

## The James Alan Cox Foundation Awards Its Seventh Set of Scholarships (and awards its first graduate student scholarship!)

Last December, the James Alan Cox Foundation awarded its seventh set of scholarships. Five 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). For the first time this year, the Foundation also awarded a \$2,500 scholarship to a graduate student. Award recipients have now come from 23 states and the District of Columbia.

The application process was open to all U.S. citizens at accredited schools and programs and, as in previous years, 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.



Photograph by Leah Klafczynski, 2014 College Scholarship Recipient

Since its inception in 2007, the Foundation has awarded:

- Monetary scholarships to 35 college students and one graduate student (\$86,000 in total grants)
- High-end digital cameras, with extra lenses, a case, and memory card, to 35 high school students (\$28,374.65 in total value)
- Four internships at KTVK-3TV – KPHO CBS 5 (totaling \$6,079.12)
- Grants and equipment to several schools across the country, including Kent State University, Ohio; the Daniel Pearl Magnet High School in Van Nuys, California; the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C.; and Hopi High School, in Keams Canyon, Arizona (totaling \$6,174.90)
- Funding for an Editing Bay 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](http://www.jamesalancoxfoundation.org) and click on the link for the 2014 Scholarship Recipients. You can also access all previous scholarship and camera award winners.

### Fourth Annual Fall Internship at KTVK 3TV - KPHO CBS 5, Phoenix

Vianka Villa was hired last fall as the Foundation's 4th annual intern at KTVK 3TV - KPHO CBS 5, Phoenix (the station where Jim Cox worked for twelve years). Vianka is currently studying at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University and is pursuing a B.A. in Broadcast and Digital Journalism. Along with her Foundation-funded internship, Vianka also works for ASU's "The State Press" as a multimedia producer and Arizona PBS's public relations team. One of Vianka's passions is creative storytelling and she strives to tell compelling stories that impact people. Eventually she hopes to be a multimedia and visual storyteller at a publication, while continuing to shoot documentaries. When she's not working, Vianka also enjoys running marathons, biking and spending time with her family. She told the Foundation that working as a photography intern has been a fun learning experience and she hopes to walk away from this job with real hands-on experience and make great connections with other photographers.

Many thanks to KTVK-3TV – KPHO CBS 5 for their continuing support of this program, with particular thanks to Ed Munson, General Manager; Luis Olivas, News Operations Manager; and Laura Peña, Human Resource Director.



Vianka Villa, 2014 Foundation Intern

"One of the things I loved about Jimmy was he made me better at my job. He raised the bar so high and we were all just trying to reach the playing field he worked from. He made me look and sound better. He always made me laugh. He was a genius with his creativity and had such a beautiful eye when it came to filming and taking pictures. Your family raised a phenomenal person and it is a privilege to have called him my friend."

- **Amanda Jahn**, former reporter KTVK 3TV, Phoenix; currently with SportsTime Ohio, Fox 8

## Letter from the Foundation President



Jim Cox, Scott Bowerbank, Bruce Haffner

In 2004, we took the family to Maui for our 40th wedding anniversary. One of the highlights of the trip was a helicopter ride Jim and I took during which his enthusiasm for flying became quite evident. I had flown in Newschopper 3 a few times and he was always anxious to show me, an ex Air Force pilot, the marvels of helicopter flight.

Prior to the accident in 2007, Jim was in the process of starting his helicopter schooling and learning everything he could from the station's (3TV) helicopter pilots. He was always the first to respond when Newschopper 3 was "scrambled" for a news story and he would have succeeded in becoming the next Bruce Haffner or Scott Bowerbank.

This year (2015), Barb and I returned to Hawaii and took an open-door helicopter ride to honor our son and his passion for flying and photojournalism. It was truly a memorable experience and one we will never forget.

The steadfast support of our donors continually inspires us to reach out to deserving students who demonstrate a love for the art of photojournalism. It is our way of building a lasting legacy to honor Jim's memory.

**Alan G. Cox**, PRESIDENT

*"I'd like to thank the James Alan Cox Foundation for the very generous camera scholarship that I received two years ago. My Rebel SL1 is my go-to camera body and its lightness makes it very easy for me to carry around. Thank you again so much!"*

- **Aysen Tan**

2013 High School Scholarship Recipient

## 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.

## Foundation Awards Grant for New, Innovative Course at Kent State University

Late last fall, Professor Joe Murray, of Kent State University, Ohio, contacted the Foundation to help him fund an international mobile journalism course, the first of its kind. He had already, as he stated in his e-mail, “cobbled together funds; called in favors; passed curriculum reviews and wrote learning outcomes by day – and letters to youth hostels and foreign embassies at night.” While his hard work had provided the basic costs for the 2015 launch (and all of his students had to come up with their own travel money), he was still in need of some funding to make the program actually happen. Specifically, he needed help with technology for his students. For this class/project, which would happen in Ireland, the goal was for the students to shoot all of

their own images, record video and audio, compose and edit, promote and distribute stories in an iBook format. The project would make the most of mobile technology and innovative apps. After his proposal and supplemental materials received an in-depth review by the Foundation’s Board of Directors (with student reference letters, transcripts and sample images and video), the Board unanimously voted to fund the pioneering program for \$2,500. Able to now make his course a reality, Professor Murray and his students began planning their trip for Ireland.

As of late May, when the Foundation received an e-mail from the group, at the beginning of their travels, Professor Murray said that they already had some incredible stories developing. According to him, one student “is covering the marriage referendum with some amazing interviews and images”; another was sent to Belfast “to start looking at the loss of the Irish language and emigration problem” and another traveled to Northern Ireland “to start working on a story about the Ulster project (intended to get Protestants and Catholic teens working together).” The Foundation eagerly awaits the culmination of this project and will report its outcome on our website and in the next newsletter.

While the Foundation’s primary program focus is its annual scholarship awards, along with its fall internship at KTVK 3TV – KPHO CBS 5, the Board will always consider requests of this kind. Please e-mail [info@jamesalancoxfoundation.org](mailto:info@jamesalancoxfoundation.org) with any potential funding questions or requests – or for more information.



Participating students in Galway, Ireland

## 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.

### Jeremy Chapman, Arizona State University – Phoenix, Arizona

#### 2011 College Scholarship Recipient

After graduating from Arizona State University’s Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication in 2012, Jeremy Chapman, the first-ever James Alan Cox Foundation photojournalism intern at KTVK-3TV, was selected for a highly competitive News21 investigative reporting fellowship. The “Voting Rights” project was one of the most successful investigations ever conducted by News21, and Chapman received several awards for his reporting and photojournalism contributions. With his passion for accountability journalism, public-service and photography, Chapman moved back home to Montana and founded the Montana Center for Investigative Reporting — a local, independent nonprofit investigative news organization, and the first of its kind in the state of Montana. MTCIR produces content digitally on its website for all platforms and its mission is to promote and produce investigative journalism in Big Sky Country through original and collaborative reporting, public outreach, and training programs dedicated to the advancement of Montana communities.



Jeremy Chapman, with Barbara and Alan Cox

### Murugi Thande, North Point High School – Waldorf, Maryland

#### 2011 High School Scholarship Recipient



A 2011 high school scholarship recipient, Murugi now works for CBS producing promotional videos and digital media used on air and online. Her work has appeared in USA Today, The Washington Post, Conde Nast, NBC’s Meet the Press and State Magazine. She is also a rising junior at American University where she studies Film and Media Arts. This fall, she will be studying abroad in Australia, pursuing independent photography projects. Murugi recently wrote the following to the Foundation: “I am nothing but grateful to the James Alan Cox Foundation. Learning the art of photography has been one of the most important parts of my life. This scholarship ensured that I will always be a lifelong student of photography.”



## The James Alan Cox Foundation Awards its Seventh Scholarships

This past December, The James Alan Cox Foundation for Student Photojournalists awarded its seventh set of scholarships to five high school students and five college students. An award was also given, for the first time this year, to a graduate student. The Foundation would like to thank guest judges, Steve Bodinet, veteran journalist, formerly with KTVK-3TV, 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, 2015 and ends on November 15, 2015. 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.*



#### **Julia Becker, Francis Howell Central High School – St. Charles, Missouri**

Julia Becker is no stranger to cameras ... several family members are photographers. In her words, "I grew up in front of the lens." While shooting images on a service learning trip to Ecuador she discovered that "Photojournalism is not proving how good I am, it is proving what I have the power to do: make a difference." Julia's Spanish teacher, Ashley Wager, points out that Julia "examines the world from a different angle than most, by paying attention to the detail of her surroundings and by delving into the world of other cultures." Having studied French and Spanish, she has the ability to tell her story and the story of others through both language and photography. Julia's publications advisor, Matthew Schott's rather unorthodox letter of recommendation begins, "There is a photo I have that Julia Becker really hates." It is the picture of her as a freshman holding an SLR camera with a look of wonder on her face. After referencing her many successes and pointing out her skills, he finishes the letter by saying, "I'd love to have a photo that could be the sister" of the one mentioned earlier "showing Julia's face, filled with wonder, as she tells me she's won your scholarship." We hope he shares it with us.



#### **Riley Beres, Port of Los Angeles High School – San Pedro, California**

Riley's high school teachers are quick to applaud her accomplishments. In his letter of recommendation, Tom Scotti describes her as "one of the most selfless, empathetic and compassionate individuals I have ever met." Choosing to use most of her out of school time to help others in her community, she has compiled "countless hours of volunteer service and has been recognized on a local, state and national level for her contributions." Riley spent the last year developing a documentary that sheds new light on the homeless problem. It premiered to critical acclaim at the historic Warner Grand Theater and "The fact that it was put together by a sixteen year old makes it phenomenal" adds Mr. Scotti. Riley is a multitasking student who earns straight A's and, when she is not serving meals to the homeless, enjoys acting, singing and dancing. Another teacher, Pamela Costa is equally complimentary when mentioning Riley's many accomplishments. She writes that she is deserving of the camera equipment and will put it to good use, adding "She is one student that makes you go WOW!"



#### **Riley Brown, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School – Lexington, Kentucky**

A mission trip and an opportunity to go on safari in Kenya's Masai Mara gave Riley her first opportunity to photograph animals in their natural habitat and she was enthralled. Capturing images of the animals in the wild as opposed to those in a confined environment provided her with an extraordinary learning experience. The photos that she submitted, all from the African trip, include images of village life as well as animals. "When looking through my pictures, I hope you feel the emotion ... love, joy, acceptance. My trip to Kenya has been unforgettable!" As one of the Foundation's youngest winners, Riley's submissions show an innate talent for composition, whether it be a curious child peering through a doorway, a young boy standing below a line of colorful clothing or lions feeding off a recent kill: each has a story to tell. Greg Adams, Riley's English and Speech instructor writes that she has "a keen mind with a stunning sense of awareness and maturity" while her photography teacher, Ben Herzog describes her as a bright young student with much potential. There is little doubt that when Riley decides on a path for her life, it will include a camera.



#### **Brianna Rodrigue, John Paul Stevens High School – San Antonio, Texas**

In her essay, Brianna discloses that she discovered a love of photography in her sophomore year of high school. According to Dorothy Morgan, one of her teachers, students accepted into the Independent Study Mentorship program at John Paul Stevens High School must be self-driven and very responsible. In addition to her position as chief photographer for the school yearbook and newspaper, Brianna participated in a Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program and was voted best speaker. Describing her submissions to the competition, Brianna discloses that she enjoys sports photography. In her words, "I love the feeling of being on the sidelines, up close and personal ... where I can get the action and the reaction after a win or a loss." Ms. Morgan adds, "Brianna went over and above expectations while studying sports photography and her mentor was so impressed with her work and attitude that he hired her for part time work with his sports photography business." Her high school principal, Harold Maldonado writes that in the four years he has known Brianna, he has been consistently impressed with her leadership ability, work ethic and desire for quality in her work. High praise indeed.



#### **Holley Stringham, Highland High School – Salt Lake City, Utah**

Holley calls herself a photographer but she is also a fine writer who begins her essay by stating that photography is a miracle. Her explanation is poetic ... "A couple thousand pixels can shed truth on what we always wished to find; on memories we are so close to forgetting." She readily admits to being new to photojournalism but one of her submissions contradicts that confession. It is an image of thousands of dead birds littering a beach at Great Salt Lake. It tells a story and asks questions. CJ Lester, Holley's photography teacher provides some additional insight stating, "She sees compositions that tell stories without words. She has a knack for visually and technically capturing the image she seeks with minimal post-processing." Serving on the staff of the Highlander, her high school yearbook, requires a large commitment of time and highly developed organizational skills. Lorna Parkinson, her yearbook advisor points out that she has no doubts of Holley's ability to meet deadlines in a timely manner. A yearbook is photojournalism at its best, showing what it was like to be in that place at that time. It is a time capsule.

## College and Graduate Student 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. This year, the Foundation also awarded its first graduate student scholarship – for video work. The award was also for \$2,500.



### **Yamiche Alcindor, New York University – New York, New York**

Yamiche Alcindor, the Foundation's first graduate student scholarship recipient, received extremely strong recommendations from nationally-recognized journalists. Michael James, National Editor, Breaking News, for USA Today, said that Yamiche is "one of USA Today's brightest young stars" and "brings old-school journalism values – accuracy, integrity, and quality writing – into today's technology-packed news world." Marcia Rock, Director, News and Documentary, at NYU, also notes that, while she had a good job at USA Today and didn't need to attend graduate school, Yamiche "wasn't satisfied with her video work ... She wanted good storytelling skills and habits." Yamiche, who was drawn to reporting and photojournalism by courageous journalists of the past ("instances in history where journalists stepped up"), submitted two wonderful videos as part of her application. The first one, which covers the struggles of wrongfully convicted people, is a moving portrait of how those exonerated, do not have the support they need once freed. The second video, equally powerful, is also fun and a joy to watch. Filmed on a NYC subway, it is about a man who uses puppets to help him with a speech problem.



### **Alanna Delfino, University of Maryland – College Park, Maryland**

Alanna Delfino is captivated by sounds. When she was a little girl, she had a speech impediment. At only six years old, she tried to fix the problem by using a tape recorder to capture sounds and conversations, listening to the correct way to pronounce words. Even now, the first thing Alanna does when she films a story is to close her eyes and simply listen. It is perhaps this sense of curiosity and attention to detail that make her videos so rich and complex. They are also great, interesting stories. As she says in her application essay, "You will never hear me say that I'm a reporter, anchor, videographer or journalist. What you'll hear me say is that I'm a storyteller." One of her submitted videos is about a therapeutic horse program for blind students. The other is about a company helping veterans turn their old military uniforms into a lasting piece of art. Both of her reference letters are glowing, with one professor, Bethany Swain, saying that Alanna "produced some of our favorite pieces of the semester." Josh Davidsburg, another professor, liked her work so much that he asked her to help produce and shoot a documentary with him.



### **Carlos Hernandez, Texas State University – San Marcos, Texas**

Carlos Hernandez writes that what he really enjoys "is telling stories that deal with emotion. I love being able to capture emotional images that can make viewers laugh, cry or smile." His two submitted videos do just that – elicit an emotional response from the viewer. His first video, about PetFest, a local fundraiser, is joyful, fun and often humorous. It also shows, however, the participants' love for their animals and the community spirit that pervades the event. Carlos' second video explores another emotion as it relates to an event designed to raise awareness for testicular cancer. Not only is Carlos a gifted photojournalist, but according to his reference letters, he is also a leader, mentor and multi-tasker. Gretchen Doenges, who supervises Carlos in his position as a Resident Assistant, has witnessed these qualities in action and has seen him "implement new programs" and "mentor his residents on personal and academic concerns". Liz McDonald, from the College of Fine Arts and Communication, has also seen him serve as an Orientation Leader on campus, as well as help grow Texas State's social media sites. She notes that Carlos has many outstanding "personal and academic accomplishments."



### **Basil John, Stony Brook University – Stony Brook, New York**

Basil John, it appears, can do it all. He is both a photographer and videographer, as well as an editor, writer and on-air reporter. His many talents are confirmed by Rick Ricioppo, one of Basil's professors, who says in his reference letter: "As good as he is on camera, he is equally adept and comfortable behind the camera and in the edit booth. Basil is the kind of student who makes my job easy." Another professor, Wasim Ahmad, also notes that Basil has become so proficient with a camera that "I've recommended him to the School of Journalism to cover events for the school – events that I was usually responsible to cover." For his application, Basil submitted two wonderful and involving videos, the first about a teenage figure skater and her mom, who is also her coach. The second video is a portrait of Stony Brook's university orchestra conductor. Completely professional with great interviews and editing, both videos also show Basils' passion for his work. As he himself states in his application essay: "I hope that anyone who looks at my pictures and watches my videos understands the hard work and passion I feel for every project and assignment."



### **Leah Klafczynski, Kent State University – Kent, Ohio**

Leah Klafczynski, in her application essay, says that her interest in photography started when she received her first camera for Christmas, at about age 9. "I didn't even finish opening the rest of my gifts as I was out the door to photograph the detailed icicles on a tree." Many years later, as a student at Kent State University, she is still taking photographs, this time as a talented journalist. As the Foundation's still photography winner, Leah's submitted photos are all very different, but all detailed, beautiful and invoke stories. A softball catcher in action, a runner getting ready for a race, and the most poignant one, a father and daughter at night watching something unfold with a police car. Both of her reference letters note her strong "compositional eye" and sensitivity towards her subjects, but they also both reference her ability to change and adapt to what is needed for an assignment. As David LaBelle, from Kent State, notes, "Leah finds solutions, rather than excuses." Todd Mizener, from the Dispatch & Rock Island Argus, where Leah was an intern, says that "when an assignment didn't go as planned, she was able to quickly adjust her trajectory and come back with the needed photos."



### **Sean Logan, Arizona State University – Phoenix, Arizona**

Sean Logan, in his application essay, states: "This semester more than ever, I have discovered an even deeper passion for photojournalism and visual storytelling." This is a result of an in-depth investigative assignment on heroin addiction. While the job was extremely hard and sometimes frustrating, Sean says that "without a doubt, I will always remember these stories as the basis and foundation for my future career in journalism." Jacquie Petchel, one of Sean's professors, says that his work is professional, compelling and, in her words, "stellar". He is also "ethical, fair, measured and at the same time, unstoppable in his quest to produce good work." Jason Manning, the Director of Student Media at ASU, further notes that Sean, in addition to being a wonderful reporter, is also a leader and mentor. After working at the university's "The State Press" for several years, he was appointed multimedia editor by an esteemed advisory board made up of professional journalists and faculty members. A previous Foundation scholarship recipient, Sean once again turned in two exceptional videos. The first is about a ballet teacher with a distinct teaching style and a unique relationship with her students. The second is an investigative piece about facility problems at ASU.

## 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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Vivienne and Bill Wardle °  
Mike Watkiss  
Francine and John Webb \* °  
Fiona and Evan Weisman \*  
Kathleen and Calvin Westcott, in celebration of Jimmy Cox \*  
Sandra and John White  
Bonnie and John Williamson \*  
Cornelia and Lloyd Wilson \*  
Elise and Robert Wilson +  
The Sam and Sonia Wilson Family Foundation \*  
Rebecca Witter  
Brenda and Carson Woodall \*  
Frances and James Woodrick  
Wally Workman, Wally Workman Gallery  
Christine Wotkyns, in memory of Herk Wotkyns  
Julie and Erik Zimmerman  
\* Multiple donations  
° In-kind donations  
+ Board member



## Letter from the Foundation Vice-President

In May of this year I traveled to Spain and walked with my daughter, Leslie, who is the editor of this newsletter, my husband Al's sister, Gail, and 4 friends from my loss of child support group. We had been training for several months to walk a portion of the Camino de Santiago to honor the memory of our loved ones. We began our journey in the town of Sarria in Northern Spain and finished seven days and 108 kilometers later in the historic city of Santiago de Compostela. I did not set out to walk the Camino for religious reasons, but as it turned out, I could not have finished the walk without some help from above and behind.



Graffiti found on the Camino de Santiago in Spain  
Photograph by Leslie Cox



Leslie and Barbara Cox, on the Camino de Santiago, Spain

As I walked, I struggled with breathing difficulties and the ubiquitous blisters that are every pilgrims badge of honor, but I never considered quitting. I believe that Jim was with me offering silent encouragement and a gentle nudge when I needed it most. Similarly, the kids we help are on their own personal Caminos and due to financial limitations, many of them struggle to stay the course. I am honored to say that the James Alan Cox Foundation offers the encouragement and the nudge to help them achieve their goals.

Buen Camino.

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

*"Every year when I receive information about your foundation, I sit and read every word and study the faces of each young person who receives a scholarship or camera. There is such joy and hope in their faces. Their bios are amazing. It has to be difficult to choose. You have reached out to others and touched so many lives. Continue to do the great work you do."*

**- Karen Kolle**  
friend

## NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE

This year's application process will begin on July 15, 2015 and conclude, with the deadline for applications, on November 15, 2015.

To apply for a scholarship, please see the Application Requirements on the website: [www.jamesalancoxfoundation.org](http://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. 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.



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