

Jim Cox—our son, brother, and friend—lived an all-too brief life, dying on July 27, 2007 in a mid-air collision of two media helicopters over Phoenix. While he was only 37 when he died, Jim's life was happy, full and jam-packed with adventure and fun. He ran "full throttle" all of the time, and accomplished twice as much as most people do in an entire lifetime.

Jimmy to his family, or Cox to his co-workers, was born in Kingston, New York, but spent most of his childhood in Huntington, Long Island. While he loved his adopted state of Arizona, he was a true New Yorker, through and through. After graduating from Huntington High School, Jim moved out to the southwest to attend Arizona State. He took advantage of his new environment from the very beginning; going to the Grand Canyon; skiing outside of Flagstaff; or driving over to California or another neighboring state for the weekend. Whenever his family called him, during college, he seemed to be on another road trip. They often wondered if he attended classes or if the diploma he received on graduation was actually real. He did and it was. That was just Jimmy for you—he could do it all and have a lot of fun doing it.

After college, Jim worked for the Arizona Cardinals before going to work for KTVK, Channel 3. He loved his job there and the people with whom he worked—and they loved him. Reporters knew that Jim was a perfectionist and that their work would be even better because



James Alan Cox
February 20, 1970 – July 27, 2007

of his creativity and professionalism. They also loved working with him because he was a great, nice guy and very, very funny—a "nut" as some have said. His colleague and friend Steve Bodinet commented: "We all like to laugh and that's why we all wanted to work with Jimmy".

Besides work, Jim was passionate and talented at so many other things. He spent years, for instance, renovating his home in a historic district of Phoenix. Every nail, every board, was lovingly placed by him—and all to code! But that was not too unusual, as Jimmy could build, fix, take apart and then put back together just about anything—cars, motorcycles, sailboats, you name it. As his friends have joked, Jimmy was the second "MacGyver". Jim was also extremely athletic, becoming proficient at numerous sports: skiing, sailing & golf to name a few.

But Jim's true passion was his family. As he stated on his MySpace page, his parents were his heroes—a feeling, which was, and is, reciprocated by them. He also adored his sisters, Leslie and Jenny, and his nieces and nephew. Natalie, Emily and Nate always looked forward to getting together with their "Uncle Dude".

Jim will be dearly missed by everyone who knew him. It is hard to imagine a world without this funny, intense, passionate "ball of energy". If anything can be gained from this terrible tragedy, perhaps it is the lesson that we should all try to live life like Jimmy—passionately and with conviction. That would make him smile.

The James Alan Cox Foundation for Student Photographers is a charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Tax Code. Contributions are tax deductible, as provided by law.



P. O. Box 9158
Austin, TX 78766



FOR STUDENT
PHOTOGRAPHERS
JULY 2009

The Foundation's Official Launch



Steele Indian School Park Memorial (Photograph: Natalie Flanzer, KTVK)

While The James Alan Cox Foundation was started weeks after Jimmy's tragic accident, the official launch of the Foundation took place on the first anniversary of the crash. On the morning of Friday, July 25, 2008, a press conference began the weekend's events and was filmed by all of the major Phoenix stations. Leslie Cox, Jim's sister, along

with the rest of the Cox family, talked about the Foundation's mission of supporting student photographers and the application process (all of which could be done online and was open to all). Later that night, the Foundation hosted a party, in celebration of Jimmy's extraordinary life, along with an exhibit of his still photography work. Over a hundred guests came to honor Jim, his life and career, and to formally introduce his Foundation to the world. The evening concluded with the release of a Great Horned Owl, in Jim's name, by Liberty Wildlife.

On the actual one-year anniversary of the accident, Sunday, July 27, 2008, family and friends gathered at Steele Indian School Park for the dedication of a beautiful memorial, created



Great Horned Owl released by Liberty Wildlife

in honor of the four men killed in the helicopter collision. Many thanks to all of the companies and individuals who were responsible for this moving and tranquil site. In particular, Jim's family is indebted to PFG Construction for their work on this project and to Lisa Alering and Blanca Esparza-Pap, of KTVK, for their work on both the memorial site and all of the anniversary events.



Lobby of KTVK with photos of Jim Cox (l) and Scott Bowerbank (r)

“Our photographs are the wings that support the flight of memory. And among us are those photographers whose wingspan is just a bit broader than that of the rest of us”.

- National Geographic Traveler:
The World in Pictures - Jan/Feb 2003



(Photograph: Natalie Flanzer, KTVK)

Letter from the Foundation President, Alan G. Cox

As we approach the two-year anniversary (July 27, 2007) of the tragic helicopter collision in Phoenix that robbed us of our son, brother, uncle and friend, Jim Cox, we are proud to report the successful launching of The James Alan Cox Foundation for Student Photographers. At the end of 2008 the foundation awarded three scholarships to college photojournalism students and five high-end digital cameras to high school students across the country (see article). The response, on short notice, from the students was overwhelming with over 250 applicants. We also gifted cameras to the photography department of Jim's high school in Huntington, Long Island and, through the generosity of friends, provided used 35 mm cameras to Huntington High and another high school in upstate New York. This year's competition will begin on July 15 and conclude on October 15, 2009 and we look forward to another year of high quality entries. Please see www.jamesalancoxfoundation.org for application instructions.

A special thank you goes out to the over 200 contributors without whom the birth of this foundation would not have been possible. From this senseless tragedy a beautiful and enduring legacy will help ensure that the art of photojournalism that Jim so loved will be carried forward with the highest standards.

Alan G. Cox, PRESIDENT

Founded in memory of James Alan Cox, a television photojournalist, The James Alan Cox Foundation for Student Photographers aims to provide financial support to student photographers of high school and college age. Through a variety of funding, including equipment purchases and scholarships for college and technical school classes, the foundation's mission is to expand educational and developmental opportunities for student photographers demonstrating interest, talent and financial need.

The James Alan Cox Foundation Donates Cameras to Huntington High School, Huntington, New York

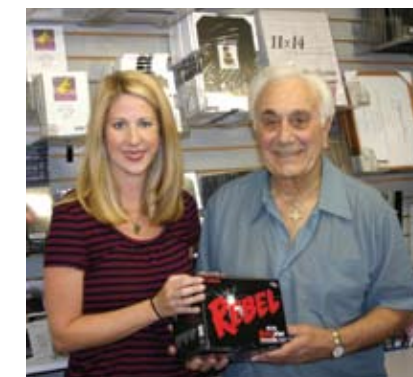


Huntington High School students show off one of their new cameras

While Jimmy loved Arizona and lived there for almost 17 years, he was also a proud New Yorker and loved growing up in Huntington, Long Island. The Foundation was therefore happy to help the photography teachers and students of Jim's high school, Huntington High, and purchased two new cameras for their program. The Foundation, with the help of Len Tatora of L&L Camera, Huntington, donated a Canon XSi Digital camera and a Canon Elan 7N film camera.

Through a friend of the family, the Foundation also gave the high school three gently used cameras: a Canon EOS Elan II 35 mm camera with lenses; a Minolta Hi-Matic 35 mm camera; and a Polaroid Automatic 250 Land camera. Our thanks to Karen and Larry Turner for this wonderful donation.

Joan Fretz, Director of Fine and Performing Arts at the Huntington Union Free School District, said: *“Our students are very honored to be able to use these wonderful cameras in memory of James Cox. They are very taken with his story and feel as if they somehow are walking in his footsteps as they use these cameras”.*

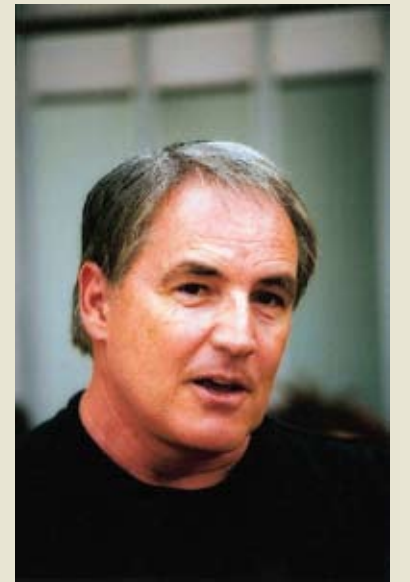


Pam Piffard receives one of the new cameras, purchased by The James Alan Cox Foundation, from Len Tatora of L&L Camera.

The new digital camera, purchased by the Foundation, has a possible 30 second shutter exposure. With such a long exposure, the students were able to draw with light, using a flashlight to create illumination

Steve Bodinet Donates Cameras to Foundation

Steve Bodinet, a good friend of Jimmy's, as well as a reporter and photojournalist at KTVK, had some high quality, slightly used cameras that he wanted to donate to a worthy cause. The Foundation had no trouble finding a good home for the Canon cameras, lenses and cases. A small, rural school in upstate New York, Manchester-Shortsville Central School, was thrilled to receive them.



Charlene Harvey, the Principal of the Middle School, wrote: *“I want to write to express my heart felt, sincere thank you to Jim's family for the camera donations. Our school values the arts and in particular, photography. Not only do we have an excellent program that we are proud of, but we value the opportunity to capture moments in time -we display candid photos of our students as they experience school life all over our school walls. The cameras will help take our photography program to a higher level and more importantly, provide our students with opportunities they wouldn't have otherwise had. Jim's life and accomplishments will certainly be shared with our students as they use his cameras with care, pride and honor. He will always be remembered”.*

The Foundation is always pleased to accept used cameras, in good condition, for deserving schools. Please contact us at 512-459-8515 if you would like to donate.

The James Alan Cox Foundation Awards Its First Scholarships

On December 8, 2008, the first scholarships from The James Alan Cox Foundation for Student Photographers were awarded to five high school students and three college students. The Foundation received over 250 applications from students from every part of the country. It was an amazing response, considering how involved the application process was. It was also extremely difficult to choose the recipients, as the quality of the work submitted was very high. Jimmy would have been extremely proud of all of the entrants!

Respected photojournalists Steve Bodinet, of KTVK, Channel 3, Phoenix, and Elise Wilson, of Aspen PRO Media, Arizona, were the jurors for the competition.

High School Winners

Five high school students each received a Canon Rebel EOS XSi camera with 2 lenses, a memory card and a gadget bag.



Taylor Cavanaugh, West Port High School, Ocala, Florida

Taylor Cavanaugh's photographs of often gritty, uncomfortable subjects are still beautiful and often mesmerizing. As Karin Gunn, a teacher at her school states, Taylor has an "ability to pay close attention to timing, facial expressions, and lighting ...to allow her to vividly capture moments". We can't take our eyes from her photos, despite the sometimes painful subject matter. The photographs she submitted for the competition, of burned and abandoned houses, of an older Mexican woman, a homeless man, and even of a Civil War re-enactment, are varied and unique. They all, however, demonstrate a "strong ability to notice and capture simple moments that intrigue and touch the general public". That is the goal of every photojournalist. Along with her interest in photography, Taylor is also involved in cheerleading and a member of many clubs at school, including debate and the Key Club.



Emily Judd, McKinney High School, McKinney, Texas

Emily Judd, who attends McKinney High School in McKinney, Texas, finds that "...there truly is something magical about taking pictures. The idea that I can capture a moment in time forever evokes an excitement and passion inside of me". Emily, who is on the yearbook staff at school and has served as photo editor, overseeing 16 other photographers, has had her work featured in the yearbook, as well as the school newspaper and in a district-produced calendar. The photos she entered with her application seem intimate and capture each of her subject's personalities and emotions. A shot of a child at the Kentucky State Fair shows his excitement at a booth while another detailed photo of a child with Spina Bifida demonstrates her dancing, despite her disability. As Emily's teacher, Lori Oglesbee, says: "Her photos are always fresh and never replicas of a previous shoot. She analyzes each event looking for the unique angles and the emotions of high school life".



Angie Rushing, Georgetown High School, Georgetown, Texas

Angie Rushing, who is on the yearbook staff at her high, has also been working for her local paper, the Williamson County Sun, for several years as a stringer for the sports section. A very accomplished photographer for someone so young, she has also had her work hang in galleries and has sold photos to family and friends. Angie's shots of various sporting events truly capture the love and passion that these players – mostly high school students – feel for the game. Her photograph of a soccer goalie, just after losing the game, is truly heartbreaking. Kerry Jo Smith, a teacher at Angie's school, says Angie "has an eye for visual appeal along with verbal, written, and interpersonal communication skills; she is able to create impressive creative work and is able to articulate her ideas in a poised and confident way".



Camille Williams, Chadsey High School, Detroit, Michigan

Gordon Alexander, one of Camille Williams' teachers, describes her as "always a willing learner in exploring the ideas of not only photography, but understanding how she can be a part of a program that gives to others". Like every good photojournalist, she wants to take not only good shots, but ones that reach out to others and teach them something about an event, place or person. The photographs Camille submitted for this competition are all quite different, but all intriguing. She has a beautiful interior of a church and a downtown building in Detroit, and several black and white shots that she took at the Detroit Festival of the Arts. One, of a performance, is so unusual, it almost looks like a still from an old black and white movie. Camille is an exceptional young lady, both as a person and photojournalist. Again from Gordon Alexander: "I have seen her skills grow with each session that she is a part of".



Agnes Wysowski, Trinity High School, Euless, Texas

Agnes Wysowski, who attends Trinity High School, in Euless, Texas, submitted photos of a trip she took to Auschwitz, the former Nazi concentration camp, in Poland. One photograph is of a pile of eyeglasses, stripped from people entering the camp by the Nazis; another is of crutches and prosthetics that were taken from the victims. Perhaps the most searing one, though, is of a farmer on his wagon, passing in front of the camp. It shows a beautiful, pastoral scene against the backdrop of past atrocities. Agnes, as a budding photojournalist, wants to capture history and let us never forget events of the past. "What we can do is know our history and never even inch toward genocide in our actions".

College Winners

Three college students each received a \$2,000 scholarship, payable to their school.



Juan Antonio Elizondo, University of Texas at Austin

Juan Antonio Elizondo, one of two winners of a \$2,000 scholarship (payable to his school) for video work, says that "sharing information and making history for others to view is my passion. I love engaging with people and becoming educated about how my neighbors and community interact with one another". A wonderful example of this is his video of the University of Texas at Austin Fencing Team. It engages us in a sport most of us probably know very little about. The interviews and action scenes are exceptionally well executed, and the professional, careful editing brings the entire piece together. A reference letter from Steve Gonzales, Director of Photography at the Houston Chronicle, where Juan worked, states that "When I first met Juan four years ago he approached me with the thirst of wanting to learn. He told me about his passion to become a photojournalist and it is obvious to say, Juan is taking his dreams in his desired direction and turning them into reality".



Natasia Gascon, The Art Institute of California – Los Angeles

Natasia Gascon, from The Art Institute of California – Los Angeles, was also a winner for college video work (\$2,000 payable to her school). Natasia's love for photojournalism began with a desire to update her high school's antiquated Web site. Before she knew it, she was in the school's technology club and was later given the job of school videographer. She then became a line producer for their monthly television news show and produced award-winning documentaries while still in high school. She moved to Los Angeles to attend The Art Institute of California and further her studies and career. Omar Gonzalez, one of the teachers at her college, writes: "Her passion for the medium is sincere and evident in the execution of each of her projects. Take for example the first video she did in my class. It was a personal documentary about how she grew to love the small town she reluctantly moved to as a teenager. She poetically photographed the town and got the audience involved in her story".



Elizabeth Thomas, Knox College, Illinois

Elizabeth Thomas, from Knox College in Illinois, was the winner of the College Still Photography scholarship (\$2,000 payable to her school). Elizabeth, who has designed her own major in Visual Communications, with an emphasis on photography and a double minor in Spanish and journalism, likes to travel and uses her camera to capture people and places from her trips. "When I looked at all of the places I had seen, I realized that my photos not only told a story, they made history, and they made art". Through her photography, she wants to create art, but more importantly, she wants to show her viewers the world and teach them something about other countries and cultures. David Amor, a teacher from Knox College, says that Elizabeth "has an acute perceptiveness about and sensitivity to the lives of her 'subjects' – identifying quickly what is important to them – which she combines with a distinctive perspective of her own".

NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE

Each year, through a juried selection process, several deserving students are chosen by The James Alan Cox Foundation to receive equipment or tuition help for colleges or technical schools. This year's application process will begin on July 15, 2009 and conclude, with the deadline for applications, on October 15, 2009. To apply for a scholarship, please see the Application Requirements on the Web site (www.jamesalancoxfoundation.org). If you have any questions regarding the forms or process, please contact the Foundation at 512-459-8515 or e-mail them at info@jamesalancoxfoundation.org.

Type of Awards

- Five (5) Digital Cameras will be awarded to five (5) high school students.
- Three (3) \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to three (3) college or technical school students. Two awards will be for video work while one will be for still photography.

The focus of work and entries is photojournalism. Scholarships will be awarded to those students whose work "tells a story". This is a fairly broad topic and may include a variety of subject matter and approaches (breaking news, sporting events, etc.) Jim, who was a television photojournalist in Phoenix, always "told a story" through his work, whether it was in video or still photography.

Application Requirements and Forms

Students, through the Web site, must complete the following forms, in order to be eligible for a scholarship.

- Application Form
- Brief Essay
- Teacher Mentor Form
- 2 Letters of Reference
- School Transcript
- Financial Data
- Release by the Photographer
- Portfolio
 - Five (5) digital images for still photography submissions
 - Two (2) 3 minute videos for video submissions
- Parental Release Form for high school students (or those under 18)

Donations and Donors

The Board of Directors would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their generous donations and wonderful support. Their contributions will be used to help deserving students realize their dreams of becoming a photographer or photojournalist like Jim. Thank you for honoring our son, brother and friend.

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Ways to Give - Financial Contributions, Gently Used Cameras and More

Though the foundation started in his name, Jim Cox's life and death has touched many people who never knew him. Jim often told us how lucky he felt to grow up with advantages that many young people did not have. After his death we received many letters from interns and new photographers at the television station where he worked telling us of his patience and willingness to help them. Seasoned veterans wrote to tell us of his professionalism on the job.

Hearing these things, we instantly knew what we had to do to honor Jim's too short life and give some meaning to our own lives.

In addition to the scholarships and new cameras that we award, we are also able to find homes for your gently used 35mm cameras in high schools around the country. Jim's beloved Aunt Gail found a unique way to benefit the foundation by including the following in the invitation to her 70th birthday party:

"If you feel you must give a gift please consider a donation to The James Alan Cox Foundation".

Your help will enable us to increase the number and amount of scholarships awarded to talented and deserving students. We are a 501(c)(3) organization and your gifts are fully deductible. Thank you all for your generosity and continuing support.

- **Barbara H. Cox**, VICE-PRESIDENT



(Photograph: Tyson Milanovich, KTVK)

Hello,

I have just received the camera and like you said, it is very nice. Thank you again for choosing me for the award. May God bless you and your family! I know your brother would be proud if he knew what your family has done for me. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Camille Williams

