DAEL FORMS NEW PARTNERSHIPS

DAEL expanded its cooperative partnership capacity this year with the addition of two major partners in entertainment and education: Klaus Entertainment, Inc. and Georgia Public Broadcasting.

“Partnering with corporations is essential for enabling creative people in the entertainment content arena to reach an audience,” said DAEL Director Dr. Kay Beck. “We’re building strategic relationships that explore new methods of distribution and leading-edge technology such as IPTV (Internet Protocol Television).” DAEL plans to continue adding partnerships in the future. Current DAEL partner projects are:

Gaming Technology Partner, Klaus Entertainment, Inc.

DAEL graduate research assistants Mohua Thakurta and Christian Lockerman are working with Klaus Entertainment, Inc. (KEI) to produce a behind-the-scenes documentary about the making of “Gorilla Paintball,” a massively multi-player online game. According to Klaus Entertainment sources, the documentary includes “short scenes about how we built our first game along with commentaries from Klaus Entertainment management, the development team, and studio artists.”

KEI is a computer game technology company based in Atlanta. KEI is developing Kaneva, an online gaming platform that allows users to create 3D computer games and channels where multiple online players can interact and play the games. Christopher Klaus, founder and CEO of KEI, also founded Internet Security Systems (ISS), a leader in the Internet security industry since 1994.

Georgia Public Broadcasting

Graduate students from DAEL have been working with Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB), which has nine television stations across Georgia providing educational and entertainment content. “We have a new commitment to working together with Georgia Public Broadcasting and we are very excited about it,” said DAEL director Kay Beck.

DAEL GRAD AT SONY PICTURE IMAGWORKS

In 1996, graduate student Erica Hornung was completing her Master’s practicum at Georgia State, a live action film called God in a Box, which had over 150 visual effects shots. “It was crazy,” said Hornung in a phone interview from her West Hollywood home. “I shot all the shots of the actor from just three angles in front of a green screen.” The film eventually screened at the Atlanta Image Film Festival. This was the start of Hornung’s rise to Senior Matchmover at Sony Pictures Imageworks. (She was recently promoted to Intermediate Technical Director.) Hornung’s credits as a digital effects artist include Spider Man, Spider Man 2, The Lord of The Rings: The Two Towers, The Matrix Revolutions, The Matrix Reloaded, Big Fish, Peter Pan, Stuart Little 2, Polar Express IMAX—and that’s just her feature film work.

After receiving a BS degree in Architecture at Georgia Institute of Technology, Hornung came to Georgia State to study film in the DAEL. While earning her Master’s degree, she interned at Turner Broadcasting System’s Cartoon Network.

“After graduation, I got permission from Turner to continue working after hours on their Flame machine [a high-end compositing system].”

continued on page 3
More alumni news:

- **Matt Hutchinson** was recently promoted to Associate Producer at **Turner South**. “At Turner South I get to use a lot of the independent production skills that I learned at DAEL,” said Hutchinson.

- **Jessica Denton** was recently named Director of the **Image Film/Video Atlanta Film Festival**.

- **Jennifer Cruce** works at **Turner Communications** in Turner Corporate Resources/RET Media as Executive Assistant to Judy Chastain, SVP.

- **Jonathan Harris & Michael McAllister** – A representative of **Iron Rod Motion Pictures** signed with Harrison and McAllister to distribute the film, **The Last Ride**.

- **Scotty Mullen** moved to Los Angeles where he was cast in a pilot for **HBO**. In his day job, Mullen does movie promotion and publicity for **Lions Gate, Twentieth Century Fox, Fox Searchlight**, and **Warner Independent**. Mullen appears in **Wanted Video Girl**, a film by Mandara Pictures that will screen at GSU’s Cinefest Theater in 2005.

- **Faith Trimel** directed and produced the psychological thriller, **Black Aura on an Angel**. The film screened at the 2004 Out on Film festival in Atlanta.

- **Tamara Chandler** worked for over a year in Los Angeles and has now been accepted into the **American Film Institute**.
STUDENTS

2004 GSU Delta Campus Movie Fest – *In the Red* won first place, and subsequently screened at the Fox Theater where it placed in the top 12 in the statewide competition. The film was produced by a group of Georgia State film students under the guidance of professor Ly Bolia. Students involved in the collaborative effort were Christian Lockerman, Katherine Skinner, Annie Rimby, Orlando Vicente, Parker Davidson, Micah Stansell, Ethan Stokes, and Bridgette Flood.

Heavenly Littleton’s 14-minute documentary, *Feels Like Home*, made the first panel cut at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival and won best documentary short at the Zoie Film Festival. The film will screen in April 2005 at the Nashville Film Festival. Littleton is producing a series of Appalachian documentaries called *Keepers of the Folkways*. Her next video in the series is due for completion in August 2005.

Katherine Skinner worked with producer Tyler Perry and Lion’s Gate Films as a behind-the-scenes videographer on *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*, which was filmed in Georgia. She also worked with the development team at Lion’s Gate to produce featurettes for the DVD, using the footage she had shot.

Ryan Prows’ film *Gunmetal Grey* won the Image Film & Video’s Short Film Slam and garnered a place in the 2005 Atlanta Film Festival.

Roberto Arevalo’s documentary about 3 photographers, *La Vision*, will play in the 2005 Atlanta Film Festival.

Eight graduate students completed films in the DAEL Post-Production lab as required by the two-semester Film Production sequence. “This is the best trained group of students I’ve ever had,” said professor Sheldon Schiffer. The eight students each wrote, directed, produced, and edited a film during the two-semester class. They rotated as crew members on each other’s films.

Orlando Barros is currently in NYC editing *Being Bobby Brown* which will air on Bravo.

Hollywood Continued from page 1

Hornung put together a reel that showed her Flame and After Effects experience, and moved to Los Angeles. Once in LA, she worked as a freelance rotoscoper before she got a job doing Broadcast Design at The WB Television Network, where she spent two years. But she really wanted to work in film.

“I took a couple of UCLA extension classes, one in compositing and one in matching moving. The matching moving class was taught in our [Sony Pictures Imageworks] training room by the guy who is Head of the Matchmove Department.” Eventually, that connection paid off and Hornung was hired at Sony Pictures Imageworks in April 2001.

“Because of my architecture background, I could survey like nobody’s business,” said Hornung. Matchmovers take elaborate measurements of the distances from object-to-object and object-to-camera on set. Using this information, they create an exact virtual model of the scene, similar to the model an architect creates to represent a final building. Animators can then place the CGI character into this virtual model and move a 3D camera throughout the scene.

So, what advice does Hornung have for future effects artists?

“Perseverance. Do extra projects. Get internships. Get a nice reel. Paper the town with your reel and your resume - they DO look at them and they DO keep them.”

Partnerships Continued from page 1

DAEL has collaborated with GPB this year on repurposing existing television shows to provide educational content and providing beta testing and content creation for the GPB’s Digital Asset Management System, which maintains a digital archive of all GPB programming for quick and easy access.
“DAEL Presents...” is a DAEL-sponsored venue of screenings, speakers, and workshops for professionals and students in the film/video industry. Programs are presented in the Audience Response Theater at One Park Place, free of charge. “DAEL Presents...” recently presented the following programs.

**Robert Townsend**
Well-known actor, writer, and director Robert Townsend spoke to an overflow crowd of students in the DAEL Blue Screen theater on March 24, 2005. Townsend is now CEO and President of MBC Productions (soon to be named the Black Family Channel). His television and film credits include *Undercover Brother, Hollywood Shuffle, The Parent Hood,* and more. Townsend entertained the crowd with stories about how he got started in show business and tips for those in the audience.

**SMARTlab**
Dr. Lizbeth Goodman, Director of the SMARTlab Centre at Central Saint Martins College of Art Design in London, presented a two-day workshop on “Interactive Performance and Digital Technology” in the DAEL lab on May 6-7, 2004. SMARTlab (which stands for Site-specific Media ARTs), is a research incubator and production center for projects using innovative digital technologies to create site-specific live and mediated arts. Projects created at SMARTlab include HOPE (Hospital-based Online Pediatric Environment), an online network that allows pediatric patients to use computers to meet with, relate to, and play games with patients in other hospitals.

The two-day workshop at DAEL included:
- An overview of projects and methods used at the SMARTlab Centre
- Lectures and demonstrations of the software programs used for digital/live performance and internet collaboration
- Hands-on sessions for participants to use the performance software, create improvisational scenes, and videotape the outcome.

**Michael Pardies Shoob**
Michael Paradies Shoob, producer and director of the documentary about Karl Rove entitled *Bush’s Brain,* spoke at the DAEL Theater on October 21, 2004. He showed clips from the film and answered questions from the audience.

**September Tapes**
Producer Judd Payne spoke at the DAEL theater about his fictional drama, *September Tapes* (2004). Payne described the experience of filming in Afghanistan just months after September 11, 2001. September Tapes tells the story of a documentary filmmaker who died during an obsessive search for Osama bin Laden and left his footage behind. Upon Payne’s return to the United States, the Department of Defense confiscated the real footage of September Tapes and investigated it for national security implications.

**Chrystal**
Academy Award winning director Ray McKinnon and producer/actor Walton Goggins (both from Atlanta) showed clips from their film, *Chrystal* (2005), on April 7 in the DAEL Theater. They answered questions from the audience and spoke about the secrets of their writing, directing, acting, and producing successes. Chrystal stars Billy Bob Thornton and Lisa Blount and opened in theaters nationally on April 8.

**Brother to Brother**
Rodney Evan’s coming-of-age feature drama, *Brother to Brother,* screened at the DAEL theater in April 2005. Director and writer Evans was present at the screening and answered questions afterwards.
Public Health Video Initiative
In a foray into public health communications, Sheldon Schiffer has produced a pilot video entitled Night Blossoms. The video is a short dramatization of the public health problem of not disclosing sexually transmitted infection before having sex. Night Blossoms was designed as a discussion starter for group and individual counseling sessions targeted toward college-age adults. The video is a pilot project for production of future health communication videos that use dramatization as a way of educating populations.

“If it’s successful, it opens up a whole genre of filmmaking that has been largely ignored by filmmakers,” said Schiffer, who collaborated with GSU Community Psychology professor John Peterson on the video. “I got interested in the whole public health thing by reading beautifully written case studies, that were really stories,” he added.

Schiffer plans to apply for a National Institutes of Health grant to produce four more public health initiative videos.

DAEL Documents First Lady’s Visit to CAD
March 2005, First Lady Laura Bush attended a CAD debate at Benjamin S. Carson Honors Preparatory School in Atlanta. Afterwards, she addressed the group, saying, “Students in the CAD program learn what it’s like to be on a team, and those are lessons much better learned in the classroom than in a gang.” Graduate Student, Roberto Arévalo videotaped Bush’s visit, some of which will be included in the full-length documentary entitled Beyond Debate.

Dr. Carol Winkler, Chairman of the Communications Department at GSU, spearheaded the CAD project. CAD is a collaborative, educational venture of the Atlanta Housing Authority, TechBridge, the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta, the Atlanta Public School System, and the National Debate Project. CAD’s purpose is to provide a challenging and engaging after-school learning experience for children in Atlanta’s housing communities. For more information, see www.cadatl.org.

Roberto Arévalo of the DAEL-based Mirror Project recently teamed up with Dr. Carol Winkler’s Computer Assisted Debate (CAD) project to document the work of CAD. The 12-minute film interviews some of the young participants from the CAD project and follows them into their homes. The video illustrates the power of formal debate in the children’s lives and the potential for change as a result. Arévalo will expand the video into a full-length documentary.

The Mirror Project is a 12-year-old social documentary project that originated in Boston and moved to DAEL in 2004. For more information, see www.mirrorproject.org.

Community-Based Media Production Class
The Spring 2004 Community-Based Media Production class culminated in a public screening of seven class and community-produced videos. The screening doubled as a fundraiser for a Midtown art program for the homeless. Approximately 200 people attended the event, including social service advocates, non-profit organization class partners, Metro Atlanta urban planning members, and GSU faculty and students. The videos ranged in length from 8 to 30 minutes.

One of the videos, The Fresh Face of HIV, recently screened at the prestigious De Mille Theatre in Los Angeles as part of the Ion International Short Film Festival. The Fresh Face of HIV interviews medical AIDS advocates and activists who reflect upon the current state of sexual practice, prevention, and treatment in an age when the disease is less likely to be a death sentence.

The Community-Based Media Production class is designed to create productions with purpose and the videotapes are being used as tools to raise funds, raise awareness, and educate.
Kay Beck heads the marketing committee for the Georgia Film, Video, and Music Commission, which is responsible for disseminating information about the Entertainment Industry Investment Bill (HB 539) passed by the Georgia General Assembly in April 2005. The bill offers a tax-rebate incentive to film production companies that bring their business to Georgia.

Ly Bolia won the Perfect Pitch Screenplay Contest at the 2004 Image Atlanta Film Festival for his screenplay, “To The Heavens.” Bolia received an all-expense paid trip to Los Angeles where he pitched his screenplay to six production companies. Ly is currently in post-production on an HD short, Loss.

Sheldon Schiffer screened two of his films, O-Negative and Comeuppance, at the Atlanta High Museum as part of the Spaghetti Junction Urban Film Festival. Sheldon is currently in post-production on an HD short, Night Blossoms and pre-production of, Nailed.

Niklas Vollmer’s 30-minute experimental documentary, Happy Crying Nursing Home, screened at the Dallas Video Festival and the Great Lakes Independent Film Festival. It won the Juror Award in the Experimental Film category at the University Film and Video Association. It was also selected for the 2005 Int’l Fest of Cinema and Technology. Vollmer is currently in production on another experimental documentary, entitled Reading the Water.

Scene from Sheldon Schiffer's O-Negative

LY BOLIA’S BANNER YEAR

Assistant Professor Ly Bolia has had a busy year. In addition to his film production teaching responsibilities at GSU, Bolia won the 2004 Image Film and Video Perfect Pitch contest, worked on several films, and even wrote a children’s book. Here’s a partial list of Bolia’s accomplishments:

• Director of Photography for Bellclair Times, written and directed by Chriss Williams.
• Camera operator for Unseen, produced by Luis Moro and directed by Lisa Franc.
• Writer and illustrator for a children’s book entitled “Murray’s Day Out,” currently being considered for publication by Bloomsbury Press.
• Bolia’s film, Once Upon a Jedi, screens at the following festivals:
  2004 Bronx Independent Film Festival
  2004 Darklight Digital Film Festival
  2004 Sidewalk Moving Image Film Festival
  2004 University Film and Video summer conference
  2005 Texas Film Festival
  2005 Viewfinders International Film Festival, Nova Scotia
  2005 San Diego International Children’s Film Festival
  2005 Lamar University/Spindletop Film Festival
  2005 Atlanta Film Festival
• Another Bolia film, Success is Mine, screened at the 2004 Ohio Independent film festival and the 2004 Santa Fe film festival.

DAEL TV Channel Launches

Putting to the test, internet protocol television (IPTV), DAEL has launched a private IPTV channel. DAEL Productions will be screened/streamed using DAEL Partner, Klaus Entertainment’s new Kaneva platform. Faculty, students and partners will use the channel to view and analyze each other’s work before hitting the festival circuit.

www.dael.gsu.edu
DAEL RESEARCH PROJECTS

Brain/Behavior Research

Emory graduate student Heather Rupp teamed up with GSU Ph.D. student RuAnn Keith to use DAEL’s Head Mounted Eye Tracker to research how males and females respond differently to the presentation of visual sexual stimuli in terms of neural activation, and genital and subjective arousal. According to Rupp, “Subjects view sexual stimuli at their own pace while eye movement and attention is measured by the eye tracker. The stimuli varies by type of sexual activity, genital focus, and direction of female gaze to investigate which particular aspects of the sexual stimuli are important to males and females.”

Rupp uses the Eye Tracker to measure viewing time, pupil diameter, and the sequence and durations of visual fixations to attain non-subjective measures of interest and attention to sexual stimuli.

Audience Response Research

The Other Side

When Atlanta filmmaker Chad Eikoff finished shooting his action-based thriller in Atlanta last year (in over 40 locations), he and writer/director Gregg Bishop came to DAEL to audience-test the rough cut. The feature length film is the first of two movies that Bishop Studios is slated to shoot in Atlanta.

“At Tech we have lots of computers, but we don’t have a re-recording studio. It was great that Kay (Beck) offered the DAEL facilities to us. DAEL was a huge help,” said Muller.

Muller also used the post-production facilities to record audio used in “4 Angry Men,” an interactive 3D viewing experience. In “4 Angry Men,” viewers can experience the different viewpoints of four characters in a narrative courtroom drama through a head-worn display that presents video and audio of each character.

DAEL Productions...

The following films were made in conjunction with DAEL recently:

- Unseen – produced by Luis Moro and directed by Lisa Franc. Camera operator was GSU film professor Ly Bolia.

- The Lady from Sockholm – a 71-minute film directed by Evan Lieberman and Eddy Von Mueller that uses sock puppets as actors on a puppet stage. The film is currently screening in several festivals including the Atlanta Film Festival. Over 100 pairs of socks were used in the filming of this project, which took 12 days to shoot on a single sound stage.

- Dark Remains – written and directed by Brian Avenet-Bradley. Currently in post-production.

- The Other Side – produced by Chad Eikoff and Gregg Bishop, filmed in Atlanta. Eikoff and Bishop also used DAEL audience response facilities to do audience testing (see article under Research).

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RESEARCH

One Love

Atlanta-based film distribution company Flying Zebra used the Audience Response theater to screen One Love, written by Jamaican playwright Trevor Rhone and starring Ky-Mani Marley (son of Bob Marley). The film was produced with assistance from the Jamaican Film Council’s New Cinema Fund. Flying Zebra conducted focus groups with viewers in the DAEL Audience Response theater after screening the film to determine audience reaction.

DAEL Creates Audio Post for Research

DAEL Facilities Manager Matt Rowles collaborated with Georgia Tech graduate student Danny Muller on two projects for the Georgia Tech Augmented Environments Laboratory. “The Voices of Oakland” is an audio-only “augmented reality experience,” where patrons wear head-phones and listen to site-specific recordings during a tour of Oakland Cemetery. Rowles and Muller were able to enhance the audio recording to include background sounds such as those simulating a Civil War battle.

“The film is now in post-production in Los Angeles. For more information, visit www.EnterTheOtherSide.com.

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At the Digital Arts Entertainment Lab, graduate students, faculty, industry professionals, visiting artists, producers and researchers work together to explore the potential of digital content origination and distribution. DAEL, partially supported by the Georgia Research Alliance, is located in the heart of downtown Atlanta, on the campus of Georgia State University and is affiliated with the Department of Communication.

www.dael.gsu.edu

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Mechanisms for external interaction:

Industry Partnerships: One-to-one cash matching support for a specific project.

Contracts: DAEL can enter into research contracts with private companies, universities and government agencies that define specific research and deliverables.

Grants: Grants for the funding of research into all areas of digital production, dissemination, and reception are sought and encouraged.

Services: DAEL offers research production services at low cost and high quality to Georgia-based public and private companies.

Gifts: Gifts to Georgia State University DAEL may be earmarked to support research needs and student fellowship.

Graduate Degrees Offered in Moving Image Studies:
(Department of Communication)

Masters of Arts
Doctor of Philosophy