

The James Alan Cox Foundation Awards Its Ninth Set of Scholarships (including two graduate student awards!)



Photograph by Harrison Hill, 2016 College Scholarship Recipient

As we approach the ten-year anniversary of Jim's passing, we look back at his wonderful, but too-short life, and are reminded again of how much he meant to all who knew him – his family, friends and co-workers. We are also reminded of the legacy he left behind, both as a person and through the James Alan Cox Foundation. His spirit, energy, and passion for photojournalism live on through the many students his Foundation has now helped. While his family will never get over his loss, we are so thankful for the good work the Foundation is doing and the donors who make it all possible.

This was evident again last December, as the Foundation awarded its ninth 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 each). The Foundation also awarded two \$2,500 scholarships to two graduate students and one \$1,500 honorable mention award to a college student.

The Foundation has now provided over \$180,000 in scholarships, camera awards,

grants and other student programs. In nine years, 97 students have received grants, with award recipients coming from 27 states and the District of Columbia. The Foundation has also funded many other programs, including an annual internship at Jim's TV station.

Since its inception almost ten years ago, the Foundation's funding has included:

- Monetary scholarships to 49 college students and 3 graduate students (\$123,000 in total grants)
- High-end digital cameras to 45 high school students (\$35,374.55 in total value)
- Six internships at KTVK 3TV KPHO CBS 5 (totaling \$10,225.89)
- Other grants to several schools across the country (\$6,174.90 in total) and funding for an editing bay at Arizona State University (\$10,000)

To see samples of this year's recipients' work, please go online to www.jamesalancoxfoundation.org and click on the link for the 2016 Scholarship Recipients. You can also access all previous scholarship winners.

The Foundation Funds its Sixth Annual Fall Internship at KTVK 3TV KPHO CBS 5, Phoenix

Jeff DeAvila was hired last Fall as the Foundation's sixth Fall intern at KTVK KPHO, the station where Jim worked for twelve years. Jeff is currently attending Arizona State University for Filmmaking Practices and is interested in developing journalistic approaches that can translate over to documentary filmmaking. During the last four years, he has been heavily involved in the behavioral health community and is seeking ways to produce an independent documentary focusing on mental health and the stigmas that face it in society today. Jeff was thrilled to be the Foundation's latest intern and is a great fan of 3TV. In particular, he says he is "familiar with 3TV's '3 on Your Side' and the care your station takes to help our community. I wish to do the same for the mental health community and hope that this intern position will lead to new ways I can use filmmaking to tell a compelling story." As always, the Foundation would like to thank KTVK KPHO for this funding opportunity, in particular Ed Munson, General Manager, Luis Olivas, News Operations Manager, and Laura Peña, Human Resource Director.



Jeff DeAvila, 2016 Foundation Intern

Letter from the Foundation President

As we acknowledge the ten-year anniversary of the tragic accident that claimed the life of our son and the nine-year anniversary of the founding of the James Alan Cox Foundation for Student Photojournalists, it is worth noting that the foundation is prospering. Since its inception in 2008, we continue to find additional ways to recognize excellence in the field of photojournalism. We have grown from our first year awards of three college scholarships of \$2,000 each and five high school cameras to five college awards of \$2,500 each, awards for graduate students, honorable mention scholarships, and an internship at Jim's station, KTVK - KPHO, Phoenix. The Cox family has also recently endowed a scholarship at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University to ensure that future students will be assured of a "helping hand".



Jim on one of his favorite assignments, filming the Blue Angels

Jim liked to mentor "fledgling" photographers and reporters when he worked at KTVK – Channel 3. Over the years, several have written to tell us that they will be forever grateful for the time he spent instructing them. The professionalism and energy that he gave to his career carried over to his home life.

After putting in a full day of work as a photojournalist, in temperatures that regularly exceeded 100 degrees, Jim went to work rehabbing a 1930 Craftsman bungalow in Phoenix's historic Coronado district. He insisted on doing all the work to code and this carried over to his work at the station. No cutting corners and always giving 110%.

This tireless work ethic was established at an early age by clearing snow from the neighbor's sidewalks with an antiquated snow blower, caddying at the golf club, mowing lawns, painting houses and doing pool maintenance. I am reminded, every day, of the same stick-to-itiveness in his sister Leslie's efforts to establish a foundation in his name and in her ongoing determination to further Jim's legacy.

Please take the time to visit our website, www.jamesalancoxfoundation.org and view the outstanding work of our scholarship winners. Without the support of hundreds of donors, this would not be possible. Thank you for remembering our son . . . he is applauding your efforts.

Alan G. Cox,
PRESIDENT

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 James Alan Cox Foundation's 2016 Scholarship Recipients

This past December, the Foundation awarded another set of scholarships. 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. Here is a look at the talented recipients, beginning with the Foundation's graduate student winners. (The Foundation normally funds only one graduate student award, but decided to grant two because of the quality of the applicants.)

Graduate Student Award Winners

Christina Myers, University of South Carolina – Columbia, South Carolina



Christina Myers writes in her application essay, "When I started this journey, I knew I had an awesome responsibility to share stories of those who otherwise may never be able to, the stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things in our communities." She has done just that

with her two submitted videos. The first one, about a fourth generation woodcarver, shows this craftsman's intense, laborious process and the love for his craft. The second one, about 3D mammography, explains a complicated technology, but also focuses on the human side of this story – in this case the account of a 28-year-old breast cancer survivor. Along with being a great storyteller and wanting to share the experiences of others, Christina is also determined to be a well-rounded journalist, always hoping to improve her skills and technique. As Kevin Hull, one of her professors, says, while others just simply want to "be on TV," Christina "took the time to learn how to use the camera and learn advanced editing techniques. She demonstrated skills involving both a still camera and a video camera – turning in outstanding pieces in both our audio slideshow and her news

packages." Another instructor, Rick Peterson, who works with Christina on *Carolina News*, a half-hour live broadcast, also compliments her integrity and maturity, saying "She is thoughtful and trustworthy and a leader on our news staff."

Anna Spelman, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, North Carolina



Two things stand out in Anna Spelman's reference letters; that she is extremely curious and always ready for a good adventure and that she is a kind, compassionate person. Having already done a lot of traveling in her young life (Thailand and Malaysia to name just a few

destinations) and met a variety of people and cultures, she says she now understands "the true power of documentary work, which is ultimately simple: we can help to build relationships and understanding." Her two submitted videos exemplify this, as she clearly strives to focus on the people in the story and capture their thoughts, feelings and concerns. The first one, about the Islamic Center in Florida where the Orlando shooter attended, is a thoughtful piece about a community in shock over what has just happened. The other video, about health workers combatting the Zika virus in Puerto Rico, shows the workers concern for their clients, yet also their warmth, humanity and even humor while dealing with such a devastating disease. In both pieces, Anna has clearly spent considerable time with her subjects. As Maggie Steber, a National Geographic photographer, notes in her reference letter, "Listening is something a lot of photographers fail to do but Anna spends a lot of time doing that before beginning projects." Chad Stevens, one of her professors, reiterates this, saying, "People trust her, and her work is thoughtful and respectful of the people she photographs."

Please see pages 4 and 5 for more information about this year's recipients.

What Are Our Students Doing Now?

Many people ask the Foundation what our past scholarship winners 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.

Yamiche Alcindor, New York University – New York, New York 2014 Graduate Student Recipient

Six months after she graduated from New York University, Yamiche became a national political reporter for *The New York Times* where she writes stories, shoots video and regularly appears on camera for video stories. As part of the new job, she covered the presidential campaign of Senator Bernie Sanders and traveled with him through dozens of states for about seven months, listening to him speak more than 150 times. Once he dropped out of the race, Yamiche then focused on the last few months of President Donald Trump's campaign and traveled with him as well.



In September of last year, she also became a contributor for NBC News and now regularly appears on MSNBC. In January, Yamiche moved from Brooklyn, N.Y. to Washington, D.C. to cover President Trump's domestic policies for the Washington bureau of *The Times*.

Aysen Tan, Foothill Technology High School – Ventura, California 2013 High School Scholarship Recipient

Aysen is just finishing up his junior year studying electrical engineering at UCLA. He works at an aerospace lab at UCLA's Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics where they make fluxgate magnetometer sensors and electronics for space and scientific applications. Their current projects include scientific instrument payloads for JPL's Europa Mission, a Google XPrize Mission, and a UCLA student-built cube satellite. After graduation, Aysen hopes to build cameras and imaging devices for aerospace applications.



Photography, he says, is still one of his hobbies and he enjoys doing graduation portrait shoots for his friends. He is grateful to the Foundation and says, "The camera I was awarded from the James Alan Cox Foundation almost four years ago is my go-to, workhorse camera. I am ever grateful to the Foundation for their continued support of photojournalism and young photographers."

The James Alan Cox Foundation Awards its Ninth Set of Scholarships

With hundreds of applications to review (and with each application comprised of multiple forms), the Foundation is indebted to guest judges, Steve Bodinet and Elise Wilson, for their help in selecting the winners. Steve is a veteran journalist, who worked at KTVK-3TV for many years, while Elise owns, with her husband, Aspen PRO Media, in Flagstaff, Arizona.

NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE: This year's application process begins July 15, 2017 and ends on November 15, 2017. Please see page 7 for more information.

High School Winners

Five high school students each received a Nikon D3400 camera with lenses, carrying case and memory card.

Julia Chapman, Eaton Rapids High School – Eaton Rapids, Michigan



Julia Chapman was a senior at Eaton Rapids High School, Eaton Rapids, Michigan and an accomplished photographer when she applied to the James Alan Cox Foundation. In a modestly written essay, she states simply that she “uses photography to tell a story without words and capture moments in time.” She submitted a variety of images that represent memorable moments in her life accompanied by explanations as to why they are important to her. Both teachers who wrote letters of recommendation point to her leadership abilities and organizational skills. Erik Smith, Julia’s Business/Technology teacher, writes “Not only has Julia demonstrated an academic excellence beyond compare, she has also shown a leadership ability unmatched in my years in the classroom.” More words of praise came from Jeffrey Bogardus, her advisor and photography teacher, who chose Julia to be the senior yearbook editor. He writes, “I have found Julia to be one of the most mature, dependable, organized, kind, intelligent and motivated students that I have worked with.” This kind of exceptionalism is exactly what the Foundation is seeking from our applicants and we know that Julia will continue to apply these wonderful qualities to her work in college and beyond.

Kali Duffy, New World School of the Arts – Miami, Florida



One of the rewards of reading the students’ essays is learning why they are drawn to photography, specifically photojournalism. Kali Duffy’s response was a thoughtful and detailed explanation of how she uses photography as a means of conversation between the viewer, the subject and herself. Juanita Meneses, Kali’s Visual Arts Instructor at the New World School of the Arts, writes that Kali “approaches her education with the upmost seriousness and commitment” and continues, “she is passionate about telling stories” and is capable of “weaving rich narratives” to accompany them. Maria Martinez-Cañas, Head of the Department of Photography is impressed with Kali’s natural and direct approach to the photographic medium and writes, “her ability to create, compose and previsualize the final image is extraordinary for such a young person.” Like other high school students, Kali is strongly impacted by the time she was fortunate to spend outside the United States. Her black and white portraits of the people with whom she interacted on the island of Dominica are especially moving. We see a bright future for this talented photojournalist and would like to add a resounding, “She gets it!”

Hannah Jacobs, Arrowhead High School – Hartland, Wisconsin



In her essay, Hannah admits to a passion for photography which led her to explore various ways of using the medium. She submitted a variety of images which depict her wide-ranging interests in form and color and her essay explains in some detail why each one was chosen. A particularly stunning shot of a sailboat silhouetted against a sunset sky of oranges and reds shows that she has a natural ability for recognizing and framing a scene. School counselor, Kathleen Mitich, points to Hannah’s genuine excitement with regard to learning and describes her as “a sponge for information.” Angela Koch, her high school chemistry teacher, praises Hannah’s achievements in academics accompanied by this personal observation . . . “Hannah is the type of student who always takes the initiative to help out fellow students who may not quite grasp the material and she does so in a way that is neither condescending nor boisterous.” In a similar vein, Ms. Mitich comments that Hannah demonstrates a commitment that reaches beyond the classroom in her support for the military veterans in her community. We believe that Hannah has the will and the desire to succeed in any career path she decides to follow.

Hailey Rose Viars, Loudon High School – Loudon, Tennessee



Hailey Rose Viars is a young woman who has had to face more than her share of challenges. One of her teachers, Joanna Stewart Everett, writes that Hailey’s family had to endure months of unemployment and the serious illnesses of a grandmother requiring Hailey’s assistance while balancing a full academic load and numerous extracurricular activities. Ms. Everett further comments that Hailey is “a young lady that understands success only comes from hard work and dedication and she exemplifies this life lesson on a daily basis.” Hailey’s college field of study will be Agricultural Communications and, in her application essay, says that she has “carried out a passionate mission to share truth about agriculture” while searching “for new ways to expand my audience.” She chose a senior project in agricultural photography and combined her photos with agricultural facts in a calendar to be used as a fundraiser. This might not be so unusual but for the fact that she had to borrow a camera and teach herself how to use it. The photos that she submitted for the competition are mostly related to farm life. One shot, of farmers harvesting as the sun is setting, is exquisite and perfectly captures the long, hot, hard hours that our nation’s farmers devote to putting food on our tables.

Sophia Wade, Cibola High School – Albuquerque, New Mexico

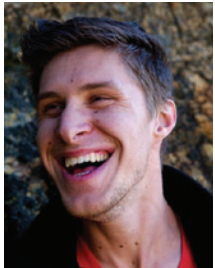


Sophia Wade is determined to independently forge her way in the world. In her words, “I am passionate about learning, determined in my path and committed to aiming for scholarships to pay for my own education.” She believes that visual imagery has enormous relevancy in today’s world and “even a single photograph can have the power to move nations to demand rightful action.” Sophia submitted a series of thought-provoking black and white images taken on September 11, 2016 showing how the firefighters of the Albuquerque Fire Department recreate the stair climb that the NYFD first responders made on 9/11/2001. Her father, who is an Albuquerque firefighter, was among them. In the words of Sarah McHaffie, Sophia’s visual arts teacher, “Sophia’s involvement in a variety of projects demonstrates her deep commitment to being a creative photographer.” On two separate occasions, her work has been chosen to hang in the Albuquerque Museum and she has entered photographs in the New Mexico State Fair. Using the lens of her camera as her voice, Sophia’s words reveal a strong determination to use images to tell stories that urgently need to be told.

College Student Winners

In addition to the graduate student awards (page 3), five college students also each received a \$2,500 scholarship, payable to their school. Four awards were for video work, while one was for still photography. The Foundation also awarded one \$1,500 Honorable Mention Award.

Benjamin Aijian, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, North Carolina



Benjamin Aijian is a compassionate young man, deeply concerned with those less fortunate, or underrepresented, in the world. In fact, he spent seven years working as an international disaster responder in developing nations. He truly is, in his own words, passionate about providing “a microphone to people who have something valuable to say who might not otherwise be listened to.” Jock Lauterer, a lecturer at his university, refers to Benjamin’s caring nature and notes that

he recently launched a “photo shoot and relief effort for Haiti that raised a considerable sum for one destitute village ravaged by Hurricane Matthew.” Another reference, Bonnie L. McIntyre, who worked with Benjamin and is now a Doctoral Student in Social Services, reiterates this, saying that Ben has learned “how to use his photography skills to bestow dignity and value to these populaces.” Both of Benjamin’s submitted videos reflect this attitude of caring and concern, even in a simple piece about a fly fishing instructor. His other video, about a pastor in Haiti after Hurricane Matthew, is particularly moving and very effective in its use of dialogue, tender close-ups of children’s faces, and wonderful use of sound and music.

Nora Faris, University of Missouri – Columbia, Missouri



Nora Faris’ recommendation letters are exceptional. Both references, in fact, speak of Nora as one of the finest students they have ever encountered. As Gary Grigsby, one of her professors, writes: Nora is one of “THE best students I have ever had the honor of teaching in oh, ten years of teaching this course! And that would add up to about 1,200 students.” Chris Fennewald, from the Missouri Farm Bureau Publications, also states, “I have worked with interns in our department for over 20 years. It is not an empty boast to say she ranks among the

top interns we have hosted.” Nora’s primary journalistic focus is America’s farming communities. As she states in her application essay, she wants to “reveal the challenges and opportunities facing rural America.” She has done this brilliantly in her two submitted videos. The first one, about Missouri state parks and soil and water sales tax, is informative and factual, yet also enjoyable with beautiful images and a lyrical narrative. The second one, concerning Missouri livestock trespass laws, is also instructive, but never dry or boring. Nora gets to the heart of the issue she’s reporting on but leaves room for a human, sometimes poetic, touch.

Harrison Hill, Western Kentucky University – Bowling Green, Kentucky



Harrison Hill’s hero is his dad, both personally and professionally. A photojournalist like his son with an exceptional career, Harrison has always admired him and says that the “best parts about my childhood were the days I spent with my father at the Chicago Sun-Times.” His dad must be very proud of him now, as Harrison has excelled academically, has several internships under his belt (the *LA Times* and *Boston Globe*), and was the Foundation’s still photography winner this year. His

photographs are exceptional – rich and detailed and extremely varied. There is his photo of firemen resting on a hill with a blaze behind them; cowboys hard at work roping cattle; a boxing match from an unusual angle, and a colorful shot of clowns. Along with his artistic ability, Harrison is also very mature and professional. As Mac McKerral, a professor notes, Harrison “displays excellent critical thinking skills, works well under pressure and is an excellent time manager.” Robert St. John, the *LA Times* photo editor, also comments on Harrison’s drive and work ethic. He finished so many assignments, in fact, during his internship that “We jokingly said Harrison would finally sleep when he returned to college.”

Robert DiRienzo, Temple University – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Robert DiRienzo has known what he wanted to do, career-wise, since he was a little boy. As he writes, “It might seem odd to some, but I knew what I wanted to do with my life when I was seven years old. I had constructed a TV studio out of toy blocks in my basement.” He has worked hard to accomplish this dream, and while still in college has even become a junior reporter at his local Fox TV station. One of his submitted videos, in fact, is from this reporting: a story about a female high school football player. Also impressive at his young age is the fact that he was one of only a few students chosen to cover the 2016 Democratic National Convention. A story from this series is his other application video. An engaging reporter, Francesca Viola, one of his professors, also remarks on Rob’s proficiency in all aspects of broadcast journalism. She writes, “I have been impressed not only with his skills as a videographer and editor, but his writing and production skills as well.” Neil Ortiz, an instructor, reiterates this, saying that Robert is “a tech-savvy producer with a professional-caliber level of technical and content production proficiency with various digital media platforms.”

Mitchell Forbes, Northern Arizona University – Flagstaff, Arizona



The Foundation only awards one college still photography scholarship. But when the board and judges saw Mitchell Forbes’ work, they knew they had to award a second, Honorable Mention prize. His images, which include shots of the Northern Lights in Alaska and a candlelight vigil in Flagstaff, were so beautiful that they couldn’t be ignored. It was clear that he was talented AND experienced and it turns out that he has had a variety of jobs in the field, including work at the *Arizona Republic*, some time on a political campaign, and a corporate communications job. He has also been very involved on his college’s student newspaper. Mary Tolan, a professor, writes, “I cannot stress enough the time and commitment he made to *The Lumberjack* every week of every semester he worked at the newspaper.” Another professor, Laura Camden, also talks about Mitchell’s “enthusiasm and hard work” and mentions another neat experience to add to his résumé – an upcoming trip with her to Cuba. With all of his accomplishments, it is quite obvious that this is Mitchell’s passion and has been for a long time. As he writes in his essay, “Since junior high school, I have been very interested in all things news and journalism.”

Braxton Jones, Kansas State University – Manhattan, Kansas



Braxton Jones feels it is important to tell stories that may not have been told before. In his own words, he wants to be “that bridge between an event and the people who may not know what happened.” He also finds it particularly gratifying to work “with individuals who may have been impacted by an event or are working through some sort of adversity.” If he can help them, through his reporting, he will. This is evident in his video about an apartment complex fire that left over 90 people displaced. Along with a stellar academic career, he has also had some incredible internships – at CBS This Morning in New York, with the Kansas City Chiefs, and at the ABC affiliate station in Wichita, Kansas. Both of his references further note that he is very involved in extracurricular activities. As Brandon Clark, the Program Coordinator for the Office of Diversity at Kansas State, says, “Beyond his work in journalism, Braxton has also found the time to participate in activities and organizations that better our community.” A professor, Kimetris Baltrip, also comments that “In addition to all of his campus involvement, Braxton supports himself by working with elementary-age children as a program leader for the Boys and Girls Club.”

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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who I worked with at 3TV
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of more great photogs! *
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of your sweet son, Jim *
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Ann and Tom Russell *
Lucille Ryan
Emy Lou Sawyer, in in celebration
of Drew G. Sawyer and David Gamble *
Rex and LuAnne Sawyer, in celebration of
Barbara's success on the Camino de Santiago *
Maggie Sciacca
Jon, Yvette and Kyle Schultz
Mo Scollan and Peter Dick
O.V. Scott, in memory, honor and celebration
of Frances W. Scott * +
Lou and Dave Seideman, in memory
of Charlie Seideman
Marilyn and Harold Sharratt *
Mark Sheridan
Mary and Jimmy Shields *
Marilyn and Charles Shipe *
Shoehorn Design *
Mike Smith
Robin and Kim Smith, in memory of Jim *
Paulette Sonner
Patty Soule
Jen Spantak
Speedworld RC Flyers *
J Stanford Spence, in memory of Diane Spence * +
Carol and Dan Stanton *
Beverly Straub and John Rogers *
Sheila Stricker, in celebration
of Scott Stricker's birthday *
Roberta Sumner
Kelly Taft
Jeanne Talerico
Dorothy and Conway Taylor, in memory
of Jimmy and Charlie Muller *
Jacqueline and Alan Taylor
Judy Taylor, Gallery Shoal Creek *
Kathy and Randy Taylor *
Sandy, Julie and Michael Timte, in celebration
of Jennifer Cox *
J. David and Joan Torpie
Susan Trammell in memory
of Tommy Trammell *
Karen and Larry Turner * +
Nicole and Tyson Turtle and Family * +
Marjory Van Houten
Jeanne Vier *
Tammy Vo
Katherine von Alt *
Ronda, Frank & Anton von Schrwald *
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

A telephone call can change your life forever. Our granddaughters were visiting and we were baking chocolate chip cookies when the call came that there had been a helicopter accident in the skies over Phoenix, Arizona. To quote Joan Didion in *The Year of Magical Thinking*, "Life changes fast. Life changes in the instant."

It has been almost 10 years since the tragic, needless accident that took the life of our son Jim on July 27, 2007. As I go through life without his physical presence, I can, at times, feel him close to me . . . laughing at the silly things I say and do . . . comforting me when I'm sad . . . calming me when I'm out of sorts. I can see in my mind's eye that sweet endearing smile that was only for me. Or at least that's what I think.

Jimmy was tough and tender, had a remarkable work ethic, was passionate about his interests, impatient with slackers and a loyal friend. Sometimes I think he moved through life at such a rapid pace because he had a premonition that his life would be cut short.

Jimmy and I shared a love of poetry and he had been writing it off and on since the 5th grade. We can't save every picture and story that our children produce in school so I am thankful that I have two handmade books of his poetry from that year. A verse from a treasured poem Jim wrote for my 65th birthday follows.

*As a fruit doesn't fall far from the tree,
so similar we both had become,
Strong minded and stubborn, a passionate pair,
truly my mother's son.*



Jim, photographed in his beloved, adopted state of Arizona

It has been incredibly hard for us to adapt to a life without Jimmy in it. Anyone who has lost a beloved family member can attest to the feeling of emptiness that will never go away. Fortunately for us, the James Alan Cox Foundation has helped us channel our grief and we are so grateful to everyone who has contributed to its success.

Barbara H. Cox,

VICE-PRESIDENT

"Thank you so much for the tremendous honor and blessing of being a scholarship recipient for your foundation. It's even more humbling to know I will be associated with someone who made such an impact in the photojournalism industry. My heart is full of much gratitude! I've been praying about how to cover next semester's expenses, so this is right on time. Thanks again for all you do for students across this country."

– Christina Myers,

2016 Graduate Student Scholarship Recipient

NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE

This year's application process will begin on July 15, 2017 and conclude, with the deadline for applications, on November 15, 2017. 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.
- One (1) or Two (2) \$1,500 Honorable Mention scholarships will be awarded to one (1) or two (2) college students. These awards will be for video or still work. (The number of awards given each year in this category will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.)

Please check out our newly redesigned website when you can: www.jamesalancoxfoundation.org

Many thanks to Caleb Brown for his work on this - and to Ruta Duhon, who designed the original website.

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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