

Monday, December 20, 2010

Dear Prospective Film Students and Parents,

The UNCSCA School of Filmmaking is at the forefront of one of the most significant industries in North Carolina and this country. Film, and its associated new media technologies, is one of America's leading exports and it is growing. Our film school is not only central to the future of our campus, but also central to the future of North Carolina. The film school is a demonstrated economic catalyst for the state. Film alumni have brought their productions here, and the state film commission reports that one of the reasons film productions come to North Carolina is because of the workforce that trained at UNCSCA.

Reductions have been requested by the State; however, this does not mean that every state agency would share equally in these reductions, or even that every UNC campus would share equally in a cut to the UNC system. Last summer, UNCSCA successfully presented its case and its share of an across-the-board budget reduction was reduced by more than 33 percent.

The UNCSCA School of Filmmaking is a growth area for our campus, the State and its University system. In fact, we placed the creation of a Filmmaking Center of Excellence among UNCSCA's very highest budget priorities for 2011-2013. We have asked the UNC Board of Governors for \$4.4 million of new operating funds per year over two years to begin this process, plus an additional \$2 million for equipment, to launch an unprecedented expansion of our film program that would include new master's degree programs, new faculty, new sound stages and other resources to continue supporting and expanding our state's film industry. The actual \$100 million Center of Excellence request was approved by the University in a first phase of \$48 million last year, but was unfunded in 2009 due to the general economic condition of the nation. It was approved again this year and we are hopeful that it will be funded this year. After their request for repair and renovation funds for the campuses, the UNC Board of Governors included UNCSCA's request for additional construction planning funds to support our Film Center of Excellence expansion, along with requests from the other UNC campuses, in their legislative agenda for the 2011-2013 legislative session.

Just recently, we received nearly \$13 million from the Legislature for a new animation, gaming and digital design facility for our students, and we will soon break ground for that in our Studio Village, home of our School of Filmmaking. In addition, School of Filmmaking Dean Jordan Kerner -- producer of films such as CHARLOTTE'S WEB, WHEN A MAN LOVES A WOMAN, FRIED GREEN TOMATOES and the upcoming SMURFS (which is bound to be a national sensation) -- has recruited some of the finest faculty members in the industry, including cinematographer Thomas Ackerman, director Peter Bogdanovich, sound designer and editor Wade Wilson, editor Ron Roose, and producer Susan Ruskin.

We also are so proud of our film alumni, who continue to earn accolades for themselves and bring UNCSA and North Carolina outstanding tributes as they work in the film and television industry, here in North Carolina, across the country and even around the world. Notable UNCSA film alumni include David Gordon Green, Tim Orr, Danny McBride, Jeff Nichols, Craig Zobel, Jody Hill, Paul Schneider, Aaron Katz, Will Files, Atli Orvarsson, and Travis Beacham.

If you still have concerns, I urge you to contact Chief Academic Officer David Nelson at 336-770-3262, School of Filmmaking Dean Jordan Kerner at 336-770-1333, or Associate Dean Henry Grillo at 336-770-1335.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Mauceri". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

John Mauceri
Chancellor