careers.

“Companies are interested in students with basic production skills,” she says. “I strongly recommend taking an internship to all students. Even if you’re going to go on to graduate school and study film and not going into the technical side of film, an internship gives kids a better sense of filmmaking from the other side of the camera and screen.” Contacts: ebishop@pitt.edu - 412-624-6512, Office of Experiential Learning - 412-624-6828.

### Internship Profile

Senior fiction writing major and 2003-04 Pitt-in-Hollywood club co-president **Melanie Kirschbaum** spent the summer of 2003 in Los Angeles as an intern for Mosaic Media Group. The company has produced films such as *Cool Runnings*, *12 Monkeys*, *City of Angels*, *Three Kings*, *Scary Movie 1 & 2* and *Elf* and is currently developing a six-film package for HBO. Recently, Melanie took some time to answer a few questions about her experience, her plans for the future, and

how this internship has shaped her career as a student.

**News Reel:** Tell us about your internship.

**Melanie Kirschbaum:** My internship was fabulous! I interned with Mosaic Media Group and spent most of my time filing, faxing, and making copies. Every now and then I filled in for an assistant and answered calls for the managers and other executives. I met Vince Vaughn, Will Ferrell, Randy Jackson, and Chris Parnell from *SNL*, among others. I did not work on a specific project, but I did the small tasks that needed to be completed around the office, including script coverage.

I got the internship by meeting a Mosaic Media Group partner (who was from Pittsburgh), and he offered me the opportunity after I spoke briefly with him about my interest in the entertainment industry, which had been sparked by taking a few screenwriting classes with Professor Carl Kurlander.

**NR:** How has the internship affected your studies at Pitt?

**MK:** Coming back to Pittsburgh was hard, especially since I spent every weekend at the beaches in Malibu! Imagine the drastic change of scenery! But I am glad to be back and to bring my knowledge of the entertainment industry to the Pitt-in-Hollywood club.

**NR:** How do you think this internship will affect your job search after graduation?

**MK:** This internship helped me decide that I would like to pursue a career somewhere in film and television writing. I definitely made a lot of contacts and keep in touch with many of my former colleagues. I plan on moving back to

*(Continued on page 6)*









