

The James Alan Cox Foundation Awards Its Third Set of Scholarships (and increases the amount given to college students)



Dan Lynh Pham, High School Scholarship Recipient

This past December, the James Alan Cox Foundation for Student Photographers awarded another set of scholarships to five high school students and five college students. (This year's award to college students was \$2,500 per student; an increase from the previous year's award of \$2,000.) In line with the Foundation's mission, recipients were chosen based on talent, interest and financial need. They also had to complete all of the many parts of the application, including writing an essay, providing school transcripts and letters of reference, and, of course, submitting a portfolio of work. (Please see the list of students, with accompanying biographies, inside this newsletter.) The Foundation has now awarded three sets of scholarships to gifted and deserving high school and college students. Since its founding in 2007, the James Alan Cox Foundation has provided:

- Monetary scholarships to 13 college students (\$28,500 in total grants)
- High-end digital cameras, with extra lenses, a case, and memory card, to 15 high school students (\$13,769.85 in total value)

To see samples of each winner's work, please go online to www.jamesalancoxfoundation.org and click on the link for the 2010 Scholarship Recipients.

The James Alan Cox Foundation Announces its First Annual Internship at KTVK-3TV, Phoenix

The James Alan Cox Foundation and KTVK-3TV, the television station in Phoenix where Jim worked for 12 years, are initiating a new, annual program: a fall photojournalism internship for a qualified college student. The program, which will run for 15 weeks (August through December), is designed to teach students all aspects of television photojournalism and help further their videography skills. The intern, who will work closely with an assigned KTVK mentor, will have the opportunity to work in a variety of departments (news, sports, etc.) This is a paid internship, with the student also receiving college credit. To apply, please see the Foundation's website at www.jamesalancoxfoundation.org for a link to the application. An essay, résumé, references and video sample are required. The deadline is August 1st. Many thanks to KTVK-3TV for their support and help with this program.



Molly Strehl, High School Scholarship Recipient

“I promise to use this money to continue my education to the fullest, and finish my degree, always putting the highest standards and professional values first, leaving a legacy James would be proud of.”

- Sean Patrick Lewis, 2010 College Scholarship Recipient



Alan and Jim Cox

Letter from the Foundation President, Alan G. Cox

The James Alan Cox Foundation continues to grow and expand its horizons as the completion of the third year is realized and plans for the fourth year's competition take shape. This fall we will also be underwriting our first photojournalism internship at Jim's station, KTVK-3TV, in Phoenix.

We continue to be overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the students and the quality of the applications (over 200 last year) that we receive for our annual scholarships. Reviewing the contest images just before Christmas reminds us of the gifts of photos that we received from Jim at the same time each year. Without Jim, our holidays are forever changed, but calling the winners to tell them that they have won a scholarship or a camera makes the season very special to our family.

The generous support of our donors has been especially gratifying and assures the future viability and growth of the Foundation. Many heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed. We are comforted knowing that the art of photojournalism that Jim so loved will be carried forward.

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.

James Alan Cox Foundation Donates Cameras to Washington, DC Schools

This past year, The James Alan Cox Foundation donated gently-used cameras, lenses and other equipment (including tripods, cases and affiliated software) to two nationally-recognized high schools, The Duke Ellington School of the Arts and the SEED Public Charter School, both in the Washington, DC area. The latter first came to the attention of the Foundation through a 2009 high school winner, Keami Hepburn. The Foundation has

also continued to give good used equipment to the George Washington Carver Museum in Austin.

Many thanks to all of the people who donated cameras over the past several years to the Foundation. They are being put to good use and are greatly appreciated by these schools and by the previous organizations who have benefited from this program.

If you would like to donate gently-used digital cameras, or related camera

equipment, please contact the Foundation at 512-459-8515 or info@jamesalancoxfoundation.org.

Camera donors: Hetty and Way Atmadja, Steve Bodinet, Ray Cross, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Gardner, Elizabeth Hawkins, Becky and Richard Herrington, Traci Kuhfuss, Mary Beth and Jeff Payne, David Peña, Diane and Stan Spence, Karen and Larry Turner, Nicole and Tyson Tuttle, Vivienne and Bill Wardle, Francine and John Webb.



Students from the Photography Department, The Duke Ellington School of the Arts (Photograph: Derek Horton)

The Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Located in Washington, DC, the Duke Ellington School of the Arts was founded in 1971 and is the only DC public high school that provides professional arts training and college preparation to approximately 500 talented DC public school students (Grades 9-12) from every ward in the city. Each student takes a full academic course load and, additionally, majors in one of eight arts disciplines (Dance, Literary Media, Museum Studies, Instrumental or Vocal Music, Theater, Technical Design and Production, and Visual Arts). Ellington students have gone on to study at Yale, NYU, Harvard, Juilliard, Parsons School

of Design and Howard University, among many other institutions.



Students from the SEED Public Charter School

SEED Public Charter School

The SEED Public Charter School in Washington, DC is the nation's first public boarding school, founded in 1998, with the mission to prepare children, both academically and socially, for success in college and in life beyond. The school serves 325 students in grades six through twelve who are admitted by random lottery and meet no admission criteria except residency in the District of Columbia. 82 percent of SEED students will be the first in their family to earn a college degree and 99 percent are African-American. SEED was featured in the 2010 documentary, "Waiting for Superman", about U.S. public education reform.

The James Alan Cox Foundation Awards Its Third Scholarships

This past December, The James Alan Cox Foundation for Student Photographers awarded its third set of scholarships to five high school students and five college students. Respected photojournalists Steve Bodinet, of KTVK-3TV, 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 Nikon D5000 digital SLR camera with a 55-200 mm lens, AF-S DX 18-55 mm zoom lens, carrying case and memory card.*



Cory Hackbarth, North Tahoe High School, Tahoe City, California

Peggy Heidelberger-Smith, a teacher and the head of photography at North Tahoe High School, wrote a truly memorable line about her student, Cory Hackbarth, in a reference letter to the Foundation. “Cory,” she writes, “told me his best friend is his camera.” One of the Foundation’s high school scholarship winners, Cory has been fascinated with photography from an early age. “Photography helps me live creatively and push the scope of my experience for adventure and passion.” For Cory, it is the perfect medium to capture the beautiful and vibrant area in which he lives. His submitted images, of the region around Lake Tahoe, are either stunning landscape shots, or dynamic action photos of people having fun in the area (in particular, skiing). Striking and vivid, they make the viewer want to visit and participate. Ms. Heidelberger-Smith again sums it up perfectly when she says that his “ability to capture action, nature, serenity and ‘the moment’ makes Cory’s work unique.”



Locke Hassett, Seeley-Swan High School, Seeley Lake, Montana

Locke Hassett, another high school winner, feels that photography is a way to show people the beauty of the world in which they live. Like Cory Hackbarth, Locke’s home is in a stunning part of the country, Montana, and he loves to share images of his state with others. He has also been fortunate to do some traveling, to places like South America, and photograph new environments and cultures. His submitted images, of the lovely Swan Valley in Montana, or from his trip to Ecuador, are indeed beautiful and truly do capture the magic of these areas. Locke, as well as wanting to depict the beauty that surrounds him and “share the experiences I have been blessed with”, is also interested in creating the unusual, unique shot. Mary Stone, a teacher at his high school, says that Locke is “one of those kids who chooses to think outside the box and can generally be counted on to come up with an interesting application of the material being studied.”



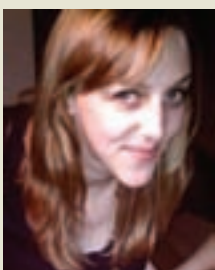
Dan Lynh Pham, Booker T. Washington High School, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Another high school winner, Dan Lynh Pham, sees things a little differently than most. When taking photos, her eyes are drawn to the unusual, beyond the typical scene or subject matter. On a recent trip to France, for instance, Dan was more intrigued by the people she saw – and often, the poverty she encountered - than the standard postcard images. “I ended up with more photos of the people on the streets that I saw than its beautiful architecture or common tourist sites.” Two photos from this trip, that she submitted with her application, stand out and exemplify this perfectly. One, of an elderly chalk artist, shows his craggy, weather-beaten face, juxtaposed in front of his beautiful art. The other, an almost, sweet, loving portrait, is of a homeless man, asleep on the street with his two dogs. Both are beautiful photos, but clearly have a deeper, more profound meaning. As Robert Wakeley, a photography teacher at Dan’s school, states, “Beyond being the model student, Dan has proven herself to be intensely creative and unique in her approach to projects.”



Jack Sorokin, Columbia Senior High School, Maplewood, New Jersey

Jack Sorokin has always loved photography, but an experience last spring strengthened his admiration for the field and his desire to make it a career. Jack, another high school scholarship recipient, participated in a protest against school budget cuts. While it was a meaningful event for him at the time, the photographs he took there made it even more powerful upon later review. Reexamining the images, several of which he submitted with his application, he noticed details, such as facial expressions, that told him “more about the event than I had previously understood.” He clearly saw how his “work as a photojournalist can illustrate the importance of an event such as this.” Larry McKim, a high school art teacher, is impressed not only with Jack’s talent, but also his determination to learn more and succeed. A dedicated and extremely motivated student, Jack is “one of those rare students who self-initiates projects, works on them at home and brings them in the next morning for my response. I feel that Jack’s commitment to art is great and this focus will take him far.”



Molly Strehl, Trinity High School, Euless, Texas

The Foundation’s final high school winner, Molly Strehl, has been working on her photography skills for many years now. While eager to become proficient with different techniques and equipment, she has also learned what is truly important for a good photo. “I have been taught the three most important photo tools,” she says, and they are “the eyes, the mind, and the most important - the heart.” Molly’s submissions, while extremely varied in both subject matter and style (a black and white photo of an elderly man, an action shot of a basketball player, a colorful image of a ride at a state fair), adhere to these important principles. They are beautiful, thought-provoking, and most importantly, heartfelt. Jeff Grimm, a teacher at Trinity High School who also works with Molly on the school’s photography staff, says she is “one of the top 10 or 15 students of my 33 year career in education.” “Clever, self-motivated, funny, responsible, humble, intuitive, direct, strong and resourceful”, she is a proud addition to the Foundation’s alumni of talented scholarship winners.

College Winners Five college students each received a \$2,500 scholarship, payable to their school. (This is an increase of \$500 per student from the previous year's award of \$2,000.)



Anna Bratnick, Kent State University

Anna Bratnick, who is the Foundation's college still photography award winner, is a student at Kent State University in Ohio. Her submitted work, which is quite varied and, as Anna says, was chosen to reflect "different things I have experienced throughout my life", demonstrates her keen eye and ability to cover a wide range of subjects and styles. A particularly striking piece is her mesmerizing photograph of a man working in a horse barn. A black and white photograph, Anna has imbued it with beauty and elegance: the light coming through the window, the dramatic shadows cast against the barn, the man's fluid movement as he lifts a bale of hay. Gary Harwood, a lecturer and author at Kent State, is very impressed with Anna and says that her work, like that of the best photojournalists, "displays depth and artistic style." A talented and hard worker, she can reach, Mr. Harwood believes, "the highest levels of achievement."



Isaac Easley, Arizona State University

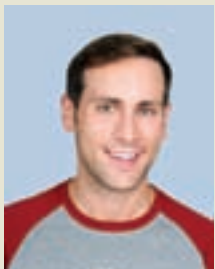
Isaac Easley, one of four winners in the college video category, is already highly respected for his work, by both his professors and those working in the field. Christopher Callahan, the Dean of Arizona State's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism, states that "I have known few students who possess Isaac's maturity, intelligence, passion and dedication." Craig Fouhy, the Sports Director/Anchor for ABC15 in Phoenix, says that he "is a quick study and easily transitions from one project to the next." Isaac's passion is sports reporting and both of his submitted videos involve intriguing stories about athletes. Both pieces are, at times, fun, moving and, of course, extremely informative. His video about the Harlem Globetrotters captures the essence of this celebrated team, while the video about Matthew Betzold, a mixed martial arts amputee fighter, is truly motivational and perfectly illustrates Matthew's determination and will to succeed, despite the odds. "It was a story," Isaac says, "that needed to be told."



Jessica Hodder, University of Miami

Jessica Hodder, another winner in the college video category, says that when she is shooting, she is able "to connect to people I wouldn't have otherwise met, experience new places and activities and learn about my subjects, while being able to accurately, and more importantly, tell their stories." As a photojournalist for several University of Miami publications, she is constantly striving to both tell and learn about new, interesting subjects and stories. This is exemplified by the fascinating videos she submitted with her application. One, about Burmese pythons invading the Everglades, is an intriguing look at a little-known phenomenon. Her other submission is a moving piece about autistic youngsters enjoying a day at the beach surfing. Jim Virga, a lecturer at her school, says that, as a storyteller, "Jessica has the rare ability to use a variety of tools and technologies to get

the job done." More importantly, though, Jessica is "a sensitive person who shows respect for her subjects, and approaches her projects with the highest of ethical standards."



Sean Patrick Lewis, University of Southern California

Another college video winner, Sean Patrick Lewis knows the power a photojournalist wields. As he states in his application essay, "They say a single picture speaks a thousand words, and with 30 frames a second, the video news photojournalist says a lot." Sean Patrick Lewis' videos do just that. His submissions to the Foundation, about a graffiti "sting" in Anaheim and the gift bags handed out at the Academy Awards, are informative, engaging and utterly entertaining. While having a knack for storytelling, he is also hard-working and completely dedicated to his chosen career. Cheryl Kunin Fair, the News Director for KABC in Los Angeles, says that when Sean traveled to Haiti several years ago to cover Southern Californians helping in the aftermath of the earthquake, he went without access to a car, or even a hotel. In fact, he often had to sleep on the ground at night. His colleague, according to Ms. Fair, remarked that "Sean had left the US a boy and had returned a man who had succeeded in the face of very difficult challenges."



Laura Palmisano, Arizona State University

Laura Palmisano, a video winner from Arizona State University, has strong feelings about photojournalism and her intended contribution to this field. "I feel that a powerful image hits you in the stomach and then reaches your head. It leaves an impact and impression. I want my work to leave an impact and impression in the eyes and minds of my viewers." Her two videos, while very different, are both informative, beautifully produced and leave a lasting impression in the viewer's mind. The first, about a young glass blower apprenticing at a Scottsdale studio, is a striking and artistic piece, full of colorful images. The second, about a co-op bike shop in Tempe, highlights the work of a unique and fun non-profit organization. Sheilah Britton, a director at Arizona State's Knowledge Enterprise Development group, has worked with Laura for several years and is impressed with her skills. She is able to cover a wide range of subject matter, "from student entrepreneurs to accomplished musicians and algal scientists" with "a keen eye and a burning curiosity."

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. This year's application process will begin on July 15, 2011 and conclude, with the deadline for applications, on October 15, 2011. To apply for a scholarship, please see the Application Requirements on the Web site (www.jamesalancoxfoundation.org).

Type of Awards

- Five (5) Digital Cameras will be awarded to five (5) high school students.
- Five (5) \$2,500 Scholarships will be awarded to five (5) college or technical school students. Four 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.)

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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Your Support is Greatly Appreciated

We are approaching the four-year anniversary of the accident that took our son's life and changed ours forever. Fortunately for us, blessings have been a byproduct of this unimaginable tragedy and we have had our share of them. Because of the generosity of family and friends, the James Alan Cox Foundation has been able to award college scholarships to 13 students, and cameras, both new and gently used to many high school students. The selection process has been rewarding but also gut wrenching. We have asked the kids for their

transcripts, proof of need, a personal essay, letters of recommendation and to electronically send samples of their work. Hundreds across the nation have responded over the past three years. The talent that they display in their video and still work is inspiring. Jimmy was known to be passionate about his work and equally compassionate toward others who needed a helping hand. I imagine that his comment about what we are doing might very well be "You rock."

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



Jim and Barbara Cox



Jim Cox

"It is quite wonderful how your foundation has chosen to honor the memory of James Alan Cox by growing this love for his medium among young photographers this way. Congratulations, your efforts are planting seeds everywhere!"

- **Kamala Subramanian**,
SEED Public Charter School,
Washington, DC

The Foundation is Now on Facebook!

This year The James Alan Cox Foundation for Student Photographers decided to join Facebook in an effort to reach out to even more students interested in a career in photojournalism. The Foundation's Facebook page includes a biography and photos of Jim and his work, general information about the Foundation, and updates about recent and upcoming events, including our annual fall scholarships and the new internship opportunity at KTVK-3TV, Phoenix. Next time you're on Facebook, be sure to check us out.

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.



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