

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-3TV. 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 of his



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

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. Natallie, 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 Photojournalists 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



The James Alan Cox Foundation Awards Its Fourth Set of Scholarships (\$57,224.80 in grants has now been awarded over 4 years!)



Eyes Wide Open, Shelby Tauber, 2011 High School Scholarship Recipient

This past December, the James Alan Cox Foundation for Student Photojournalists awarded another set of scholarships to five high school students and five college students. College students each received \$2,500, payable to their school, and high school students each received a high-end digital camera, with lenses, case and memory card. 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.)

Since its founding in 2007, the Foundation has awarded four sets of scholarships to gifted and deserving high school and college students from all over the country. Recipients have come from 18 states (Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont) and the District of Columbia. Total awards provided over four years include:

- Monetary scholarships to 18 college students (\$41,000 in total grants)
- High-end digital cameras, with extra lenses, a case, and memory card, to 20 high school students (\$16,224.80 in total value)

To see samples of each recipient's work, please go online to www.jamesalancoxfoundation.org and click on the link for the 2011 Scholarship Recipients.

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

After an application and interview process, KTVK-3TV hired its first Foundation-funded intern, Jeremy Knop. Jeremy started work at the station last August and continued there until this past December. This new internship position, funded by the Foundation at Jim's TV station, is designed to teach students all aspects of television photojournalism and further their videography skills. While at the station, Jeremy worked closely with an assigned KTVK mentor and had the opportunity to work in a variety of departments (news, sports, entertainment, etc.). This annual internship is a paid position, with the student also receiving college credit.

Jeremy, who attended Arizona State University and received his degree this past May, was born and raised in Montana. An avid outdoorsman, he loves to photograph landscapes, as well as professional sports. Jeremy told the Foundation that he is "fascinated by the challenges the news industry is currently experiencing and loves to work on stories that help people better understand the more complex issues of our time."

The Foundation's second annual internship at KTVK will begin in the fall. Many thanks to the station for all of their support, with particular thanks to Nick Nicholson, Lea-Ann Clement, Luis Olivas, Bill Fesh and Brad Remington.



Jeremy Knop, Photograph by Barbara Cox

“Thank you so much for supporting my education! ... In my last semester at the Cronkite School I worked as a broadcast journalist for News Watch. I edited video in the edit bay dedicated to James. I will never forget how the foundation helped me. I hope my work as a journalist will reflect how much I appreciate you and the foundation.”

- Laura Palmisano, 2010 College Scholarship Recipient



Alan and Jim Cox underneath a B-47

**Letter from the Foundation President,
Alan G. Cox**

It doesn't seem possible that almost five years has passed since we lost our son, brother, uncle and friend. His passion for his profession was unsurpassed and exhibited in so many different ways.

I'm reminded of our visit to the Pima Air Museum in Tucson in 1998. It was fun to visit my old airplane, the B-47, and as we approached it Jim lifted his camera to his shoulder and said, "Okay Dad, start talking." The ensuing two hours of tape was edited down to 4 ½ minutes, which was aired on Thanksgiving day in Phoenix, and presented to me as a surprise on Christmas. I will never forget that. But such was our Jim – a true professional and a wonderful son.

We continue to be grateful to the hundreds of donors to the Foundation. Your support ensures that the legacy of this very fine man will go on and the art of photojournalism, which he so loved, will be available to all talented and deserving students.

Alan G. Cox, PRESIDENT

Founded in memory of James Alan Cox, a television photojournalist, The James Alan Cox Foundation for Student Photojournalists 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 Duke Ellington School of the Arts Receives Grant from Foundation

The James Alan Cox Foundation recently awarded a \$1,000 grant to the nationally-recognized Duke Ellington School of the Arts to buy much-needed camera equipment. With this grant, the photography department purchased 6 terabyte hard drives, 2 Canon Zoom Telephoto EF 75-300 F4.0-5.6 III Auto-focus Lenses, and a Flip Video MinoHD 2 hrs Camcorder.

Located in Washington, DC, the Duke Ellington School of the Arts 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. Ellington students have gone on to study at Yale, Harvard and Juilliard, among many other institutions.



Duke Ellington School Students, Photograph by Derek Horton

What Are Our Students Doing Now?

Many people ask the Foundation what our past scholarship recipients are doing now. With this edition of the newsletter, we will begin to look at some of our former winners and their current pursuits.

Camille Williams, 2008 High School Scholarship Recipient
Chadsey High School - Detroit, Michigan



Camille Williams is now in her third year at Wayne State University, located in Detroit, Michigan. While she is majoring in Electrical Engineering, Camille will always be an avid photographer and tells the Foundation

“I still love taking pictures!”

Brandon Rabbie, 2009 High School Scholarship Recipient
Roslyn High School - Roslyn, New York



Brandon Rabbie is currently a student at Pratt Institute in New York City studying Construction Management and Architecture. He says “I am still very passionate about photography and shoot all the time.”

Alexa Keeley, 2009 College Scholarship Recipient
Pennsylvania State University - State College, Pennsylvania



After graduating from Penn State, Alexa Keeley went to work for ESPN. She has produced highlights for shows such as SportsCenter, ESPNNews and Baseball Tonight. More recently, she has worked in ESPN International where she produces tennis highlights for the Australian SportsCenter, as well as NHL highlights for SportsCenter on ESPN America.

Christie Roshau, 2009 College Scholarship Recipient
Arizona State University - Phoenix, Arizona



Since graduating from Arizona State, Christie has been doing part time work with the Arizona Diamondbacks and Salt River Fields spring training facility, as well as working full time with the major utility company, Salt River Project, SRP, as a videographer/producer/editor. She is also competing in the Miss Arizona Organization, where she recently won the title of Miss Rio Nuevo.

The James Alan Cox Foundation Awards Its Fourth Scholarships

This past December, The James Alan Cox Foundation for Student Photojournalists awarded its fourth 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 D3100 Digital SLR camera with lenses, carrying case and memory card or a Canon EOS Rebel T2i DSLR camera with lenses, carrying case and memory card.



Elizabeth Benton - Brattleboro Union High School, Brattleboro, Vermont

Elizabeth Benton tries to capture her life and feelings in her photographs. "In my work, I aim to portray myself through my subjects." She also, though, wants "others to form their own interpretation of the moment that was able to captivate me." A well-rounded young lady, who one teacher, Gary Blomgren, describes as "gracious, thankful, intelligent and well spoken," Elizabeth is involved in many different activities. On the yearbook staff and a contributor to the school's literary/art magazine, she is also involved in her town's In-Sight Photography Project. With the latter organization, which enabled her to travel to South Dakota, she produced exceptional images, many of which she submitted with her application. Through striking, detailed photographs, she highlights not only the beauty of the area but also its history and social problems. The sadness of Wounded Knee or the disfiguring graffiti at the Pine Ridge Reservation all come alive through her images. David Mazor, another teacher at her school, admires her talent and says she "continuously shows the desire to be as creative as she can possibly be."



Justin Perry - East Mecklenburg High School, Charlotte, North Carolina

"Justin is without a doubt one of the best, if not THE best student photographer I have advised," writes Bill Allen, an adviser for the school's newspaper. What stands out with Justin's submitted work, whether it is an image of a sporting event or a student protest, is the emotion that his photographs capture. One of his favorite works, he says, is of a classmate getting a hug after delivering a powerful speech at the school's Veterans' Day ceremony. "The highlight of the event," according to Justin, "was not the ceremony or the gun salute or any other frivolous exercise. The most important thing was that feeling of raw love and camaraderie for our fellow Americans." Another teacher, Heather Elizabeth Hays, describes a beautiful photography book he created for a school project. "The work he generated was exceptional, all of the evaluators gave him the highest praises." A talented photojournalist, Justin is also, like all of the Foundation's winners, an accomplished young man and involved in many school activities, including being a drum major in the band and a student in the school's challenging International Baccalaureate program.



Shelby Tauber - McKinney High School, McKinney, Texas

Shelby Tauber writes that her submitted images were chosen "to show how my interest in portraiture and in photojournalism converges into a blend of what I'm interested in." Her main goal, depicting people and "presenting their personalities and talents," is wonderfully demonstrated in her five application photographs. There is a black and white image of an older woman, content in front of a fan; a photo of a group of ecstatic fans at a game; and an image of an athlete straining to pass the baton at a track event. These are the kinds of images that win awards and Shelby has won many, including being named a 2010 Imagemaker from The Association of Texas Photography Instructors. Shelby is also, according to her references, a natural leader. As yearbook photo editor, she has to oversee 17 student photographers. Her adviser, Lori Oglesbee, notes that she spends time with each one, offering encouragement and advice. "The quality of Shelby's photography" she writes "is a glimpse into the quality of the person who created it." Shelby "will make a difference in this world and probably how we see it."



Murugi Thande - North Point High School, Waldorf, Maryland

Murugi Thande perfectly sums up what Jim Cox strived to do, and what all good photojournalists strive to do. As she writes in her application essay, she wants "to be a journalist gathering and circulating information to provide the knowledge that would empower my audience and strengthen my community." Murugi's submitted images, many taken on a trip to France, capture a wide range of subjects, from a juggler in Montmartre, Paris, to a storm in Normandy, and finally to a mesmerizing image of a somber President Nicolas Sarkozy paying homage to fallen soldiers. While they are all beautiful, interesting images, they all also capture something deeper, something unique. Lindsay Emple, adviser for the school's newspaper for which Murugi is photography editor, says that Murugi "is able to capture the most obscure details that many people would overlook." Another teacher, Sarah Wyse, also points this out, writing that "Besides providing exceptional work with exceptional photography, she also added a certain uniqueness to each photograph." Murugi's talent is already being recognized and she has published photos in numerous magazines.



Olivia Wallace - Columbus Alternative High School/Fort Hayes Career Center, Columbus, Ohio

Olivia Wallace's beautiful black and white images were all taken with 35 mm film. Highly unusual these days, as most students have switched to digital, she says "it is important to know the fundamentals." Along with wanting to learn all of the technical aspects of photography, Olivia is also determined to learn how to best capture her subject matter and tell compelling stories. As her teacher, Rick Kocks, notes, Olivia's "ideas are well-thought out and executed to perfection" and she "has never been satisfied with "OK" or "GOOD." Her application images, of urban life in Chicago, are gritty and real, yet beautiful and poetic at the same time. Two, possibly homeless, men sit on a bench; a slightly hunched, downtrodden man sits waiting for a bus; and a pair of elderly, seemingly more affluent, women walk away from the camera. Eva Ball of

Glass Axis, where Olivia works, says that Olivia's photographs are "rich in social and cultural mythologies and current happenings." Her work, she also states, "takes photojournalism to a new and thought-provoking place."

College Winners Five college students each received a \$2,500 scholarship, payable to their school. Four awards were for video work, while one was for still photography.



Kevin Echemendia - Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

Kevin Echemendia has always been passionate about photojournalism. As he says in his Foundation essay, "at no point have I ever thought of doing anything else with my life." It is obvious, upon viewing his two submitted videos, that he has been honing his skills for quite some time. The first one, produced for Florida State's College of Education, is a promotional video and is used by the department to entice prospective students. The second one, a feature on freshmen soccer players for Florida State's women's varsity team, was made for the university's Seminole Productions. Both videos are informative, fun, and extremely professional. Kevin's references speak very highly of him. Amber Smalley, the Director of Communications for the College of Education, considers him "to be among the brightest and most forward-thinking university student videographers and young professionals I've ever met." She also notes his tenacious "desire to learn and eagerness to grow in his craft." Dianna Garbarino, with Seminole Productions, echoes this sentiment, saying that she enjoys Kevin's "constant strive for perfection."



Trevor Gilchrist - University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina

Trevor Gilchrist loves photojournalism because he views it as a powerful tool for communication. "Photography, to me," Trevor writes in his essay, "is able to bring people from other parts of the world together even if they do not speak the same language." A first-generation college student, Trevor is a hard worker who is not only a dedicated journalism student, but also a band drum major, a correspondent for the university's TV station, and a columnist for the student newspaper. He has also worked hard to be able to do some traveling during his college years and his submitted videos are about his study-abroad program in Ireland. Both of Trevor's references speak highly of his wonderful personality, enthusiasm and constant desire to learn. As Jamala Harrison, with the Opportunity Scholars Program at his school, writes, "He is full of energy and bubbles over with curiosity." Althea Counts, the Program Coordinator with the same organization, notes this as well, saying that Trevor "has a passion for knowledge and understanding" and he "accomplishes anything he sets his mind to."



Jeremy Knop - Arizona State University, Phoenix, Arizona

Jeremy Knop, who was also chosen as the Foundation's first intern at KTVK-3TV (see page one), says he has "always been grounded in visual storytelling." The two videos he submitted with his application are testament to his skill in this area. The first, about the tenth anniversary of 9/11 at the Healing Field in Tempe, Arizona, is a moving piece with wonderful interviews and polished editing. The second video, concerning the revitalization of downtown Phoenix, is informative, engaging and, again, makes great use of interviews and professional editing. Serena Carpenter, a professor of Jeremy's at Arizona State, believes part of his skill lies in his ability to relate to people. "His primary passions are photography and people. He recognizes the value of creating content that connects with the public." Another instructor, Aaron Thacker, from Mesa Community College, also praises Jeremy, noting that his work on a local magazine, *InMaricopa The Magazine*, "helped elevate our readership with his photojournalism skills and stop-action sports photography." He has, Mr. Thacker, notes, "an eye for images with personality."



Ramey Newell - New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Ramey Newell (the Foundation's still photography winner) has had a career as a graphic designer and an editorial and assignment photographer for several years. She wanted to go back to school, however, to further her skills. She said that, while relatively successful, she thought "her work lacks enduring impact" and she wanted to learn how "to make images that matter." With the photographs she submitted with her application, it appears as if she is well on her way. One photo is a beautiful black and white image of an elderly man. Another is a colorful, detailed photograph of a fishing boat. There are also images of a rock climber, photographed amidst spectacular scenery. J. Sean McClenegham, one of Ramey's professors, is extremely impressed with her and notes that "I haven't had an undergraduate in the last decade at NMSU, who has her intellectual curiosity, ability to focus, perform under pressure, and give her best daily effort in the classroom." Another professor, David Taylor, says that Ramey, while once a new, somewhat inexperienced student in his class, is now "setting the standard that her classmates are encouraged to emulate."



Kendyl Wainscott - Arizona State University, Phoenix, Arizona

Kendyl Wainscott, who was working in the Foundation's editing bay at Arizona State when she learned she had received a scholarship, loves how photojournalism captures a moment forever. While true of photography, she notes that this is even more true of video. As she writes in her essay, "Working with video took that feeling and magnetized it beyond what I could imagine. Not only was I capturing images forever, I was preserving sounds." Her two videos tell stories of people at work, with somewhat unusual jobs. In the first, she provides the viewer with a glimpse into the tasks faced by airport ground control. In the second, she "gives a face and name" to the person waving a sign, dressed as the Statue of Liberty during tax season. Kendyl's reference letters were especially strong with Kim Krigsten, a professor at Arizona State, writing that she is a "hard worker with natural talent – a combination which isn't always easy to find." Michelle Harvey, who worked with Kendyl at the Glendale Media Center, says that they were "fortunate to work with a person of Kendyl's initiative and motivation."

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, 2012 and conclude, with the deadline for applications, on November 15, 2012. 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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Letter from the Foundation Vice-President

Jimmy was an amazing son. He was thoughtful, funny, lovable, loyal and maddening. He was a conservationist, a preservationist and a perfectionist and he loved Arizona almost as much as his native Long Island. I still have trouble believing that he is gone. We are now almost five



Barbara and Jim Cox

years from the day that forever changed our lives and those years have been spent productively. I am so proud of The James Alan Cox Foundation and what it has accomplished. As you will see in the newsletter, we continue to hear from the kids we have helped as well as their parents, and I am able to look back and say that our son has touched and will continue to touch many young lives. Angels have emerged from the least expected places and I would like to thank each of you for the love and support you have given us.

I have become my own version of an optimist. If I can't make it through one door, I'll go through another door – or I'll make a door. Something terrific will come no matter how dark the present.
- Rabindranath Tagore

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

"Thank you so much for everything you have done for me. I'll never forget it! Being the first ever person selected for Jimmy's internship is the highest honor I have ever received. The valuable experience has paid off immediately. Because of the opportunity you gave me, I was able to prove to my school that I could perform at the professional level. As a result, the dean let me into a program normally only for graduate students. This program is called News 21. It's a special investigative project run by Leonard Downie, the former executive editor for the Washington Post who supervised all the Watergate coverage during the Nixon era. Everything we produce in this program will be published by the Post and many other major news outlets."

- **Jeremy Knop**



The Cox Family: Alan and Barbara and Jen, Jim and Leslie

Do you have a gently-used digital camera you are no longer using? Don't throw it away! Contact the Foundation!

If you are upgrading cameras or have a gently-used digital camera or related camera equipment that you are no longer using, please contact the Foundation at 512-459-8515 or by e-mail at info@jamesalancoxfoundation.org. We can find a home for it! The Foundation has already placed many donated cameras, lenses, tripods, etc. with worthy schools and organizations across the country. We will gladly pay for shipping.