



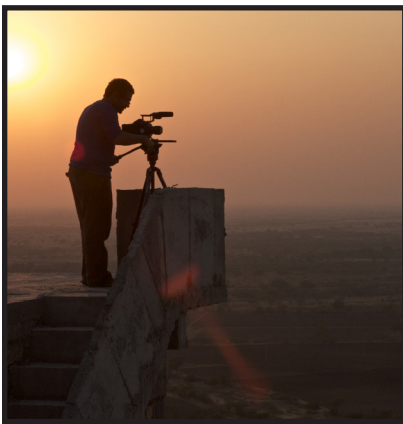
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL | MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

## School of Film & Photography

### MFA in Science & Natural History Filmmaking

#### DEGREES OFFERED

- MFA in Science and Natural History Filmmaking



Department Address:  
School of Film and Photography  
Visual Communications Building  
P.O. Box 173350  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, MT 59717-3350

Phone: (406) 994-5884  
Email: [snhf@montana.edu](mailto:snhf@montana.edu)  
Web: [sfp.montana.edu/sciencenaturefilm](http://sfp.montana.edu/sciencenaturefilm)

The mission of the MFA in Science and Natural History Filmmaking is to train aspiring filmmakers with an interest and background in scientific disciplines to develop the creative, technical, and critical skills needed to produce work that will contribute to the greater public understanding of science.

The graduate program in Science and Natural History Filmmaking at Montana State University is the largest and best known of its kind in the world. Students in the program have had their work broadcast on major channels such as The Discovery Channel, National Geographic, The Science Channel, CNN, and PBS. They have also produced films for the National Park Service, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Agriculture, NOAA, NASA, The Wildlife Conservation Society, the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, and the Nature Conservancy. Student and alumni works have appeared in numerous festivals, major museums, and other cultural venues. Students literally travel the world with leading scientists to make films in the Pribilof Islands, Easter Island, the Galapagos, Australia, Japan, Mongolia, Africa, Chile, New Zealand, Colombia, and Antarctica. Our graduates find work with major broadcast organizations and institutions including the BBC, National Geographic, Discovery, the Smithsonian Channel, the Field Museum, NASA, and WITNESS. The home of the Webby-winning website TERRA:THE NATURE OF OUR WORLD, the MFA in Science and Natural History Filmmaking has been recognized through major awards including student Emmys, Telly Awards, Fulbright grants, a Panda award, and numerous other festival and artistic honors.

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**MONTANA**  
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## ADMISSION

We seek candidates with at least an undergraduate degree in biological sciences or physical sciences, engineering, technology, environmental or conservation sciences, or the social sciences. Laboratory or field research experience is highly desirable. Candidates are not expected to have any formal education or experience in filmmaking. We also seek candidates with degrees in other disciplines who have at least a minor (or equivalent thereof) in any of the fields mentioned above. Equivalent experience in science media production will also be considered to satisfy the admission requirements. An average GPA of "B" or above is required.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The three-year curriculum consists of a minimum of sixty semester credit hours of study, a written thesis, and a thesis film. To graduate, a student must complete the course of study in good academic standing and produce the thesis and thesis film. Candidates for the MFA take courses that include the history and theory of science and natural history filmmaking and general film studies. They also complete extensive work mastering film and video production skills, including cinematography, sound, production management, editing, writing, and new media. The philosophy informing the MFA curriculum is based on the idea of promoting a greater public understanding of science by training filmmakers who understand the complete media production process. These professionals will then have the intellectual and technical foundation necessary to further creative innovation in science and natural history filmmaking as well as science communication throughout their subsequent careers.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Depending on the availability of funds, a limited number of teaching assistantships, research assistantships and some scholarship support are available each year.

## FACULTY

Director, School of Film And Photography  
Dennis Aig, Ph.D.

MFA Option Coordinator  
Theo Lipfert, MFA

Professors  
Dennis Aig, Ph.D.  
Christina Anderson, MFA  
Robert Arnold, Ph.D.  
Stephanie Campbell, MFA  
Jenny Hatchadorian, MFA  
Theo Lipfert, MFA  
Alexis Pike, MFA  
Lucia Ricciardelli, PhD  
Cindy Stillwell, MFA  
Anjali Sundram, MFA  
Ronald Tobias, MFA  
Ian Van Collier, MFA  
Tom Watson, MFA

Adjunct Faculty  
Gianna Savoie, M.A.  
James Joyce, MFA  
Katherine Kasic, MFA