USC Cinematic Arts



Alumnae Speak on Careers, the Industry and the SCA Experience



The Hollywood Reporter Archiv
THE SCHOLARS OF SCA BRING THE PAST TO LIFE
WITH THE HELP OF THR

Anatomy of a Game SCA'S GROUNDBREAKING TRANSMEDIA EXPERIMENT GOES LIVE

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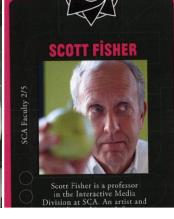
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Neal Moritz '85



As in past years, it seems that the amount of change here at the USC School of Cinematic Arts continues to mirror the level of change in the entertainment industry as a whole. Firmly established in the Cinematic Arts Complex, we are now looking forward to the construction and completion of the final Phase III construction. This extraordinary facility will house our Interactive Media Division, the Institute for Multimedia Literacy and the Interdivisional Media Arts and Practice Ph.D. program. The past several months have seen the inauguration of the Marilyn and Jeffrey Katzenberg Center for Animation, the creation of a new state-of-the-art performance capture lab at the Robert Zemeckis Center for Digital Arts, and the dedication of the 20th Century Fox Soundstage, the John Williams Scoring Stage and the Cecil B. DeMille Chair in Silent Film.

Each of these resources contributes to an educational environment that offers an incredible level of opportunity for our students, who are working toward leaving their own unique imprint on the industry and the art form. The School continues to move forward each year, and we are grateful to the generosity of all those who make that movement possible.

This year, with the help of alumni and industry partners, we have made amazing strides in the areas of visual effects, augmented reality games and immersive technology. When the industry leaders of tomorrow look around and ask, "What's next?", it is clear that our students will have the

With so much going on, from new buildings to new technologies and initiatives, it is important to remember that our greatest resources at the School are our students and alumni, who are all connected by the bonds of being part of the SCA family. No matter if our young women and men are studying to become leading scholars of the moving image, delving into the techniques of 2-D and 3-D animation, writing the great American (or any other country's) screenplay, designing immersive game worlds and experiences, telling an awe-inspiring story on film or digital, or launching their career as the next studio head, the most important asset they have is each other.

On behalf of the faculty and staff here at the USC School of Cinematic Arts, let me thank you for what you have done for the School and for being an integral part of all that we do in the future.

Happy Holidays!

Elizabeth M. Daley Steven J. Ross/Time Warner Professor and Dean

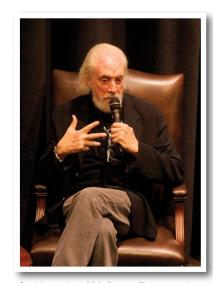
YEAR IN REVIEW



The USC School of Cinematic Arts hosted a variety of special events through the year. The calendar included the dedications of the Marilyn & Jeffrey Katzenberg Center for Animation, the John Williams Scoring Stage, the 20th Century Fox Sound Stage and the Cecil B. DeMille Chair in Silent Film.

In addition, the School hosted many guest speakers including several friends and alumni of SCA.

The SCA Network hosted another slate of films for members including Super 8, Contagion, I Am Number Four, Real Steel and Cars 2.

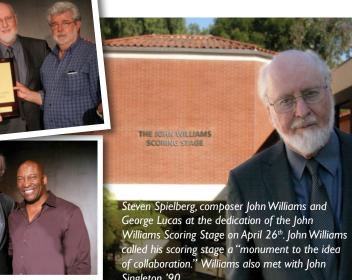


On November 11th, Robert Towne spoke to students about his legendary film Chinatown.





Legendary filmmaker John Waters met with students as part of Visions and Voices' An Evening with John Waters. Professor James Egan, Jack Epps, Jr., and Professor Ted Braun met with Waters for a cocktail reception. The event was in conjunction with Egan's new book Interviews with John Waters.













Provost Elizabeth Garrett, Dean Elizabeth M. Daley, CeCe DeMille-Presley and Frank Price at the dedication of the Cecil B. DeMille Chair in Silent Film. Chair of the Critical Studies Division Dr. Akira Mizuta Lippit and CeCe DeMille-Presley look over the exhibit of DeMille artifacts in the Hefner Exhibit Hall.

Price, Daley and Commencement Speaker

Sumner Redstone, who spoke on the

importance of hard work and passion.







Ed Saxon '84, Chair of the Interactive Media Division Tracy Fullerton, Jay Roach '86 and Phil Spencer, the

corporate Vice President of Microsoft,

at the Microsoft Next Generation

Initiative Dedication on October 18th.

This year, the Robert Zemeckis Center for Digital Arts opened its new performance capture lab. With forty-five Vicon cameras, the stage is in the top-ten in North America in terms of number of cameras.

VFX company GenArts hosted an event

for students led by directors Tim Story

'94 and Steven Sommers '93 where

they discussed the role of

VFX in storytelling.





Thor writer Don Payne and President of Marvel Studios Kevin Feige'95 speak to Leonard Maltin's class after a late-night screening.





Members of the Institute for Multimedia Literacy traveled to Qatar to debut the project Pluff for autistic children.



The Peter Stark Producing Program turned thirty this year. At the anniversary party, longtime staff member Kathy Fogg was honored with a plaque. Guests included John August '94, Ed Saxon '84, Dean Elizabeth M. Daley, Fogg and Chair of the Peter Stark Program Larry Turman.

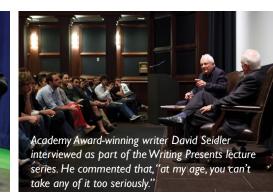


Director McG speaks to Professor Pablo Frasconi as part of the YouTube Creator Institute this summer. Ten students were housed at SCA and taught the basics of filmmaking.





Breaking Bad actor Bryan Cranston speaks to students at the Robert Zemeckis Center.



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Miles Millar '94 at the screening of

The School dedicated the new 20th Century Fox Soundstage

on Wednesday, March 30th. Geroge Lucas, Shawn Levy '94 and Dean Elizabeth M. Daley on the red carpet. Daley, Tom Rothman, Lucas, Jim Gianopulos and President C. L. Max Nikias. Gianopulos joked that hucas was Creak when they have the state of the state

that Lucas was Greek when they began working together.

USC Cinematic Arts Library Acquires

The Hollywood Reporter Photography Archive

In the 1930s, journalists from The Hollywood Reporter would scale studio walls and sift through film executives' garbage in search of news. In 2011, the publication invited the University of Southern California Cinematic Arts Library to scavenge through their own discard pile, which comprised 350 boxes of photographs documenting Hollywood history.

"It really came out of the blue, fell into our laps and turned out to be something terrific," said Sandra Garcia-Myers, associate director of the Cinematic Arts Library. "I got an email saying that The Hollywood Reporter was moving to a new location. They have these photos and don't want to take them to the new place, since they've changed publishers and are going in a new direction. So we went down there, and within two seconds, I could tell it was a treasure trove of wonderful things."

Spanning the 1960s to the present, The Hollywood Reporter photography archive provides a visual record of film, television, animation, music, entertainment personalities and executives.

"The Hollywood Reporter has been covering areas. the entertainment business since the 1930s, so its photo archives represent a fascinating window into Hollywood history," said Janice Min, the publication's editorial director. "We're excited to help USC's film library preserve an important part of the industry's past."

The collection includes publicity stills and behind-the-scenes photos of productions ranging from Boyz n the Hood to A River Runs Through It, shows from M*A*S*H to Masterpiece Theatre, and cartoons from X-Men to Yogi Bear.

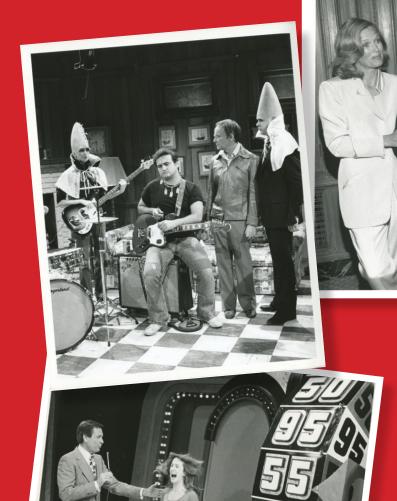
"They pulled out some stills from *The* Price Is Right that had Bob Barker," said Garcia-Myers. "He wasn't grey – he was a young Bob Barker. The second I saw The Price Is Right, I knew I wanted this collection just because you're not going to find that anywhere. Those are big items for researchers. So the 'aha' moment for me was seeing the TV stuff. I said to myself, 'We have got to have this.'"

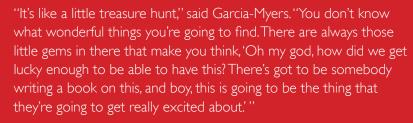
The collection also includes hard-to-find items on the film side.

"There was a whole file drawer called 'executives,'" said Garcia-Myers. "Researchers trying to do a history of executives at a certain place wouldn't be able to find a lot of these people."

Because of the publication's impending move, USC only had 10 days to transport the massive quantity of photos to the Cinematic Arts space on the ground floor of the Doheny Memorial Library on the University Park campus. The number of boxes kept multiplying as The Hollywood Reporter stumbled upon additional file cabinets, rooms and basement storage

The library is still in the process of inventorying the photographs, and Garcia-Myers hopes to apply for a grant to create a digital archive of the collection. In the meantime, the contents of many boxes are still unknown.





Media arts researchers are becoming increasingly interested in television, and Garcia-Myers believes the archive will be useful to scholars writing books and articles as well as USC students doing projects for critical studies and history courses. The Hollywood Reporter collection will enlarge the existing Cinematic Arts photography archive by between 50 and 100 percent.

The Cinematic Arts Library has more than 350 collections focusing on studios, directors, actors, producers and behind-the-scenes artists. In addition to photographs, its holdings include books, scripts, scores, letters, storyboards, production designs, budgets and other artifacts, which are often featured in exhibitions in the School of Cinematic Arts, Ronald Tutor Campus Center and other campus venues. Along with the USC Warner Bros. Archives and the Hugh M. Hefner Moving Image Archive, the Cinematic Arts Library performs a unique role by serving as Hollywood's attic.

"As far as we know, the Cinematic Arts Library is the only standalone university library that specializes in film and television," said Garcia-Myers. "We're trying to preserve Hollywood history, and so much has gone by way of the circular file. So we're doing everything that we can to bring in these collections. We're constantly talking to people and saying, 'Save your stuff, because it'll help future generations of students, scholars and researchers."



CINEMA.USC.EDU • IN MOTION • 9 8 • IN MOTION • USC SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS

By Ryan Gilmour

We all know the traditional speech from the first day of film school. The Dean tells the incoming students, "Look to your left and to your right. These are the people that you will be spending the rest of your career working with." It's the oldest speech in the book for a reason: ask any SCA alumnus with a long record of success and they'll tell you it's true.

This year, the School has taken that tradition one step farther with the interactive media-making game officially called Reality Ends Here, but known to the students simply as "The Game."

On a technical level, Reality Ends Here is a fifteen-week collaborative production, alternate reality game. In layman's terms, it's a new way for students to meet, network and start working together creatively. The game came out of a committee created by Dean Elizabeth M. Daley to envision the future of SCA.

"One key initiative for that committee was to establish a 'gateway experience' for incoming students that introduced them to the changing media landscape, the history and future of the School, the possibilities that can emerge from the SCA network of current and past students and the importance of bridging the divisions of the School while they are here, both socially and academically," said Interactive Media Division Chair Tracy Fullerton, who was one of the committee's original members, along with professors Holly Willis, Steve Anderson, Tara McPherson, Mary Sweeney, Michael Patterson and Michael

The gateway class, which is being taught by Tara McPherson, was designed by the committee to introduce a new kind of social networking for SCA students, both on and offline, that would become critical to their involvement in courses and with each other.

"As the class developed, it became clear that a game layer would be a perfect way to achieve all of the goals set out by the committee without falling victim to the general survey or lecture class tradition we wanted to move beyond," Fullerton continued.

The game experience was designed by iMAP Ph. D candidate Jeff Watson, IMD MFA student Simon Wiscombe and Fullerton, who together focused on creating an unique entry point to this

experience, what alternate reality game designers call "the

"Students got a postcard at orientation that had an old picture from SCA's original building on it and the cryptic message 'Carry your cards at all times,''' said game designer and creative director leff Watson. "A URL on the card led to a website that had a countdown timer on it."

During orientation, a flag was flown off the balcony of the SCA Complex with Reality Ends Here's logo on it. A super 8 camera with a coded message instructing the students to report to an unmarked office on the second floor was under the flag. The students deciphered the code and found the game office.

Once the students had found the game office, they could pick up their Reality "packs" – a deck of 10 playing cards, different cards for each player, that contained prompts and challenges

that can be combined to create any number of creative deals.

For example.

one student

might have a card challenging them to make a "30-second 15 short," Another student could have a connecting card that with the property "in an elevator," and a third student has another connecting card that stipulates that they must "use the colors black and white." The cards are each worth points, with bigger deals generating higher scores. All students who participate in the deals get the total number of points in the deal. Collaboration was the key to success.

Once a deal is struck, the students all work together to answer the challenge described by the prompt they've created. Some deals

include prompt them to meet and involve other freshman, or to link multiple projects together from various divisions – such as a shared story universe between a game, a video and a poster.

The object of the game is to make Deals by connecting cards. Cards connect together by matching the colors and arrows on their edges.

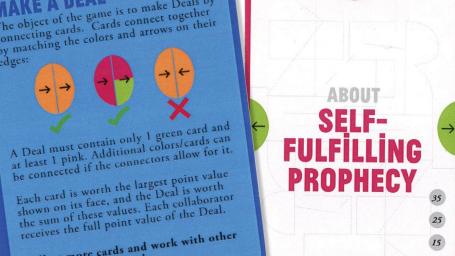
Each card is worth the largest point value shown on its face, and the Deal is worth the sum of these values. Each collaborator receives the full point value of the Deal.

Collect more cards and work with other players for better Deals.



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LAN VİSVİKİS



IN

The students have said that the game and the reward encounters have opened their eyes to both the future and the history of media making.



Once students have created a piece of media for a deal, they upload it to the game website at reality. usc.edu. They also have to come into the game office to show the cards that they used to make the deal

EXECUTE THE DEAL

Document your work. Don't lose the cards.

hen completed, go to reality.usc.edu submit your work.

r submitting, bring the cards used in Deal to the Game Office to make your ification and earn your points.

ut the game and Game Office a reality.usc.edu.

CARRY YOUR CARDS WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES

SUBMIT YOUR PROOF

EAL THE DEAL

"justification" video.

applies to the project.

In the justification video, the

students have to describe their

deal and how each of the cards

Each week, the students with the

most points are rewarded with a

very special prize: an encounter

with an SCA alumnus or other

Some of the encounters that

meetings with director John

Singleton, screenwriter John

students have had so far include

Watson, cinematographer Dante

Santiago and lenova Chen, writer/

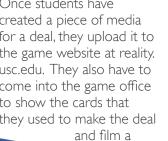
director John Waters and a visit to

Spinotti, game designers Kellee

the set of Mad Men with writer

Erin Levy.

well-known media maker.





The Class

In addition to the game element of the experience, all freshman and first year transfer students enrolled in a class called Reality Starts Here, taught by Professor Tara McPherson The irony of teaching a class about the future of media to a

lecture hall wasn't lost on McPherson.

"Teaching what we imagine as a cutting-edge new class in a lecture format was a challenge," said McPherson. "It was very important to me that the class not devolve into fifteen weeks of me talking to them in a very old-school format."

In McPherson's class, things run the opposite of most lecture classes. To begin, students are asked to take out their laptops as opposed to putting them away. Instead of asking questions, students tweet to a class hashtag. Instead of the teacher explaining to them how media is created, the students create

"I've divided the students into eight groups and, at least once during the semester, one of those groups takes over one half of the class," continued McPherson. "The students doing the work for that week have a much richer and deeper experience of the material at hand while the students in the audience are equally or more engaged than they would be with a traditional lecture."

The class also featured guest speakers: Henry Jenkins (USC faculty); Jeremy Gibson (USC faculty: IMD); Barnet Kellman and David Isaacs (USC faculty: Production + Writing, Comedy@SCA Initiative); Marti Noxon (Writer/Producer: Buffy, Mad Men. Glee. Grey's Anatomy, Private Practice, Fright Night); Tracy Fullerton (USC faculty: IMD); Richard Lemarchand (Game Designer at Naughty Dog); Elan Lee (Leading Designer of Alternate Reality Games for Nine Inch Nails and many others); Jon Dudowski (USC alum and editor on TV show Fringe); Norm Hollyn (USC faculty: Editing/ Production); and Midge Costin (USC faculty: Sound/Production).

In the second week of the class, guest speaker Henry Jenkins told the class, "I do enjoy media. But, to me, enjoying media means being thoughtful about the media."

Jenkins neatly summed up the Reality Ends Here experience. In addition to being a place where students can meet each other. the experience had taught them to appreciate media and be thoughtful in their approach.



How a Deal Goes Down

When it comes down to nuts and bolts, the basic unit of Reality Ends Here is the deal. In the third week of the game, a group of ten students made the biggest deal in the game up until that point by producing the trailer, "The Game," a loving homage to the game itself.

The mega-deal was born as a reaction to a group of students who started gaming the system. One "super team" organically emerged with the intention of winning

'Right off the bat, a big group of people got together and they named themselves Marra,' said freshman Sam Sandweiss. "They started putting out a lot of projects and they were very strategic."

Marra's strategy worked. The first two weeks, the top points earners were both members of Marra. In the third week, however, the idea of a "super deal" emerged.

"We decided, "What if we make a deal about a group of kids that want to make a deal," said production freshman Michael Effenberger. "It's going to be haphazard and wonderful."

"We sat down and thought, 'let's make a really big deal," continued Sandweiss. "We wanted to make fun of the fact that some people were so concerned with winning that they had compromised their

The biggest deal in the history of the game was born, not out of great ambition but out of mocking the seriousness of the game.

"We decided that we wanted to make a project that spoofed how serious certain people had gotten about the game," said IMD freshman Riley Pietsch.

The vision for "The Game" came from group collaboration. The script was loose and all ideas were welcomed at the table. The filming took place in one day and the editing was done in two.

"The biggest challenge was, because we were more concerned with the points than anything, was laying out this piece that had to have all of these cards that had to be worked in," said Pietsch. "We were all worried when we had to justify."

They did justify and they did win. Dozens of pieces of media were formed in the game. Some students are trying to express themselves, some students are trying to win but only one, "The Game," was making a conscious comment about how some of the students were only out to win... and they won.

The students involved with "The Game" were the week three point winners and got to go to the premiere of Machine Gun Preacher at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



Anatomy of a Card

The cards in Reality Ends Here are double sided. One side contains a profile of either a media maker or a piece of media. People, places and things students should know about are presented to students with the hope of inspiring ideas and conversations. On the card above, a brief description of On the Waterfront with a screenshot is featured.

The other side contains an instruction, obstacle or caveat that has to be a part of the media project which students turn in for the project. In this case, they have to include and justify "At LA Harbor" which means the students either have to literally film at LA Harbor or find a creative way to represent LA Harbor in their projects.

"One of the things we're trying to pass on to the students with this project is the feeling of the bullpen which was an area of the film school back when the School was in the stables. It was this wild and unruly place with graffiti all over the walls and piles of film and people sitting on benches. I don't think it's surprising that the generation that came from the bullpen was one of the most fruitful in the School's history. It was a crazy place. That kind of cross-pollination space is something that having our amazing facilities actually limits. We've noticed that some of the pictures that the students are uploading to the new electronic bullpen in the game have the same swagger as some of the old photos of the bullpen generation. We named the interactive space The Bullpen out of respect for the

—Jeff Watson

The New Bullpen

School's past."

A Day in the Life of Dr. Drew Casper by Ryan Gilmon

It's eleven AM on a day that's scheduled to end at eleven PM and Dr. Drew Casper is already wearing me out. I quickly learn that my assignment to cover "a day in the life of Dr. Casper" is going to be more accurately "a half-day in the life of Dr. Casper." By the time I take a seat in his office, he's been up for seven hours.

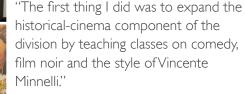
r. Casper has been teaching at SCA for thirty-nine years. "I was a child prodigy," Casper joked. "I started working here when I was twelve years old." He's best known for his 190: Intro to Film course (his class was number eight on a t-shirt which students produced listing the top ten reasons to come to SCA) but he has also published five books, holds the prestigious Alma and Alfred Hitchcock Chair in American Film, was awarded the 2005 USC Associates Award for Excellence in Teaching, has provided more than forty-five DVD commentaries and, in 2011, lectured at the Beijing Film Archive.

Before becoming an authority on cinema, Casper was ordained a Jesuit priest. "The Jesuits sent me to get my Ph.D. in production," said Casper. "I told the Provincial that film was the new humanity and he bought it."

During Casper's second semester of study, writing professor Irwin Blacker, impressed with his work, asked him to teach his writing class when he was hospitalized. Shortly after, Blacker had the head of the School, Bernie Kantor, offer Casper a tenure track position.

"There was a problem," Casper continued. "The Provincial said 'no.' I was baffled. I





knew that I could reach so many more

the entertainment industry teaching

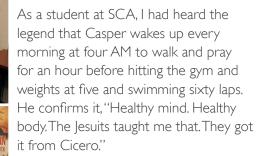
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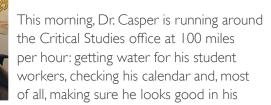
fell under the wings of my new Jewish

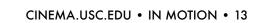
guardian angels, Blackwell and Kantor."

hearts and minds that would be entering

"Looking back, I think the Jesuits realize it was an unwise decision. When I revisited them a couple of years ago, they said, 'It's too bad that this happened. Leaving wouldn't be our advice now."





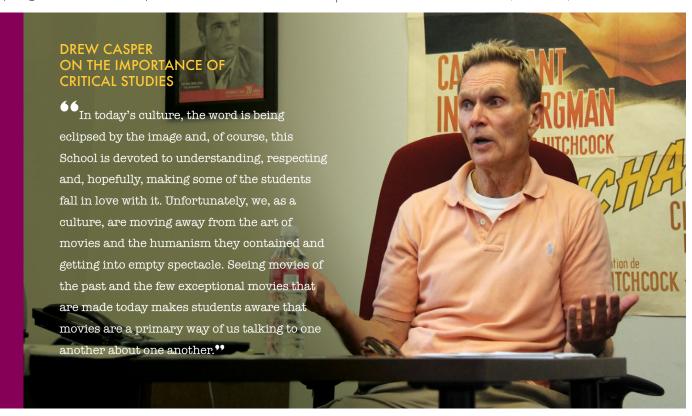


photos. He can be described a million ways but low energy isn't one of them.

Before I've even settled in, he's taking meetings with students. In the first half hour of his work day he's written a letter of recommendation for a student to study abroad, given career advice to an aspiring screenwriter and quoted Horace and

to say, but most of the undergrads are afraid to say anything on record. A common fear when my tape recorder comes out is being "called out."

When the class gets into full gear, I see the "calling out" in full force. Casper is trying to emphasize the importance of color composition in Scorsese's New York, New York, when he calls on



- "the mountain roared to emit a mouse... full of sound and fury, to himself," oh no" and starts frantically flipping through a signifying nothing."

Next, we head to Norris Cinema Theatre for Dr. Casper's famous CTCS 190 course. Before the class, Dr. Casper prowls the aisles of the auditorium learning names of students and grilling them on the assigned reading. Less than eager students avoid eye contact.

The lecture details the strategy of performance as it enters into the production and consumption of a film text. At lecture's end, Casper thanks the students for their open minds and hearts. He receives his first standing ovation of the day.

Casper's night class, CTCS 469 The Films of Martin Scorsese is clearly a different crowd from 190. They are older and most of them looked exhausted to the point of collapse (presumably production students in the editing phase of a film.)

My guise as a "fly on the wall" quickly breaks down as Casper points me towards students and instructing me, "Get a quote from him. He loves me, Ask her for info, she's got stories," The students do, in fact, love him. None of them have anything bad

Shakespeare to a student to describe contemporary action films a student sitting directly behind me. The student mumbles binder. He gives an answer which doesn't appease Casper but, fortunately for everyone involved, Casper moves on.

> At the end of the evening, Casper reminds the class that the film is a 35mm print, "That's the way movies are meant to be consumed --not streamed, not on DVD -but on the big screen... and communally. People don't even remember films they see today because they watch them on the size of a postage stamp and alone!"

In large lecture classes, sometimes students choose to view the movies at home and the break between the lecture and the screening signals a mass exodus. In Casper's class, the students

When he leaves the lectern, the class gives him his second standing ovation and he slips out the back.

The entire day, Dr. Casper didn't slow down at all. I can only imagine that, at the end of the day, he collapses but, according to legend, he's up the next morning at four AM to do it all again.

THE WISDOM OF DR. CASPER

- Singin' in the Rain, which I begin 190 with, was made in 1952, some sixty years ago and it can still fill students with so much joy. They come out bounding. They come out walking on air. Not too many movies today put us in such fine fettle. ••
- ••Thank God for independent filmmaking today. ••
- ⁶⁶As a culture, we are getting more primitive. It's sad but it's true.
- 66 I'm so sick of films where heroes are destined or selected to save the world and the galaxies. Whatever happened to movies in which people go about mending their with me staying at SCA. ** own hearts?**

- No more tattoos. People with your brains and looks don't need gimmicks.**
- You want to know what a star entrance is? Look at Gene Kelley's introduction at Grauman's Chinese in Singin in the Rain. Blindingly white fedora, tie, shirt, camel hair coat and an ear to ear grin where his teeth literally sparkle.**
- To be able to spend a good part of your life sharing your passion with young people, as I have, is a profound blessing. To have my name associated with that of Alfred Hitchcock is equally a blessing that could have only happened

DREW CASPER IN HIS STUDENTS' WORDS

- **66**Dr. Casper serenades the class before bidding us an emotional farewell. Knowing that a professor cares so deeply about his life's work is refreshing at a level of academia where many professors solely want to conduct research.**
 - Erin Loadvine Junior
- **66** Working for Dr. Casper is like working for a force of nature. It's like being immersed.
 - Casey Riffel Ph.D.
- 66 It's exciting to be in the class of someone who loves what they do so much. He's got a certain drama and energy behind what he does."
 - Jesse Small Junior
- 66 I thought he was brilliant but, honestly, I was frightened in 190. He keeps lecture fun. He came to the first day of Scorsese class dressed as Travis Bickle.
- Audrey Rosenberg Freshman
- 66 He is bold and daring in everything he says. It is few and far between that I meet a teacher or professor that will speak freely about his religious and political views, but Casper speaks of it with emphasis. He knows exactly what he believes and says it proudly and passionately.**
 - Jade Niemeyer Senior
- 66 Some kids at SCA should just say, 'I majored in Casper,' I've had five classes. 99
 - Michael Bitar Senior





BuildingtheFuture special supplement

PHASE II







PHASE III

Dean Elizabeth M. Daley and the School of Cinematic Arts are proud to announce the groundbreaking of the final stage of SCA's massive reconstruction and modernization process, with the creation of a 60,000-square-foot building, housing the Interactive Media Division, the Institute for Multimedia Literacy and the Interdivisional Media Arts and Practices Ph. D. program. Located at the corner of 34th Street and McClintock, the four-level facility will include laboratories, collaboration areas, gallery and exhibition spaces which will feature student and faculty work, classrooms and a digital theatre.

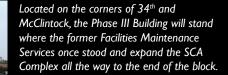
A cornerstone of the building will be the Game Innovation Lab, a state-of-the-art play testing and design lab for the Interactive Media Division. Additional programs and curricula housed in the building will focus on interactive architecture, immersive, mobile and environmental media, alternate reality games, augmented reality and mixed reality experience design.

Online: cinema.usc.edu/onlinegiving



On August 16th, the groundbreaking for Phase III was held. Guests included IMD Chair Tracy Fullerton, Senior Associate Dean of External Relations Marlene Loadvine, Provost Elizabeth Garrett, Assistant Dean of Facilities Doug Wellman, Dean Elizabeth Daley, architect Tom Brady, Angelo Garcia, Senior Director: Lucas Real Estate Holdings, Tom Leary and Mandeep Bhari, of Capital Construction Development for USC.







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After graduating from USC in 1996, screenwriter Tim Dowling penned the hit comedy Role Models. Grateful for the immersion in film culture he'd experienced during his student days at USC, Dowling wanted to make a contribution to School of Cinematic Arts.

Referring to George Lucas' \$175 million gift to SCA, Dowling explains, "Maybe I didn't create the biggest franchise of all time where I'd be able to give a couple hundred million dollars, but I did want to give something that would help keep the school growing for the next generation of filmmakers and kind of pay it forward."

So Dowling, who has also scripted Denzel Washington's upcoming Uptown Saturday Night remake and the Reese Witherspoon espionage romance This Means War, teamed up with ten former USC classmates and got creative.

They named a bathroom after themselves.

Each classmate donated \$3,000 to USC's School of Cinematic Arts. In return, their names now adorn the restroom next to the Dana and Albert "Cubby" Broccoli Theatre in the George Lucas Building. Dowling explains, "We're hoping when people see our names on this bathroom, it might encourage them to think in terms of the smaller gifts: 'Okay I might be able to do something fun on that level."

Dowling's inventive contribution represents exactly the kind of thinking encouraged by Marlene Loadvine, Senior Associate Dean, Advancement, who directs SCA fundraising efforts. "Making donations to the school is a way people

MEN'S RESTROOM HERBERT RATNER TIMOTHY DOWLING TRACE SLOBOTKIN DANNY STRONG JASON SHUMAN LUKE GREENFIELD ARI RYAN ALBERT BUGOFF STEPHEN SUSCO JASON REED ALEX LITVAK

can share this legacy and be part of something bigger than themselves. Our hope is that we can deter the perception that, 'Well, George [Lucas] did everything so you don't need my help."



L We're hoping when people see our names on this bathroom, it might encourage them to think in terms of the smaller gifts: 'Okay I might be able to do something fun on that level."

On the contrary: "Every gift makes a difference," Loadvine says. To maintain its ranking as the nation's best film school, SCA requires an ongoing flow of donor revenues to fund operating expenses, which are not entirely covered by tuition fees. Continued expansion also calls for fresh funding. For example, SCA's 60,000-square foot Phase III Building,

scheduled for completion in 2012, will serve as a home for the Interactive Media Division, the Institute for Multimedia Literacy and the Interdivisional Media Arts & Practice (iMAP) program. Loadvine says, "All the funds we raise go towards one of three things: capital construction, endowment or programs."

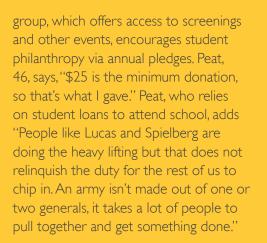
A variety of programs enable alumni, current students and their parents to

belongs to the SCA Network. The

participate in SCA fund-raising efforts. Graduate student Andrew Peat, who started work on his MFA in September,



capital construction, endowment or programs."



Twenty-two year old Casey Larson also donated \$25 when she signed up with the SCA Network after arriving on campus. Larson, a first-year MFA candidate, explains, "One thing that's always been really important to me is to say 'Thank you.' Giving money is a way for me to show that I'm grateful for this education that is going to open up so many opportunities."

USC alum Jim Owens and his wife Barbara, both employed as Los Angeles County Counsel, contributed about \$200 to the SCA Family Program after their son Michael, now a junior, enrolled at the film school, Jim Owens says, "For us, making a donation is a way for us to feel like we're part of the university. If every alumni [member] donated \$100 - roughly the equivalent of a nice dinner nowadays — it



"One thing that's always been really important to me is to say 'Thank you.' Giving money is a way for me to show that I'm grateful for this education that is going to open up so many opportunities."

would really add up. It's very rare that we can be part of anything that can be truthfully classified as the best of its kind. The bottom line is, we're very proud to be number one and we want to stay

Kjos, who donated with a \$25,000 gift, says "We cut a check for that program

because of what the School did not only

her this can-do attitude."

transition in my daughter. The school gave

It's very rare that we can be part of anything that can be truthfully classified as the best of its kind. The bottom line is, we're very proud to be number one and we want



That takes money, adds Barbara Owens.

"Some people can't afford to put their names on a building or a classroom, but the School still needs money to provide [career] counseling and outreach programs so the students can actually get jobs afterwards."

The SCA Leadership Circle, which offers a variety of benefits for members who pledge \$25,000 and up, proved to be the best option for Brian and Alexis Kjos. Their decision two years ago to join the group was inspired by the School's impact on their daughter lenna, who graduated from SCA in 2010. Brian Kjos says, "Watching Jenna when she'd come home and listening to her excitement, we could tell that USC was making a huge

for lenna but also for Alexis and myself. The great Trojan family has this ability to make you feel like you're a winner; that you are going to be successful; that you are successful. When I look at my daughter, I could not be more happy with an institution that has given her direction and hope for the future."

Kjos, a partner in Seguoia Restaurant and Entertainment Group, says he appreciates Leadership Circle perks including a reserved parking spot at football games. "But it's not about some quid pro quo 'What do I get out of this situation?'" he elaborates. "When I started out in this business, I had some tough years. Anybody who helped me get through that is on my 'I'll never forget you' list. Because of what the school has done for my child, USC is on that list. 'I'll never forget you.' That's why I give."

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the Women of SCA

r produces films that make waves — titles ranging from The Fisher King to Pulp Fiction, from Erin Brockovich to Contagion. But on the set of Gattaca, Sher herself was stirring the waters.

"It was a lower budget science fiction film, and we didn't have the equipment that was going to make waves," she said. "So I was lying on the side of the pool, moving a kickboard to make enough

waves for the shot. Those are the great moments, when you just pitch in, and you do whatever needs to be done."

Making a splash comes naturally to the remarkable alumnae of the USC School of Cinematic Arts (SCA) — including Stacey Sher '85, Melissa Rosenberg '90, Erin Levy '05, Leslie Iwerks '93, Kellee Santiago '06, Susan Vaill '00, Jennifer Au '05, Nicola Marsh '06, Liz Blazer '03, Chera Kee '11 and Cassandra Brooksbank '11,

"This is an amazing group of women, and they're el generous with their time to young women coming up behind them," said SCA Dean E "I feel so good knowing that these women are out there to help support the next generation coming in. These women are just the perfect role

Sher — a self-professed "movie geek" from an early age first heard about SCA's Peter Stark Producing Program as

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Kellee Santiago '06, Jennifer Au '05, Dean Elizabeth M. Dalev. Melissa Rosenberg '90 and Erin Levy '05 an undergraduate at the University of Maryland.

"The program was three years old when I first came, and we started out in the very old building — the portables or the bungalows," she said. "And it's not that I couldn't have learned what I learned anywhere else by starting in an entry-level "Women's instincts are always to bring everybody together, so that's why producing is a really great job for women," she said. "It's part camp counselor, part mom — taking care of everybody's booboos and just making sure everybody's happy and productive and moving forward. It's a great life filled with adventure and learning."

program in Critical Studies to explore Asian cinema. During a father-daughter outing to the 2004 Dawn of the Dead, she wondered aloud where all the "oldschool zombies" had gone, and her father encouraged her to ask her professors.

"Before I knew it," she said, "I was writing an entire dissertation on zombies. I would management company, an agency and an author

"I am a huge reader, and I love being creative," she said. "And I need the business side of things as well. So I just thought, 'What about working in literary management?'''

She interviewed with alumna Jennifer



job; it's just that it would have taken me a decade to have the overview and have the access to the people with real-world experience that were successful in their fields."

Sher proved her eye for good material early on when she brought the script for Adventures in Babysitting to the attention of her then-bosses Debra Hill and Lynda Obst. Since then, she's collaborated with visionary filmmakers such as Steven Soderbergh, Oliver Stone and Richard LaGravenese.

Chera Kee concurs, particularly if the learning involves zombies. An assistant professor of film and new media at Wayne State University, Kee credits her father for her spooky research interests.

After earning a master's degree in Chinese literature and history from Harvard University, Kee enrolled in SCA's Ph.D.

have never dreamed that I could do anything other than Chinese language film, and now I teach a horror class and intro to film, and I'm hoping to teach a documentary class. And that's all because of what I learned at USC. It really opens up your avenues of what is possible."

fond memories of her dad sitting her down to watch classic television and movies ranging from I Love Lucy to Taxi. She majored in Critical Studies at SCA, and after graduation, she worked for a film sales and production company, a

Levine at Untitled Entertainment, where she still works today.

"You have an incredible opportunity graduating from USC," she said. "This is the Trojan Family. And it's fantastic to have that network here as a woman and also just as a graduate of the program."

Editor Susan Vaill also enjoys a close working relationship with an alumna, Grey's Anatomy showrunner Shonda Rhimes.

"I remember one day hearing Shonda and another producer say, 'What do you think [about the music]?' I turned around at my

Avid, and I realized they were looking at me," said Vaill. "That belief that they have in me creates a lot of loyalty, so I've stayed with the show for eight years now, and I've cut over 40 episodes."

After majoring in art history at Williams College, Vaill worked at an interactive television company before earning her M.F.A. in production at SCA. She likes to tell directors that her editing bay is "the room where we try things."

Vaill experiments outside of the editing bay, too, and she's currently directing the documentary My Evil Twin. She's also participating in the ABC DGA minority shadowing program and will be directing her first episode of Grey's Anatomy in lanuary.

"In Hollywood, I'm a woman, and I am a huge minority," she said. "It's really important as women to foster some sisterhood and support of each other."

As a woman in the gaming industry, Kellee Santiago is also in the minority, "which helps you stand out in a crowd," she joked. As the co-founder of thatgamecompany, she's also in "a position to help create more diverse teams in game making."

With a father who worked in software. Santiago grew up as a gamer. After earning her undergraduate degree in theatre from New York University, she enrolled in the SCA Interactive Media Division's M.F.A. program with the intention of creating multimedia stage performances. Her plans changed when she, classmate Jenova Chen and a student team created the online game Cloud.

"You play as this boy who's trapped in a hospital and daydreams that he can fly through the clouds," she said. "It's a really simple game, but the response was incredible. Within a week, it had been tipped up on G4's Attack of the Show, and we were getting hundreds of thousands of downloads. We crashed the school servers. That was my departure from the theatre and embracing of digital

distribution because of its reach."

It also inspired Santiago and Chen to found their company "to create games that communicate emotions that aren't commonly explored in the videogame marketplace," she said.

Liz Blazer embarks into equally unusual emotional territory in her whimsical animated documentaries, such as Backseat Bingo, which looks at senior sexuality.

After majoring in fine art at Skidmore College, Blazer worked as a mixed media

"While working in the studio, I just literally saw my still images moving," she said. "I realized at that moment that I always loved animation."

She started working in the Israeli animation business on projects including the Palestinian-Israeli Sesame Street before pursuing her M.F.A. in Animation at SCA.

She currently teaches at Kean University in addition to making animated documentaries including Food Court Diaries and Bridezillas. She also lends her talents to books for children with learning disabilities, and she recently designed an online game.

"USC enhanced my goals and my ability," she said.

Writer Melissa Rosenberg also credits USC with upping her skills and saavy.

After studying dance at Bennington College, Rosenberg worked for a producer and realized that "television and films were written, and you can actually do this for a living."

As an M.F.A. student in SCA's Peter Stark Producing Program, Rosenberg forged lifelong friendships and learned how to write production-friendly scripts.

"It's understanding that if I say 'and then Atlanta burns' [like it does in Gone with the Wind that we're talking about millions of

"He really loves cheesy 1950s horror," she said, laughing, "And so it was nothing when I was three years old to sit me down and Literary manager Jennifer Au has equally be like, 'Let's watch Them! and The Killer Shrews and The Giant Behemoth."

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dollars and several weeks of shooting and thousands of extras," she said, "It's helped me work really well with production."

She's put that knowledge to the test writing Dexter and the Twilight films. She also plans to launch Tall Girls Productions, "because I'm six foot, basically," she said, laughing. "My goal is to write and produce television and film and to create — not exclusively — complex, interesting roles for women in front of and behind the camera. I'm interested in the female Iron Man and the female Tony Soprano."

Rosenberg has promoted gender equality as a member of the Writers Guild of America Diversity committee and cofounder of the League of Hollywood Women Writers. She encourages women to stay tough and, in her words, "just go for it."

"You take a lot of hits in this industry," she said, "and the question is: can you take a punch, and can you pick yourself up off the floor? Being tenacious is what we all

British-born cinematographer Nicola Marsh embodies this quality. As a student, she recognized and tirelessly pursued the opportunities she had at SCA.

"For a cinematographer, access to that many ambitious directors that need somebody to shoot their content is just completely unparalleled," said Marsh, who did her undergraduate work at Bristol University and shot news for NBC before earning her M.F.A. in production at SCA. "I came out of USC with a real reel that I could show to people."

Since then, Marsh has shot narrative features and documentaries, including the Emmy-nominated Troubadours about James Taylor and Carole King.

"Shoot everything," she said. "Kiss as many frogs as you can. You never know which one's going to turn into a prince."

Erin Levy, who won an Emmy at age 26 for her writing on Mad Men, offers analogous advice.

"Keep writing," she said. "You never know when you're going to be in a position to be able to show it to someone or do something with it. I am driven to write. It is a 24/7 job.''

In elementary school, Levy dreamed of becoming a novelist. When she was in high school, her father, Emmy-nominated television writer Lawrence Levy, suggested interests to writing for the screen.

As an undergraduate at SCA, she took a rewriting class with alumnus Matthew Weiner. Years later, when he was looking for a writer's assistant for his show Mad Men, he called Levy, who quickly earned a

Her favorite Mad Men character is Peggy Olson, who rises through the ranks of the advertising agency under the mentorship

that she enroll in a USC summer screenwriting seminar, which shifted her





promotion to writer.

of creative director Don Draper.

"There have been parallels drawn to the fact that Don promoted this woman who started off as a secretary, and Matt promoted me when I was a writer's assistant," said Levy. "I also love the idea that she is a woman who, although the word feminism didn't quite exist, is going after what she wants and is a feminist."

Like Levy, director and producer Leslie lwerks always had a passion for entertainment.

"My grandfather [Ub Iwerks] was the creator of Mickey Mouse, and my dad worked at the Disney studio for 35 years," she said. "They've got their two Oscars on the mantle side by side, and I hope to add a third some day."

After graduating from the SCA production program, lwerks made a feature documentary about her grandfather called The Hand Behind the Mouse for Disney. An old friend and close collaborator of Walt Disney, Ub Iwerks experimented with sketches of frogs, dogs, cats, cows and horses before creating Mickey Mouse. With his lightning quick pencil, he would sometimes complete up to 700 drawings a day. He also invented

cutting-edge technology and developed classic Disney theme park attractions such as It's a Small World.

After completing this tribute to her grandfather, Leslie Iwerks made the Oscarnominated Recycled Life about the people living in the Guatemala City dump, the

me. So I like to give back in the ways that

Just graduated alumna Cassandra **Brooksbank** has already had a chance to give back to her alma mater. Originally admitted to USC as a history major, Brooksbank earned her acceptance



Emmy-nominated The Pixar Story, and the recently Oscar-nominated Pipe Dreams about the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline.

"I like to inspire through filmmaking, and documentaries are a great way to do that," she said. "They allow me to meet really good and interesting people all over the world and dig into subjects that are important."

No matter where her filmmaking adventures take her, she always stays in touch with the Trojan Family.

"I really like the people at USC," she said. "What Dean Daley has done for that school has been extraordinary. I believe in the School, and I know what it's done for

into the SCA Production program after applying five times.

"I'm pretty persistent," she said.

Meanwhile, she worked at the student-run television station Trojan Vision, where she volunteered to direct promotional videos that led to assignments from SCA itself, including her award-winning "Dean Daley Tribute Video."

"That video was my love letter to the Cinema school," she said. "I got in depth with all the history of the Cinema school and why it's so important to be at USC and what the Dean's done for the School. I jump at opportunities like that."

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2011 ALUMNI AND FACULTY QUICKTAKES

Gary Alazraki '01 wrote and will direct an untitled comedy feature shot in Mexico City. The film will be distributed by Universal Pictures Mexico.

Jonah Ansell '08 wrote and directed, and **Amanda Ely '08** produced *Cadaver*, starring Christopher Lloyd.

Judd Apatow will write and direct an untitled follow-up to *Knocked Up*.

John August '94 wrote the musical book *Big Fish* for the forthcoming Broadway version of August's 2003 screen adaptation.

Joe Ballarini '99 will write a feature adaptation of Paul Watson's action-comedy *The Robot*.

Daniel Barnz '95 will direct the feature film *Still I Rise.* **Michael Bostick '90** will oversee the project.



David Bezmozgis '99 made the New Yorker's 20 Under 40 list for his recently released debut novel, *The Free World*.

Ann Biderman '75 will write Showtime's darkly humorous family drama *Ray Donovan*.

Steve Boman '09 solohis memoir Film School:
The True Story of a
Midwestern Family
Man Who Went to the
World's Most Famous
Film School, Fell Flat
on His Face, and Sold a
Television Series to CBS.



Sheldon Candis '02 co-wrote and directed the independent feature film *LUV*. **Justin Wilson '98** co-wrote the film while **Jason Berman '06**, **Mike Jensen '06**, and **Joel Newton '00** produced and **Gavin Kelly '04** was the director of photography.

Stephen Chbosky '92 adapted and is directing the feature film version of his own novel *The Perks of Being a Wallflower.*

Karen Croner '87 will write the screenplay adaptation of Jean Hanff Korelitz's 2009 novel *Admission*.

Jon Chu '03 is directing *G.I. Joe: Cobra Strikes*. Chu will also receive a career achievement award at this year's Princess Grace Awards Gala.

Lamar Damon '84 and **Norman Buckley '80** wrote the spec script for a new ABC Family dramedy *Strut*.

Scott Derrickson '95 will direct an independent, untitled, supernatural thriller for Stuart Ford's IM Global genre label *Octane*. **Derrickson** will also write and direct an untitled thriller starring Ethan Hawke.

Joshua Donen '79 will executive produce the new Starz series *Noir*, a live-action adaptation of the

Japanese anime series.

Thomas Dean Donnelly '94 and Joshua Oppenheimer '94 will write the feature adaptation of *Voltron*.

Tim Dowling '96 is writing the Warner Bros remake of *Uptown Saturday Night*. **Dowling** will also executive produce *Guidance*, a single-camera adult buddy comedy series set in a high school.



Susan Downey '95 will produce the Warner Bros. feature film *The* Judge.

Alicia Dwyer '97 directed the PBS documentary *The Calling*. **Michael Dwyer '06** served as director of photography.

Dan Etheridge '92 will executive produce the Warner Bros. Television comedy series *Little in Common*

Andre Fabrizio '02 and Jeremy Passmore '04 wrote and will produce *Sandbox*, an action drama series in development with Cinemax.

David Freedman '10 is producing *Just Seen It*, a web-based movie review show hosted by a group of USC film students.

Gordon Freeman '06 wrote and directed the independent feature *No Answer*. Fellow Alumnus **Dinga Haines '06** was the producer. **Michael Dwyer '06** and **Maura Milan '06** served as directors of photography.

Ian Fried '08 has set up and will write the screenplay for a supernatural action film with Legendary Pictures/Warner Bros called *Spectral*.

Russel Friend '95 and **Garrett Lerner '95** will write a drama pilot for NBC billed as a modern-day take on Frankenstein.

Liz Glotzer '85 will produce Castle Rock's teen romance feature *The First Time*.

Michael Goetz '99 will direct, and Kyle Killen '97 will write the indie drama Scenic Route. Paul Jensen '06 and Brion Hambel '06 of Best Medicine Productions will produce the film.

Phillip Goldfine '86 will produce the feature thriller *Breathless*.

Alfred Gough '94 and **Miles Millar '94** will produce an untitled Disney feature from the writer of *Erin Brockovich* about a teacher who transformed a defunct drama department.

David Goyer '88 will write *Da Vinci's Demons*, a new series for Starz that will focus on the early life of Leonardo da Vinci.



James Gray '91 will direct the feature film *The Gray Man*.

Brian Grazer is slated to produce the feature film Arabian Knights. Grazer will also produce the feature film Colossus, a remake of the 1970 sci-fi pic Colossus:The Forbin Project. Grazer and Ron Howard will executive produce an untitled comedy series starring Sarah Silverman.

Robert Greenblatt '87 was named chairman of NBC. Entertainment.

Javier Grillo-Marxauch '93 will executive produce and write TNT's new drama series *Tom Clancy's Homeland Security*.

Taylor Hackford '68 will direct the feature thriller *Parker*.

Rian Johnson '96 wrote and is directing the time-travel thriller *Looper*.

Richard Kelly '97 will produce *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* with Natalie Portman. Kelly will also write and produce the feature thriller *Corpus Christi*.

Scott Kosar '89 will write the screenplay adaptation of I.G. Ballard's novel *Concrete Island*.

Lee Toland Krieger will direct the independent feature film *Celeste and Jesse Forever*

Tim Kring will executive produce 20th Century Fox's midseason drama series *Touch*.

Eric Kripke '96 wrote and will direct *Haunted*, a Warner Bros. feature about a haunted house told from the ghost's point of view.

Shawn Levy '94 is partnering with JB Smoove and Aaron Shure to develop a sitcom for Fox Entertainment. He will also produce a feature adaptation of Rebecca Serle's debut novel Rosaline. Levy is also slated to direct an untitled DreamWorks feature based on a New York Times article about the country's last remaining Kodachrome color photo lab. He has recently signed on to direct the sci-fi retelling of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein at Fox.



Doug Liman will write, direct and produce the sci-fi feature Luna.

David Ellison's
Skydance Pictures will co-finance the project.
Liman is also producing UPC's upcoming comedy series I Just Want My Pants

Back for MTV and will executive produce Fox's recently acquired detective series **Metropolitan**.

Alex Litvak '95 will write the action feature *Five Against the Bullet* for Sony.

Charles Matthau '86 wrote and is directing the feature adaption of Elmore Leonard's crime novel *Freaky Deaky*.

Corey May '01 and **Dooma Wendschuh '01** will produce the feature comedy *Dogs of Babel*.

Dan Mirvish '94 will write, direct and produce the feature adaptation of the Off Broadway play *Between Us.* **Neal Moritz '85** will executive produce a singlecamera ABC comedy about an entire family finding themselves single at the same time. **Moritz** is also attached to produce an adaptation of a Sovietthemed sci-fi fantasy comic book series *The Red Star* for Warner Bros. and the Columbia Pictures comedy feature *Road to Nardo*.

Don Murphy '88 has contracted with Cartoon Network to develop a live-action feature based on the 1990s cartoon series *Captain Planet*.

Eric Nazarian '99 will write and produce the feature thriller *Blood Brothers*.

Caitlin Parrish '12 wrote the stage play A *Twist in the Water.*

Robbie Pickering '06 wrote and directed and Brian Hambel '06 produced Natural Selection, which took home the jury awarded Best Feature Narrative and Documentary at the SXSW Film Festival in Austin Texas

Jon Poll '81 will direct the independent romantic comedy *Responsible Adults*.

Stuart Pollok '93 will join the film financing, production, and consulting shingle Indomitable Entertainment as Executive Vice President and Executive Producer:

Arie Posin '93 wrote and will direct the independent feature film *The Look of Love*.

Ross Putman '10 has been promoted to Creative Executive at The Walt Becker Company.



shonda Rhimes '94 will executive produce and write the ABC series Damage Control. She will also executive produce Gilded Lillys, an ABC drama series set in nineteenth century New York, as well as an untitled legal drama acquired by ABC.

Charles Roven will produce the remake of *Gilligan's Island* for Warner Bros. Roven will also produce the feature reboot of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and the feature film *The Great Wall*.

Ira Rubenstein '92 is now Executive Vice President of Digital Marketing at 20th Century Fox.

Ian Sander wrote and will produce *Monster Heist*, a series for Sony Pictures Entertainment's digital-only video network, Crackle. **Sander** has also renewed his production deal with ABC Studios.

Wallaine Sarao '06 has optioned a one-hour drama *Protectors* through Fox Writers Initiative.

Steve Schklair '81 will now serve as CEO of the newly combined company 3eality Technica, which will provide an estimated 80% of the technology used in 3D production worldwide.

Josh Schwartz will produce an untitled DC project for ABC. He and fellow alumnus Bard Dorros '99 are producing the feature film Fun Size. Schwartz is making his directorial debut on the film. He will

producing the feature film *Fun Size*. Schwartz is making his directorial debut on the film. He will also executive produce *My Best Friend is a Lesbo*, a half-hour comedy for NBC.

Stacey Sher '85 will produce a feature film based on the 2009 *Washington Post* article about the Wall Street bailout, entitled *The \$700 Billion Man*.

Ian Shorr '08 wrote a futuristic re-telling of Alexander Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* which was purchased by Warner Bros.

Juliet Snowden '95 has written *Dibbuk Box*, a horror film based on true events.



will write, produce and direct the adaptation of the Dean Koontz novel *Odd Thomas*.

Chris Terrio '02 will write Argo, a feature adaptation of a true hostage-rescue story. **Grant Heslov** will produce the project.

Jeff Wadlow '01 will executive produce and write and Beau Bauman '01 will produce the CBS television series Hail Mary. Wadlow will write and direct the off-beat detective drama Brickhouse for CBS. He will also write and executive produce an untitled CIA drama for Fox through Warner Bros. Television; Wadlow is directing Non-Stop, a feature action thriller for Dark Castle.

John Wells '82 is writing the pilot *The Wishbones*, about a small town wedding band that aspires to rock and roll greatness.



Cathy Yuspa
'95 and Josh
Goldsmith '95 will
executive produce and
write NBC's My Life as
an Experiment.

Robert Zemeckis '73 will produce an animated feature that is based on the humor book *How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack.*

Stu Zicherman '93 wrote and will direct the independent comedy *Adult Children of Divorce*.

Craig Zisk will direct two comedy series from NBC, Bent and The Untitled Kari Lizer Project. Zisk will also make his feature film directorial debut with the indie comedy The English Teacher. Dan Chariton '97 and Stacy Chariton wrote the script.

We apologize if we missed anyone. Please contact Justin Wilson at 213.740.2804 or alumni@cinema.usc.edu for more information or updates.

Production Division
Professor **Mark Harris**hosted the new show
Perspectives with Mark
Harris for Documentary
Channel.The show was
filmed on Stage 3 at SCA.



Instructor of Cinematic Practice **Peter Brinson** and Game Innovation Lab Art Director **Kurosh ValaNejad** are nominated for a Digital 25 award, in the category of "Console and PC Gaming" for *The Cat and the Coup.*

Summer Program Head **David Weitzner** launched the *YouTube Creator Institute* which housed ten students at SCA and presented speakers, classes and lectures on creating better media.

Production senior lecturer **Don Hall** was honored by the Editors Guild with the Editors Guild Fellowship and Service Award. This is only the fifth time with the award has been given.

Writing Division professor **Howard A. Rodman** was elected Vice President of the Writers Guild of America West.

Production adjunct **Shirley Jo Finney** received the NAACP Theatre Image Award for Best Director for her production of *Emmett Till*. During this season, she also received the Drama Critics Award, the Los Angeles Ovation Award and the Backstage Garland Award for Best Director:

Hench-DADA adjunct **Candace Reckinger** and visiting Associate Producer **Michael Patterson** won an Adobe Education Leader Impact award for their work on *Pictures at an Exhibition*, a 35-minute animation work created for multi-screen projection in sync with live symphonic performance, at the New World Symphony.

IML Research Professor

Holly Willis in
collaboration with the
Institute for Computing
in Humanities, Arts
and Social Science
(I-CHASS) at the
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign were

awarded a 30,000 Service Units (SU) startup allocation grant on the Dash/Gordon supercomputer at the San Diego Supercomputing Center

Screenwriting adjunct **Janet Batchler**'s film, **Pompeii** was the big seller at Cannes, raising \$105 million in territory sales in 27 hours. It is being directed by Paul W. S. Anderson. Batchler co-wrote the script.

Hench-DADA Instructor of Cinema Practice **Tom Sito** hosted a panel of experts at the San Diego
Comicon entitled ASIFA/Hollywood's State of the
Animation Industry 2011.

Peter Stark Producing Program adjunct **Samuel Dickerman** was promoted from senior Vice President to Executive Vice President of Production at Columbia.

ALUMNI TV AND FILM RELEASES



CHUCK'S CO-CREATOR

JOSH SCHWARTZ HAS

ALSO CREATED THE

O.C. AND GOSSIP GIRL

CHUCK IS NOW ON ITS

FINAL SEASON.

Blue Mountain State—Sharla Sumpter Bridgett, Executive Producer

Bones—Carla Kettner '83, Co-Executive Producer/ Writer

Castle—Andrew W. Marlowe '92, Executive Producer/Writer

Chaos—Tom Spezialy, Executive Producer/Writer **Chuck**—Chris Fedak '98, Executive Producer/
Writer; Josh Schwartz, Executive Producer/Writer

The Closer—Adam Belanoff '90, Co-Executive Producer

Desperate Housewives—Charles Skouras III, Producer

Falling Skies—Robert Rodat '83, Executive Producer/Writer

Greek—John Ziffren '78, Executive Producer

Grey's Anatomy—Shonda Rhimes '94, Executive Producer/Writer

Hart of Dixie—Jason Ensler '97, Executive Producer/Director; Josh Schwartz, Executive Producer

Homeland—Nelson Cragg '03, Cinematographer

House—Bryan Singer '89, Executive Producer; Garrett Lerner '95 & Russel Friend '95, Executive Producers/Writers; Greg Yaitanes, Executive Producer/Director

The Inbetweeners—Aaron Kaplan '90, Executive Producer

Intervention—Sarah Skibitzke, Supervising Producer

Last Man Standing—Shawn Levy '94, Executive

Producer **Lights Out**—Stuart Zicherman '93, Co-Executive

Producer Stuart Zicherman 93, Co-Executive

Love in the Wild—Tom Shelly '87, Executive Producer

The Lying Game—Charles Pratt Jr. '78, Executive Producer/Writer



Mad Men has won three consecutive Golden Globes and four consecutive Emmys for Outstanding Drama Series

Mad Men—Matthew Weiner '90, Executive Producer/Writer; Amy Wells '80, Set Decorator; Marcy Patterson '02, Associate Producer; Erin Levy '05, Writer

Make It or Break It—John Ziffren '78, Executive Producer

Melissa and Joey—John Ziffren '78, Executive Producer

New Girl—Brett Baer '88, Executive Producer

Nick Swardson's Pretend Time—Erin O'Malley '96, Co-Executive Producer

The Nine Lives of Chloe King—John Ziffren '78, Executive Producer; David Crabtree '06, Editor

The Office—Paul Feig '84, Co-Executive Producer/Director; Jeffrey Blitz '97, Director

Pan Am—Jack Orman '93, Executive Producer/ Writer; Thomas Schlamme, Director

Pair of Kings—Brady Heck '94, Editor

Person of Interest—Bryan Burk '91, Executive Producer

Ringer—Pam Veasey, Executive Producer

Shameless—John Wells '82, Executive Producer/ Writer

Sons of Anarchy—Paul Maibaum '75, Director of Photography

Spartacus: Gods of the Arena—Joshua Donen '79, Co-Executive Producer

Switched at Birth—John Ziffren '78, Executive Producer

Terra Nova—Aaron Kaplan, Executive Producer; Steven Spielberg, Executive Producer; Alex Graves '89, Director; Nelson Cragg '03, Cinematographer; Jeff Betancourt, Editor

Too Big to Fail—Peter Gould '90, Writer

Undercovers—Bryan Burk '91, Executive Producer

Weeds—Jonathan Talbert '02, Co-Producer

Wipeout—Matt Kunitz '90, Executive Producer; Tom Johnson '81, Re-Recording Mixer



Contagion reunites The Talented Mr. Ripley's Matt Damon, Jude Law and Gwyneth Paltrow. Contagion is produced by alumna Stacey Sher.

Abduction—John Singleton '90, Director

Apollo 18—Cody Zwieg '01, Executive Producer

Beastly—Daniel Barnz '95, Writer/Director

The Beaver—Kyle Killen '94, Writer; Tom Johnson '81, Re-Recording Mixer

Bernie—Liz Glotzer '85, Producer

Bridesmaids—Paul Feig '84, Director/Executive Producer; Judd Apatow '87, Producer

Captain America: The First Avenger—Kevin Feige '95, Producer; Robert Dalva '67, Editor; Jeffrey Ford '91, Editor; Stephen H. Flick '78, Sound Designer

Cars 2—Ben Oueen '96. Screenwriter

The Change-Up—Neal Moritz '85, Producer; Lee Haxall '81, Editor; Greg Hayden, Editor

Circumstance—Melissa M. Lee '07, Producer

Conan the Barbarian—Thomas Dean Donnelly '95, Writer; Joshua Oppenheimer '94, Writer; Sean Hood '97, Writer

Contagion—Stacey Sher '85, Producer

Cowboys & Aliens—Brian Grazer, Producer; Ron Howard. Producer

Crazy, Stupid Love—Lee Haxall '81, Editor

Damsels in Distress—Liz Glotzer '85, Producer

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules—Gabe Sachs '84, Writer; Elliot Tyson, Re-Recording Mixer

The Dilemma—Ron Howard '73, Producer/ Director; Brian Grazer, Producer

Don't Be Afraid of the Dark—Matthew Robbins '76, Writer



I am Number Four references Hannah Montana, when Sam says he could've given John a Hannah Montana sweatshirt as a change of clothes. The film's writers and alumni Alfred Gough and Miles Millar, also produced Hannah Montana: The Movie

Dream House—Caleb Deschanel '69, Cinematographer

Fast Five—Neal H. Moritz '85, Producer

Fast Talk—Debra Tolchinsky '88, Director and Producer; Ron Ward '88, Producer; Editor; Dave Tolchinsky '88, Producer

Final Destination 5—Steven Quale, Director; Eric Sears '75. Editor

Friends With Benefits—Liz Glotzer '85, Producer; Tia Nolan '91, Editor

Fright Night—Mark Stoeckinger '82, Supervising Sound Editor

A Good Old Fashioned Orgy—Anita Brandt-Burgyone '80, Editor

The Grace Card—Howard A. Klausner, Writer and Producer

The Green Hornet—Neal Moritz '85, Producer; Ori Marmur, Executive Producer; John Schwartzman, Cinematographer

The Hangover Part II—Debra Neil-Fisher '80, Editor

I Am Number Four—Matthew Cohan '05, Co-Executive Producer; Alfred Gough '94, Writer; Miles Millar '94, Writer

The Ides of March—Grant Heslov '86, Writer

In Time—Eric Newman '96, Producer

Jumping the Broom—Terilyn A. Shropshire '85, Editor

Just Go With It—Timothy Dowling '96, Writer

Justin Bieber: Never Say Never—Jon M. Chu '03, Director; Avi Youabian '02, Editor



This year Kung Fu Panda's
Jach Blach demonstrated
his awesomeness and good
sportsmanship by showing up twice
for the same event at SCA. The day
of the event, and the day before,
when he was told by accident the
event was happening.

Killer Elite—Joni Sighvatsson '85, Producer

Killer Joe—Caleb Deschanel '69, Cinematographer

Kung Fu Panda 2—Erik Aadahl '98, Supervising Sound Editor

Limitless—Tim Carras '03, Visual Effects Supervisor

Monte Carlo—Jeffrey Ford '91, Editor

Mother's Day—Joseph White '04, Cinematographer

Paranormal Activity 3—Michael Perry '94, Writer

Pearl Jam Twenty—Nicola B. Marsh '06, Cinematographer

Mr. Popper's Penguins—Bruce Green, Editor; D.M. Hemphill, Re-recording Mixer

Priest—Joshua Donen '79, Producer

Prom—Joe Nussbaum'96, Director; Katie Wech '02, Writer; Byron Shah '98, Cinematographer; Jack English, Gaffer

Puss in Boots—David H. Steinberg, Writer

Rango—Addison Teague '02, Supervising Sound Editor; John Knoll '84, Visual Effects Supervisor

Real Steel—Shawn Levy '94, Director/Producer; Don Murphy '88, Producer; Robert Zemeckis '73, Producer

Rebirth—Jim Whitaker '94, Director

Restless—Ron Howard, Producer; Brian Grazer, Producer

Seven Days in Utopia—Jason M. Berman '06, Producer; Michael Jenson '05, Associate Producer;



Alumnus and *Thor* producer Kevin Feige has worked on more films about superheroes than any other executive.

Mick Partridge '08, Associate Producer

The Smurfs—David N. Weiss '87, Writer

Something Borrowed—Luke Greenfield '94,
Director; John Axelrad '90, Editor; Avram Gold '70,
Supervising Sound Editor; Stephen Hunter Flick '78,
Supervising Sound Editor; Alan Curtiss, Assistant
Director

Soul Surfer—Marco Beltrami, Composer

Straw Dogs—Sarah Boyd '95, Editor

Super 8—Bryan Burk '91, Producer

Take Me Home Tonight—Lee Haxall '80,

The Thing—David Foster, Executive Producer; Eric Newman '96, Producer; Marco Beltrami, Composer

The Three Muskateers—Alex Litvak '95,

Thor—Kevin Feige '95, Producer; Kevin LaNeave '97, Lead Visual Effects Editor; Wesley Sewell '92, Visual Effects Supervisor

The Tree of Life—Erik Aadahl '98, Co-Supervising Sound Editor/Sound Designer

Tower Heist—Brain Grazer, Producer

Tucker and Dale vs. Evil—Eli Craig '04, Writer/ Director; Morgan Jurgenson '04, Writer

The Union—Nicola Marsh '06, Cinematographer

Unknown—John Ottman '88, Composer

You're Next—Keith Calder '04, Producer

Zookeeper—Walt Becker '95, Producer

IN MEMORIAM

Laura Ziskin 1950-2011 Producer, Philanthropist, SCA Board of Councilors Member and Alumna

Ziskin was born in the San Fernando Valley and had a brief career as a writer for game shows immediately following her graduation from SCA.

After working as producer Jon Peters' personal assistant and later, a development executive, Ziskin began her long and successful career as a producer in both the independent and studio arenas. In 1984, Ziskin formed Fogwood Films with actress Sally Field. Her credits with Fogwood include No Way Out, the remake of D.O.A. and Everyone's All-American.

In 1990 Ziskin served as executive producer on Pretty Woman, and in 1995, produced To Die For, her first film under the banner of Laura Ziskin Productions. In 2002, Ziskin reached two milestones by being the first woman to produce the Academy Awards solo and by producing the worldwide smash Spider-Man. Ziskin produced each of the films in the trilogy, which went on to become Sony Pictures' most successful franchise.

After being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004, Ziskin was the driving force behind the launch of the Stand Up to Cancer foundation, which aims to raise significant funds for translational cancer research through online and televised efforts.

Ziskin was a long-time friend of the School of Cinematic Arts and, in 1999, received the Mary Pickford Award for distinguished alumni.

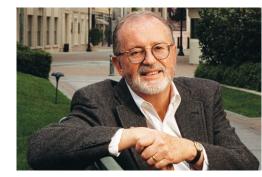


John Calley 1930-2011 **Producer and Board of Councilors** Member

Calley was born in Jersey City on July 8, 1930. He served in the Army and worked as a mail clerk for NBC in New York.

After a stint in advertising, Calley moved to production company Filmways, where he delivered films like The Cincinnati Kid and Catch-22. Calley had a remarkable run of success at Warner Bros., beginning in 1968. During his time at the studio as head of production, president and vice chairman, the studio created Mean Streets, Superman and All the President's Men, along with a string of other hits.

In 1989 Calley produced Postcards from the Edge and The Remains of the Day, a film that earned him a Best Picture nomination. His next challenge came from CAA chief Michael Ovitz, who asked Calley to serve as President and COO for United Artists Pictures. Under his leadership, the studio released



GoldenEye, The Birdcage and Leaving Las Vegas.

Sony also experienced a major turnaround thanks to Calley's efforts, beginning in 1996. After the success of the first Spider-Man film, the studio went onto release As Good As It Gets, Men in Black and Air Force One.

He stepped down from the chairmanship at Sony in 2003 to focus on producing, working with Mike Nichols on the Oscar-nominated Closer, and bringing Sony The Da Vinci Code, which eventually grossed \$758 million worldwide. In 2009, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recognized him with the Irving G.Thalberg Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Gene Polito 1918-2011 Cinematographer, Professor and Alumnus

Polito was born in Brooklyn, New York, on September 13, 1918 and was eight months old when his family moved to the west coast, where his father continued his career as a cinematographer for Warner Bros. Studios.

Polito graduated from Loyola High School in Los Angeles, and went on to attend Loyola University and the University of Southern California, earning his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Throughout WWII, he worked as an engineer for Douglas Aircraft.

An active member of the American Society of Cinematographers and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, over the course of his 40-year career Polito worked on hundreds

of productions. Also an avid inventor, Polito is credited with the invention of the "Polito Bracket," a mounting accessory used by studio photographers.

At age 62, Polito became a professor at the School of Cinematic Arts, a calling that gave him great pleasure. He pushed students toward a deeper understanding of core cinematic principles, such as the mathematical derivation of optical formulas so they would understand the science behind the art. His dedication and enthusiasm made him a favorite among his students. He retired from teaching at age 70.

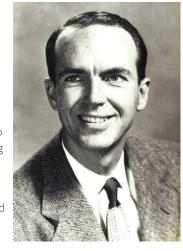


Eugene Moriarty 1920-2011 **Alumnus and Lecturer**

Moriarty was born in 1919 in Chicago, Illinois, and graduated from Fairfax High School in Los Angeles. He attended the University of Maryland, where he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves.

After transferring to the University of Southern California, he was called into active duty and sent to Quantico, where he was tasked with creating training films for the Marine Corps, which he did for five years. He later served on the aircraft carrier The Block Island throughout the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre.

Moriarty was a member of the so-called "Unholy Five", a group that included Herb Farmer, Dave Johnson, Mel Sloan and Dan Wiegand, who were all instrumental in the formation of SCA's curriculum and expansion of its infrastructure.

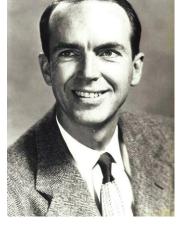


Daniel Pfisterer 1967-2010 Cinematographer, Camera Operator and Alumnus

Pfisterer worked as a cinematographer in both film and television, with credits including The Oprah Winfrey Show and Undercover History.

He was known for his work on socially conscious documentaries and his calm presence on set.

Pfisterer graduated with his MFA in Production.



Irvin Kershner 1923-2010 Director, Alumnus and Faculty Member

Kershner was born in Philadelphia in 1923, and grew up an avid musician, studying violin, viola and composition.

After attending the Tyler School of Fine Art at Temple University, he went to New York and Provincetown to study with renowned painting teacher Hans Hoffman. After moving to Los Angeles, he studied photography at the Art Center College of Design and film at the USC School of Cinematic Arts, Kershner began his career as a still photographer for the United States Information Service in Iran.

Kershner had a long career including credits on Confidential File, Stakeout on Dope Street, The Eyes of Laura Mars, Robocop 2 and many others, but is best known as the director of Star Wars: Episode V -The Empire Strikes

SCA Alumnus George Lucas said of Kershner, "The Star Wars story has had to evolve to stay fresh, and it took a filmmaker like [Kershner] to make that important step in galaxy building."

Kershner continued to produce and write in recent years, teaching at SCA and lecturing around the world. His fine art photographs have been exhibited in New York, San Francisco and Mexico, as well as in a permanent exhibition at the LAC+USC Medical Center.

Kershner received a lifetime achievement award from the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films.



Lyman Hallowell 1916-2011 Editor and Alumnus

Longtime friend of SCA and prolific editor Lyman Hallowell's credits include I Drink Your Blood and The Defenders.

Hallowell spent many years in the editing department of Twentieth-Century Fox and was an assistant editor for MKR. Films. In addition to his prolific career as an editor, he was one of the first people to legally marry a same sex partner in California and was honored in 2008 by the San Diego Pride Day Parade. Hallowell graduated from SCA in 1938 with his BA in Cinema and was a long time friend of the school.

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SCA NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

The SCA Network is a fun way to stay connected to fellow SCA Trojans and make a difference in the School's future. Through exclusive screening and mixers, the SCA Network provides an outlet for alumni and current students to mix and network. Best of all, Network benefits are complimentary with an annual donation to the USC School of Cinematic Arts. Recent screenings have included *Real Steel*, Cars 2, Super 8 and Contagion.

\$25 Level

Invitations to exclusive SCA Networkonly screenings and Network Mixers plus website recognition.

\$50 Level SCA Military Style Cap*

\$100 Level Print/online SCA Alumni Directory (printed annually in May)* \$250 Level

SCA Polo Shirt and Reality Ends Here 80th Anniversary History book*

\$500 Level

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\$1000 Leve

Invitation to SCA Special Events as part of the Annual Leadership Circle membership*

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