

The James Alan Cox Foundation Awards Its Sixth Set of Scholarships (The Foundation has now funded over \$100,000 in scholarships, grants and other student programs!)

Last December, the James Alan Cox Foundation awarded its sixth set of scholarships. Six college students each received \$2,500, payable to their school, and five high school students each received a high-end digital camera, with lenses, case and memory card (valued at approximately \$800 a piece). Once again, the Foundation received hundreds of applications from across the country. Along with their portfolio of work, recipients were chosen based on several criteria, including financial need, an essay, letters of reference and their school transcript.

This year marked a significant milestone in the James Alan Cox Foundation's history, as the Foundation has now provided over \$100,000 in scholarships, camera awards, grants and other student programs. In six years, 60 students have now received grants (scholarships and cameras), with award recipients coming from 22 states and the District of Columbia. The Foundation has also funded an annual internship at KTVK-3TV in Phoenix, provided grants and equipment to several schools across the country, and found homes for gently-used donated cameras in schools and other cultural organizations.

Since its founding in 2007, the Foundation has awarded:

- Monetary scholarships to 30 college students (\$71,000 in total grants)
- High-end digital cameras, with extra lenses, a case, and memory card, to 30 high school students (\$24,124.70 in total value)
- Three internships at KTVK-3TV (totaling \$4,964.68)
- Grants and equipment to several schools across the country, including the Daniel Pearl Magnet High School in Van Nuys, California; the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in



Photograph by Ryan Jones, 2013 College Scholarship Recipient

Washington, D.C.; and Hopi High School, in Keams Canyon, Arizona (totaling \$3,674.90)

- Funding for an Editing Bay (now used by hundreds of students) at Arizona State University (\$10,000)
- Gently-used cameras to a variety of organizations, including the SEED Public Charter School in Washington, D.C. and the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, in Austin, Texas

To see samples of this year's recipients' work, please go online to www.jamesalancoxfoundation.org and click on the link for the 2013 Scholarship Recipients. You can also access all previous scholarship and camera award winners.

Third Annual Fall Internship at KTVK-3TV, Phoenix

After an application and interview process, Gabriel Rodriguez was hired last fall as the Foundation's third annual intern at KTVK-3TV, Phoenix. Gabriel is currently studying at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University.



Gabriel Rodriguez, on assignment for KTVK, with Sheriff Joe Arpaio; Photograph by Chris Morice

Along with his Foundation-funded internship, he is also working at KAET-PBS as part of the production crew for Arizona Horizon. Working at this job, as well as at KTVK, he says, has opened his eyes to broadcast production. Another one of his passions is taking photographs. He recently bought a 35 mm film camera and has been enjoying using this, along with his Nikon DSLR. With all of these skills and experiences, Gabriel hopes to travel the world one day taking photographs and shooting documentaries. In his spare time, he also enjoys the outdoors and loves to hike, kayak and rock climb.

The Foundation's fourth annual internship at KTVK will begin in the fall. Many thanks to the station for their continuing support of this program, with particular thanks to Nick Nicholson, President and General Manager; Cameryn Beck, Executive News Director; Luis Olivas, News Operations Manager; and Greg Lechowski, Controller.

Hello, I just wanted to take a moment and thank you for carrying on Jim's legacy with this scholarship. I worked with Jim at KTVK as a reporter for a few years before his death. I can honestly say I enjoyed my days when we would be assigned to cover a story together. I was still a new, rather 'green' reporter, and Jim the veteran not only treated me as an equal, but was always willing to offer support and guidance if needed. I know it's been a few years, but he is still and will always be missed.

- Nicole Koester, Arizona State University Professor

Letter from the Foundation President Alan G. Cox

We are pleased to announce that the James Alan Cox Foundation has reached another significant milestone by surpassing \$100,000 in scholarships, digital camera awards, and grants and other programs, covering 22 states and the District of Columbia.

Competition for the scholarship and camera awards has been quite keen and the 30 college scholarship winners and 30 high school digital SLR camera winners have participated in a rigorous selection process. To observe the hard work that these students go through is very gratifying and we are pleased when the winnowing process produces the top honorees.

We were privileged to be honored along with other scholarship donors at Arizona State's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication this spring. Our daughter, Leslie, and another Board member, Chris Morice, attended the function along with some of our ASU winners and interns. There is nothing like seeing, first hand, the results of lending a helping hand to deserving kids.

We feel certain that the goals set forth in our mission statement (see below) are being met or exceeded by the wonderful candidates that emerge as winners.

Without the support of hundreds of donors, none of this would be possible. We continue to be humbled and grateful for the backing of so many people. Thank you for honoring our son – Jim would be pleased.

Alan G. Cox, PRESIDENT



Board members Leslie Cox and Chris Morice with 2013 scholarship recipients Nick Prete, Sean Logan, and Gabriel Rodriguez

Foundation Mission Statement

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 Daniel Pearl Magnet High School Receives Grant from Foundation

Last summer, the James Alan Cox Foundation awarded the Daniel Pearl Magnet High School, in Van Nuys, California, a \$1,000 grant to buy photography equipment. Named for Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter who was killed in Pakistan, the magnet program is a 420-student high school in the Los Angeles Unified School District. The school opened five years ago and focuses on journalism - one of the few in the country to do so.

The Cox Foundation's \$1,000 donation allowed the school to purchase a Canon T3i DSLR camera that is now used by the photographers of the school newspaper, The Pearl Post. Usually, the three newspaper photographers share six cameras with the eight yearbook photographers. The newspaper, which publishes once a month and also maintains a news website, has received three awards from the Los Angeles Press Club in the last two years.

The Foundation's donation was further used to purchase lighting equipment for the photography class, which was last taught at the campus four years ago.

Later in the year, the Daniel Pearl High School was also the recipient of a gently-used Canon Rebel camera and a Canon Sure Shot camera. Many thanks to the Tuttle family and the O.V. Scott family for these donations.



Daniel Pearl Magnet High School students with their new Foundation-funded equipment.

What Are Our Students Doing Now?

Many people ask the Foundation what our past scholarship recipients are doing now. A few years ago, we started something new – a column dedicated to looking at some of our former winners and their current pursuits. We continue this year with a look at two more students.



Betty Alemseghed, Lotus School for Excellence – Aurora, Colorado

2012 High School Scholarship Recipient

“Life has definitely become something much more exciting and adventurous for me now that I am in college,” writes Betty Alemseghed. She now lives in downtown Denver and attends the University of Colorado Denver. After being undecided for a bit regarding her field of study, she finally decided to major in Human Development, in the hopes of working in nonprofit and human services. “My current dream and goal is to one day start a nonprofit that has to do with helping bring photography and creative services to the teens in developing countries.” She feels that “everyone who has an interest in art should be allowed the opportunity to express their creativity and have the tools necessary to do so.” Along with her studies, Betty works at a nonprofit after-school organization called Girls Inc. and helps teach and tutor teens in a variety of classes. She also has started her own photography business, taking senior and graduation photos, family, wedding, and other special events. “Life is great,” Betty says, “and I am very happy with the direction mine is headed.”



Demetrius Pipkin, Arizona State University – Phoenix, Arizona

2009 College Scholarship Recipient

Since graduating from Arizona State University back in 2011, Demetrius has been living in New York working for CBS. He has worked for both the CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley and 48 Hours and is currently working as a Producer/Reporter for Channel One News, an educational news show partnered with CBS that broadcasts to millions of students across the country. In the two years he has spent working for Channel One, Demetrius has covered stories all over the world. From the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, to Beijing and Shanghai where they produced a six-part series about the tumultuous relationship between China and the United States, he has been able to travel and experience places, as he says, that “I’ve only ever dreamed of, and I hope that with the skills I’ve learned over the years, I’ll be able to continue to share those experiences with the world.”

The James Alan Cox Foundation Awards its Sixth Scholarships

This past December, The James Alan Cox Foundation for Student Photojournalists awarded its sixth set of scholarships to five high school students and six college students. The Foundation would like to thank guest judges, Steve Bodinet, of KTVK-3TV, Phoenix, and Elise Wilson, of Aspen PRO Media, Arizona. Their help, as always, was invaluable in the selection process.

NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE: This year's application process begins July 15, 2014 and ends on November 15, 2014. Please see page 7 for more information.

High School Winners *Five high school students each received a Canon EOS Rebel SLI DSLR camera with lenses, carrying case and memory card.*



Rashelle Pagueot, Plainwell High School – Plainwell, Michigan

When Rashelle Pagueot's brother was deployed to Afghanistan, she decided to become a journalist. She was especially interested in the stories he told that didn't appear in the mainstream media. The images that she submitted with her application were taken at the local funeral of a fallen soldier. As a result, she was highly praised by one of her teachers for taking on a challenge from which most teens and many adults would shy away. Rashelle (Shelley) was selected as one of 50 high school students to attend the Al Neuharth Free Spirit and Journalism Conference for high school seniors at the Newseum in Washington, DC. She represented Michigan in a week-long class designed to equip and encourage students for a career in the media. Karen Catone, the program director, writes that "the judges loved everything about Shelley's application – beginning with her essays." She includes a quote from Shelley's application: "I will never cower from confrontation if what I am fighting for includes somebody's freedom or right."



Ana Perez, Daniel Pearl Magnet High School – Van Nuys, California

Ana Perez begins her essay with the words, "Photography has made me a leader" and then proceeds to describe her journey from being an insecure freshman to a self-confident senior with a clear vision of her future. According to her teachers, Ana has become a skilled writer in addition to becoming a talented photographer. Adriana Chavira, her journalism teacher and yearbook adviser writes, "Ana has borrowed one of the DSLR cameras we have at school (to participate in a summer program at the University of Reno, Nevada) because she does not have her own camera." Another of Ana's teachers, James Morrison, writes glowingly of her love of learning and her participation in rigorous high school honors classes while making time to play lacrosse and run on the track and field team. Ana has won awards and scholarships for her photographs, and reveals, in a well-written introspective essay, her personal challenge in the field of sports photography. Winning a camera for a body of work, which included two action sports photos, must be satisfaction indeed.



Brandon Steven Rodriguez, New Britain High School – New Britain, Connecticut

Brandon Rodriguez attends a high school with no photography class but that hasn't dampened his enthusiasm for the art. A teacher, Stacey Breton who has known Brandon for three years, points out that his images, while visually stunning, invoke a wide range of feelings. In his own words, "Photography is a whole new world to me... it is my second language." In his application essay, Brandon explains that he is interested in the natural beauty of people and likes to focus on details. His sensitivity to the people in his life is clearly shown in haunting close-up pictures of his grandmother and his mother. Another image which Brandon refers to as "a real life color splash with no editing" shows a black and white winter scene and, in the background, a worker, clothed in bright yellow, clearing the snow. Margaret Shea, Brandon's art teacher, writes that he has "a natural talent and an eye for creating unique and special compositions." Brandon's photographs do not belie the old adage that artists are born and not made.



Tracy Spencer, Tokay High School – Lodi, California

Tracy Spencer's teachers are quick to praise her not only for her skills as a photographer but as a well-rounded student in all aspects of academic life. Michael Cruz, the Visual Arts Department Chair at Tokay High School, has high praise for Tracy as a photographer and as a contributing member of her community. "Not only is she a model student, doing all that is required and beyond, she also is a terrific classmate to her peers and a wonderful helper for the instructor." Roger Woo, her photography professor/teacher writes that her photos have earned awards in her high school and county as well as national recognition. In her essay, Tracy describes an early love for cameras at the tender age of five, and now, at the age of 16, she is enrolled in advanced photography classes. The photos that made her one of the Foundation's winners show a great interest and sensitivity for the world around her. In one outstanding image, she describes capturing a moment of joy on the faces of her grandparents. They must be so proud of her accomplishments.



Aysen Tan, Foothill Technical High School – Ventura, California

In his essay, Aysen Tan writes that a good photograph is the result of the photographer's instincts in addition to a technical knowledge of exposure and focus. In his own words, "I am constantly honing my instincts to best capture images that will tell a story and be meaningful." The images that he submitted do just that. Some might be controversial, but the interpretation is left to the eye and mind of the beholder. His teachers point out that Aysen is an exceptionally talented photographer who has won numerous awards for his work. Melissa Wantz, his English and Journalism teacher, praises him as one of the most remarkable students she has been privileged to teach. He was the chief photographer and multimedia editor of the Foothill Dragon Press during his junior and senior years. "His work has helped to distinguish the Dragon Press from among the thousands of student-run websites in the country and has led to the highest honors from the National Scholastic Press Association and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for three years running," writes Ms. Wantz. Melanie Lindsey, another teacher adds more praise: "He

is kind, giving, quirky, humble"... a surefire recipe for success in any field.

College Winners Six college students each received a \$2,500 scholarship, payable to their school. (The Foundation normally gives out five college scholarships per year but, due to the many talented entries received, decided to award six.) Five awards were for video work, while one was for still photography.



Ryan Jones, University of Florida – Gainesville, Florida

Ryan Jones, the Foundation's still photography winner, submitted photos that are truly striking: colorful, detailed and action-packed. There is a dynamic shot at a football game; an exciting image of a top-fuel dragster race; and a truly incredible photo of an athlete crawling through mud in an obstacle course. Vivid and descriptive, they are also gorgeous images. As Ryan himself says, "I find it fascinating how photography can be so beautiful, yet so powerful." Both reference letters for Ryan speak not only of his skill with a camera, but of his work ethic, professionalism and great attitude. Not only is he an accomplished photographer, but, according to his letters, he is also a wonderful young man. As Liesl O'Dell, from the University of Florida, says, "The only thing better than his talent is his personality, love for life and desire to make the world a better place." Steve Johnson, one of his professors, also admires Ryan and his work and has even "included him on a number of outside assignments as an assistant and second shooter." He further mentions that Ryan has done freelance work for both Sports Illustrated and ESPN.



Sean Logan, Arizona State University – Phoenix, Arizona

Sean Logan has always loved photojournalism. He started taking photos in high school, as a yearbook photographer, and continued his passion with his studies at ASU. As he states in his application essay, "I love telling stories. Whether it is with a photograph or a video, I love the process of finding a story, talking to the people behind it, documenting it, and telling it through a visual medium." And, indeed, his two submitted videos tell some wonderful stories. The first one is about a chalk artist, who has learned to work hard and give back, after a troubled childhood. The second one, about a student composer, is completely involving, with wonderful interviews and great, detailed music shots. Jason Manning, the Director of Student Media at ASU, says that "Sean is a talented visual journalist and storyteller with an eye for striking images and a dedication to quality work." Erin Patrick O'Connor, on staff at The State Press where Sean works, also notes that he is "... a proven leader in the newsroom. He functions as the assistant multimedia editor and oversees a staff of 14 reporters across an array of digital platforms, including photo, video and pod casts."



Stephen Mucci, Florida State University – Tallahassee, Florida

Stephen Mucci loves all aspects of video work, but documentary filmmaking is his favorite. For him, the "documentary creates a medium in which I facilitate learning for others and myself. I want to spread ideas. I want to communicate feeling." His two videos, while completely different in subject matter and style, both accomplish this. The first one, about a punk band venue run by college students, is informative, completely different and unique, and a lot of fun. The second one, which highlights a young entrepreneur and his company in south Florida, is a fascinating glimpse into the workings of a small business and a lovely tribute to the subject's inspiration and hero, his dad. Jeanette Castillo, a former professor who wrote one of Stephen's reference letters, says that he "is a gifted storyteller, diligent and meticulous in his attention to detail, and creative in the true sense of the word." She comments that a script he wrote in her class won first prize in a Broadcast Education Association competition. Robert Levine, from Florida State's Media Production Program, also thinks highly of Stephen, saying he "is a self-motivated young man and dedicated student, always looking for new challenges."



Nick Prete, Arizona State University – Phoenix, Arizona

Nick Prete, in his application essay, says that he loves the power of video and that "photojournalism is the most effective, quickest way to get someone to feel something. If you want to convey empathy, happiness, pain, or any emotion, you can do so with photojournalism." In his two submitted videos, Nick has done just that. His first video, about the McCutcheon vs. FEC Supreme Court case, is an in-depth exploration of this campaign finance case and covers both sides of the issue, along with the sometimes powerful feelings that accompany each. In his second video, about Phoestivus, a fairly new Phoenix holiday, Nick delves into other, more light-hearted emotions. His piece perfectly captures the celebratory, fun atmosphere of this offbeat event. R.A. "Skip" Neeley, the station manager at a local channel where Nick interned, wrote a glowing reference letter for him and says that he "is one of the best interns Tempe 11 has ever had in over twenty years." Ed Brediger, who works in the Office of Public Affairs at ASU, says that he has worked with Nick on "several high-profile and technically complex production and webcast events" and has been "impressed by his enthusiasm, experience and knowledge."



Gabriel Rodriguez, Arizona State University – Phoenix, Arizona

Like all of the Foundation's scholarship winners, Gabriel Rodriguez is passionate about photojournalism. "This medium has been life changing," he says, "because I am able to be a creative storyteller and am constantly learning new things every day." He also knows that his chosen profession has the ability to "change people's lives and open their eyes to something different." Both of his videos do just that – provide the viewer with a glimpse of something new, something different. The first video, about the Phoenix PBS station, Channel 8, is a fascinating glimpse about the work that goes on behind the scenes at the station, which is almost completely student-run. The second piece, about a local roller derby league, is a fresh, fun take on a sport that many people might not know much about. Gabriel is admired by his professors and employers. Gibby Parra, a photojournalist at KTVK where Gabe interned, says he is "a quick learner, full of energy and great determination to own his craft." Nathan Taylor, from PBS, also notes that Gabriel is extremely professional and works hard and likes the fact that he "can work both independently and as part of team."



Nicholas Staab, Florida State University – Tallahassee, Florida

Nicholas Staab, in his application essay, says: "If I hadn't ever picked up a camera, I'd be an entirely different person." Photography has enabled him to travel and take part in "unforgettable adventures." What really intrigues him and keeps him interested, though, is the fact that "all around the world, new stories are forming that are worth showing to people." He has created two such stories – definitely worth showing to people – with his submitted videos. The first, about a wood craftsman/artist, is an intimate story about one man's passion and profession. The second, created to raise awareness and funds for new water treatment systems in Cuba, is moving and persuasive. (Because of this video, in fact, the project raised \$10,000 more than what was needed.) Sarah Skibitzke, a producer in Los Angeles who has worked with Nicholas, says he has a "strong cinematic eye," which is "only overshadowed by his personality and ability to gain the trust of his subjects." Dennis Howard, of St. John's Episcopal Church in Tallahassee, also notes Nicholas' strong "photographic proficiency," and reiterates his keen ability to associate with his subjects, thus obtaining interviews that are "intimate and revealing."

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 beloved son, brother and friend.

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Letter from the Foundation Vice-President

Every Christmas, I write a letter to Jim, roll it up, tie it with a red ribbon and place it in his Christmas stocking. It has become a tradition just like carrying a 9 X 11 plastic coated picture of him on every trip we take. We left the picture behind only once at the Sanctuary Hotel in Machu Picchu, Peru and thanks to a caring staff, our treasured photo was hand carried and delivered to the town where we were to board the train to Cusco. Life changes in the instant that a beloved child is lost and although it will never, ever be the same, it is in some respects more beautiful. I think our senses have sharpened and we feel more spiritual. We are aware of the swallowtail butterfly that lands on our shoulder when we are out for a walk, and the red-tailed hawk that lands in a tree outside our breakfast room window. We are able to reach out to others whose tragic losses have, for a period, rendered them helpless and we give them hope that life does indeed go on. Our foundation, named for Jim, helped us get through the darkest days in much the same way. Jim's name will accompany every camera and every scholarship we award as long as the foundation exists and we are blessed to have friends whose steadfast generosity has allowed us to expand our services, increase our scholarships and reward talent, grit and academic excellence.

We give because you give.

Barbara H. Cox, VICE-PRESIDENT



"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."

- Maya Angelou

Once again, I thank you guys so much for choosing me as a winner for your contest! If it were not for you to create such a contest with deep meaning, I would never have been inspired to devote myself to submit my work. I've lost many family members starting from age nine and I know exactly what it feels like to lose someone so close that was truly inspiring. I believe that Jim would be so inspired by the other contestants and winners for this foundation. Please, keep on making dreams possible for others out there that aspire to become photographers - that's what you guys did for me tonight! As my mother says, "Always dream to become the proud one".

- Brandon Steven Rodriguez

2013 High School Scholarship Recipient

NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE

This year's application process will begin on July 15, 2014 and conclude, with the deadline for applications, on November 15, 2014. To apply for a scholarship, please see the Application Requirements on the website: 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.
- One (1) \$2,500 scholarship will be awarded to one (1) graduate student. The award will be for video work.

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. 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 Photojournalists 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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