

The James Alan Cox Foundation Awards Its Fifteenth Set of Scholarships (Over \$313,000 Now Granted to More than 170 Students!)

“My art forces me to examine the world and the people in it with empathy and curiosity. I make it a point to address subjects such as human emotion and identity, taking into account both literal and figurative lenses.”

– Samarah Bentley

One of our recent high school scholarship recipients, Samarah, wrote this in her application essay. Although so young, she already “gets it.” She understands what good photojournalism is all about. It looks at the world and its inhabitants inquisitively, to try to understand, explain and relate to them. And in doing so, photojournalism, at its best, also tells stories. They may be the big, history-defining ones, or, equally important, the smaller, local ones. Another recent scholarship recipient, Kristen Yarber, echoes Samarah’s sentiment, saying: “The most important thing I’ve learned in my career is that everyone has a story, and their stories are worth telling.” We are proud that the James Alan Cox Foundation has always chosen students who embody this ideal. They have always told stories and been curious and empathetic.

This past December’s scholarship winners – 5 high school recipients and 6 college recipients – mean that the Foundation has now awarded over \$313,000 to more than 170 students over the sixteen years since its founding. The 2022 winners represent 11 states, with the Foundation having now provided, in total over the years, scholarships to students from 35 states and the District of Columbia.

We thank, once again, our donors for making this all possible. Jimmy’s passion for photojournalism lives on through these talented students, which is directly a result of our donors’ generosity.

Since its inception in 2007, the Foundation’s funding has included:

- \$191,000 in scholarships to 80 college students
- \$24,000 in scholarships to 10 graduate students



Photograph by Kristen Yarber, 2022 College Scholarship Recipient

- \$53,243.29 for high-end cameras to 77 high school students
- \$26,343.40 for 11 interns at KTVK 3TV KPHO CBS 5, Phoenix, Arizona
- \$18,781.97 in other grants and program funding to schools across the country (such as the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders in Texas; the Daniel Pearl Magnet High School in California; and the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, DC)

To see samples of this year’s recipients’ work, please go online to www.jamesalancoxfoundation.org and click on the link for the 2022 Scholarship Recipients.

The Foundation Funds its 11th Intern at Arizona’s Family (KTVK 3TV – KPHO CBS 5), Phoenix!

Daniel (or Danny) Herrera, who is a senior at Arizona State University, is the Foundation’s latest intern at Jim’s former TV station. This is the 11th internship that the Foundation has funded over the years (and the first one to cover two semesters) and the Board is extremely grateful to KTVK-KPHO for continuing this important program. Danny, who is a first generation American and college student, writes that he has “a passion for photography and videography but also love journalism which led me to want to become a photojournalist.” He also told the Foundation that this “internship has been an amazing experience and everyone has been so helpful. From editing to being sent out to breaking news coverage, every day in the newsroom is unique and I never know what to expect.” When he is not doing journalistic work, Danny loves to play chess and basketball with friends.



Daniel Herrera, KTVK-KPHO Foundation Intern

KTVK-KPHO liked Danny so much that, after his internship ended, they decided to hire him as a part-time editor. Several other Foundation interns have also been hired for permanent positions in the past. According to Blanca Esparza-Pap, former Station Manager at KTVK-KPHO and now Assistant Vice President of Gray Media Group, “We are thankful to you and your family for providing this opportunity. We have gotten some great employees from the internship.”

Again, our thanks to KTVK-KPHO for this program, with particular thanks to Debbie Bush, Vice President and General Manager, Blanca Esparza-Pap and Nathan Erickson, News Production Manager.

"Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity. I will never forget this moment in my life. I will continue to work hard and work to inspire other Native American photographers like myself."

*- Marison Bilagody,
2022 College Scholarship Recipient*



Alan, Barbara and Leslie Cox with Mykhailo and Kasia Bogdanov

Letter from the Foundation President

This summer marks 16 years since that tragic media helicopter accident that took the life of our son and three other photojournalism professionals. The anniversary of the accident (July 27) is bittersweet but reminds us of some of the many positive accomplishments of the Foundation established in Jim's memory.

One of which is occasionally meeting with scholarship winners. We were honored to have had such a luncheon meeting with three-time winner Mykhailo Bogdanov earlier this year in Austin when he was attending the Austin Film Festival and submitting a short film entry.

His story is truly inspiring! He immigrated from Ukraine 10 years ago, became a citizen, worked his way through DePaul University - and then went on to get a master's degree, married his wife Kasia, had a son Leon, and is now working at the University of Illinois Chicago. To hear this remarkable story from this humble



man confirmed our burning desire to continue making scholarships available to deserving photojournalism students. Wow! We know Jim would be proud and we certainly are grateful for this opportunity to make a difference in this troubled world.

See page three for more information on the many things Mykhailo is now doing!

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.

What Are Our Students Doing Now?

Many people ask the Foundation what our past scholarship winners are doing now. Several years ago we started a new column, dedicated to looking at some of our former winners and their current pursuits.



Mykhailo Bogdanov, DePaul University – Chicago, Illinois (2019, 2020, and 2021 College and Graduate Student Scholarship Recipient)

Mykhailo Bogdanov is an award-winning film director who was born and raised in the small village of Yaltushkiv, Ukraine. On his own, he immigrated to the USA in 2012 at the age of 19. Mykhailo holds a BA in Film and Television from the School of Cinematic Arts at DePaul University. He also has an MS in Environmental Science from DePaul University. Many of his films explore themes of sustainability and spirituality. Mykhailo's films have been recognized at national and international festivals, showcases and online platforms. His most recent short documentary AVOESIS was selected to screen at the 29th Austin Film Festival.

Mykhailo is currently working full time as a Sustainability Marketing Associate at the University of Illinois Chicago. His role involves crafting digital stories and promoting the university's environmental initiatives. He is currently developing multiple short-form documentaries about Chicago's community members and ecological issues. Mykhailo always strives to capture the authentic moments that matter.

Please visit his website at www.mykhailobogdanov.com.



Shumesa Mohsin, Tokay High School – Lodi, California (2017 High School Scholarship Recipient)

Since 2017, when Shumesa received a camera from the Foundation, a lot has happened to her. She went to college at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, where she worked on furthering her photography career while studying business entrepreneurship and marketing. While at school, she worked two photography jobs on campus, one for the athletics department and one for the student government department, along with taking on clients for her own photography business. "Through my on-campus jobs," she wrote to us, "I got to photograph so many amazing events that I will never forget. One such event was the NCAA National Waterpolo Championship held at my school in December of 2019. I was the home photographer for that event and was able to capture amazing shots of the best athletes in the field at the time. I am forever grateful for these experiences and the way they matured me as a photographer." Shumesa graduated last May and has since been working full time on her business, Shumesa Mohsin Photography. She also got married last December and moved to Scotland. "It has been a long five years since being a winner for the James Alan Cox scholarship, but I would say there has been a lot of growth and career experience gained. My goal for the next five years is to own a well-established wedding and portrait photography business and have a clear brand associated with it as well as loyal and happy clients."

Please visit her website at www.mohsinphoto.com.

To read more about Mykhailo and Shumesa, and see their winning entries to the Foundation (along with all of our other student winners - over 170 now) please go online to www.jamesalancoxfoundation.org and click on the link for Past Recipients.

"I have been through the James Alan Cox Foundation website and really enjoyed learning about Mr. Cox and his impressive legacy. I would love to add to it. As a photographer and amateur photojournalist with an interest in public policy, I know that the arts, business, and STEM worlds often intersect in interesting ways. Being the co-Editor-in-Chief of my school's Lancer Legend yearbook for the past two years taught me that the behind the scenes worlds are made visible by those of us who light their paths. Like Mr. Cox, I love to create in many different ways, including with a 3D printer I saved up for myself. Also like him, I try to be well rounded, playing for four years on my high school's women's golf team as a scholar athlete. I feel that I would be a credit to Mr. Cox's memory and will always do my very best to illuminate the present, bring joy to those I work with, and continue his passion of giving back to the community."

**– Sarah Ziff,
2022 High School Scholarship Recipient**

The James Alan Cox Foundation Awards its Fifteenth Set of Scholarships

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. As always, the Foundation is indebted to guest judges Steve Bodinet, formerly of KTVK-KPHO, Phoenix and Elise Wilson, of Aspen PRO Media, Arizona.

High School Winners

Five high school students each received a Canon EOS Rebel T7 DSLR Camera with lenses, memory card, and backpack.



Sydney Allan, McKinney High School – McKinney, Texas

When a photo editor was needed for her yearbook staff, Sydney who had previously only taken pictures as a hobby, accepted the opportunity and, in her words, “never looked back.” What began as a sophomore year elective, grew into a passion. Sydney writes that the position of editor was a challenge as she was still inexperienced after having had only one photography class. According to her yearbook advisor, Yaryzza Lira, she worked countless hours with other student photographers to ensure that they could “create a nationally recognized yearbook.” The fact that Sydney started her own photography business, worked part time after school, and maintained an impressive GPA shows that she takes her responsibilities seriously, points out Georgette Taylor, Sydney’s AP English teacher. She “will be successful because she has the drive, determination, and grit to get things done.” In her essay, Sydney writes of learning to tell stories and conveying the emotions of her subjects through her photos. The images that she submitted, which portray demonstrations taking place in her hometown, show how much she has learned. She has plans to attend an out-of-state college and writes that she is working with her parents to fund half of the yearly cost and wants to graduate debt free.



Samarah Bentley, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts – New Orleans, Louisiana

Even though most of Samarah’s high school days were forever changed by the COVID-19 pandemic, she faced the crisis with “a level of grace and fortitude rare among her peers” declares her civics and history teacher, Jinger Whiddon. New Orleans was hit especially hard in March of 2020 due to the large crowds and public gatherings of the annual Mardi Gras season. Required to attend online classes, Samarah was present every day, on time and always responsive and inquisitive, according to Ms. Whiddon. “I am very proud of her and the maturity she exhibited during those difficult days,” she writes. Referring to her photo submissions, which are of various New York City scenes, Samarah explains, “I want to use the power of storytelling to uplift under-seen communities, experiences, and environments.” She also states: “Photography has offered me the room to grow through interactions with others.” Heide Winston, Executive Director of GeauxGirl!, a nonprofit magazine that seeks to inform, inspire, engage and empower teenage girls across New Orleans, writes “She is wise and unafraid beyond her years and able to capture the world the way she sees it and infuse it with social commentary.” Samarah has also won writing contests and even earned the title of New Orleans’ Mayor for a Day.



Madalen Erez, Coral Springs Charter School – Coral Springs, Florida

In the past, those entering the competition have been students hoping to win a camera for themselves. Last fall, Madalen surprised us by stating “If I received a camera, I would donate it to our (school) newspaper so staff members can move beyond phone photography and start on the path towards becoming photojournalists.” Madalen’s camera skills were advanced enough so that she was able to teach a photojournalism workshop at the district conference. Her journalism teacher, Kim Pekala, points to Madalen’s confident and self-assured presence as the reason she has been “able to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of our school newspaper for two years without any challenge to her leadership.” Madalen is from the Parkland community where the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting devastated the community in 2018. Samantha Novick, another reference, writes, “In a response to the continued gun violence that permeates our country, young student leaders came together to develop March For Our Lives, an organization of young people marching to protest gun violence and demand change.” In Madalen’s words, “As the official staff photographer for the Parkland chapter of March For Our Lives, I document their mission to end the gun violence epidemic.” Her photo submissions taken during a march vividly portray both students and community members’ shared grief and rage.



Ponette Hamel, Cardinal Spellman High School – Brockton, Massachusetts

Known around the school campus as “The Spellman Photographer,” Ponette entered this year’s competition as a junior (most of our applicants are seniors). She is so talented that she was even chosen by her school to be a member of the Yearbook Committee, a position usually reserved as a senior-only elective. Her Media and Communications Coordinator, Brenna Roberts explains, “Poe is a true talent.” In sports photography, she “has a way of capturing the moment as it happens and allowing the viewer to feel the emotion and passion in that sport.” Poe’s Theology teacher and junior advisor, Natalie Woods, takes this a step further adding, “She is well-known for being first on the scene to take pictures at sporting events, social events like Semiformal, Prom, and Homecoming, and at events during the day like assemblies.” Poe submitted an assortment of images for the contest including one of two lifeguards photographed behind their station sharing a laugh, a homeless woman smoking, a Hawaiian fire dancer, and one of a fellow photographer in a classic stance. While all different, they each capture their subjects perfectly. As she states in her application essay: “I believe photography is my purpose in life. Specifically, telling people’s stories. Noticing the small details that make up an entire life has beauty to it.”



Sarah Ziff, Thousand Oaks High School – Thousand Oaks, California

Sarah has attended every sporting event and visited every classroom on the campus of her high school and using a camera on loan from her school, she writes, “I’ve peered into the lives of my classmates, capturing the mundane and the momentous moments.” Thomas Smith, English language and composition teacher, draws a parallel between Sarah’s photography during a basketball game and the perspective and focus needed to support a thesis as an English class assignment. He writes, “It was a joy to teach her and to watch as she elevated the way her peers approached class discussions and viewed class topics.” Eric Kamm, a teacher and yearbook advisor, writes that Sarah is mainly self-taught having had no prior camera experience when she started high school. She submitted a variety of images for the competition accompanied by text almost as colorful as the photos. There are action shots of a swimmer and a golfer; a photo of the homecoming king; and a dynamic image of a performer in the spring musical. As Mr. Kamm so eloquently explains it, “Sarah’s photos show us, remind us of being there at the game, being at that dance, laughing at that play, and the emotions of high school life. Sarah makes it look easy.”

College Winners

Six college students each received a \$2,500 scholarship, payable to their school. Three awards were for video work, while three awards were for still photography.



Marison Bilagody, The University of Arizona – Tucson, Arizona

Marison Bilagody, who is Navajo and grew up on a reservation, has worked hard during college to become a professional sports photographer. Prior to the University of Arizona, he had not taken any photography classes. “Growing up on the reservation, our schools are not the best-funded schools. We lack many of the art classes that many other of my peers had.” He continues: “Everything I’ve learned, I learned on my own or in class while in college.” To this end, he has secured enviable positions at school with the Arizona Daily Wildcat, covering sports extensively, and with Arizona Athletics. His talent, work ethic, and perseverance has paid off and he consistently creates memorable images, with the ones he submitted to the Foundation consisting of exciting college football shots of both the players and fans. Mike Christy, Director of Photography for the University of Arizona Athletics Department, says that Marison “has proven to be dependable, very communicative, and a problem-solver whose skill level continues to improve.” Kim Newton, one of his professors, also notes that “besides his all-round abilities as a journalist, he is just a wonderful person. He is always available to give a helping hand, advice and support to fellow students and faculty.”



Edward Franco, New York University – New York, New York

Edward Franco, who is only a college sophomore, has already been hired as an intern at NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt. According to Sylvan Solloway, the Director of Career Services at NYU’s journalism school, this “is one of the most coveted internships” and Edward is “making his mark at a national network.” She further remarks that he has also “been committed to serving as the video director for NYU’s school newspaper, the Washington Square News, and shooting and editing video content for the paper’s multimedia desk.” Edward, who is a first-generation college student, is passionate about the field, and started doing broadcast journalism in high school. He realized even then how important journalists are, writing in his application essay: “Capturing both the everyday lives of people to the major events in the world on camera is critical to support the building blocks of our history.” The videos he submitted demonstrate his passion and skill. The first one covers protests in New York City following the Dobbs Decision last year, while the second one reflects on the 50th anniversary of the Watergate tapes. Robert R. Kotek, of WKMG-TV, sees a bright future ahead for Edward, saying he “is an intelligent, capable, and personable young man.”



Angela LaRosa, Bowling Green State University – Bowling Green, Ohio

The photos Angela LaRosa submitted to the Foundation are quite diverse, ranging from an image of a family at a farmer’s market to that of a child marching in a protest against gun violence. She also submitted a photo of a woman on the steps of the U.S. Capitol fighting for a bill that would help veterans with life-threatening illnesses associated with their military service. This image is particularly close to Angela’s heart as she covered this story for weeks, with her work culminating in an image of President Biden signing the bill into law. As Matt Westerhold of the Sandusky Register, where Angela interned one summer, proudly noted, she stood on “her toes in the crowded press section” and captured “the meaning of the moment as if she’s been a Washington correspondent for years.” A wonderful image, it truly exemplifies Angela’s belief that “Photography brings so much more to a story, it picks up raw emotions and gives power to storytelling.” Angela did so well as an intern that she was hired full time for one of their sister newspapers. Brandon Addeo, also of the Sandusky Register, said: “In the span of mere weeks, Angela went from ‘the easy stuff’ ... to tackling more difficult reporting — the kind of work handled by our full-time staff.”



Lauren Scott, Hillsdale College – Hillsdale, Michigan

Lauren Scott is passionate about reporting on stories “that have been forgotten, or need to be told for the first time.” She does this through documentary filmmaking, which, as she writes, “has allowed me to tell other people’s stories, and I find no greater blessing than that.” With her first submitted video, she highlights the life of Will Carleton, an often forgotten 19th century poet, who wrote “Over the Hill to the Poorhouse”. Her second piece is about Michael Alex Mossey (a boy who tragically died young) and why her college’s library was named after him, a fact that most students don’t know. Both of these videos are from a class project in which, according to one of Lauren’s professors, Buddy Moorehouse, all of the students were required to do everything ... “research, write, shoot footage and interviews, and then edit each of the films themselves.” Lauren not only excelled at this project, but also played an instrumental role in a full-length documentary that her class produced about Elizebeth Smith Friedman, a woman who helped pioneer codebreaking. Tavner Threatt, a former teacher, also talks about Lauren’s kind and giving nature. “She faithfully pursues the good where she finds herself, seeks to preserve, protect, and nurture it.”



Katie Varga, Utah State University – Logan, Utah

Katie Varga is so determined to get her journalism degree that she is working three jobs while in college - as “a dance teacher, landscaper, a podcast intern, as well as a full-time student.” Brian Champagne, one of Katie’s professors, mentions this in his reference letter, saying that “Katie works several jobs to pay for her education. I’ve had students with fewer demands than hers drop out of our program.” Despite the demanding schedule, she has excelled in his Newscast class, “the toughest class in our program,” and his Multimedia class, “the second-toughest.” But being a photographer is more than just a future career for Katie. She also loves it. “Many of my classes have felt more like a fun hobby than homework, and I can’t imagine not doing what I do.” Her submitted videos reflect her skill and passion, along with great creativity. The first one is about a student bike service company on campus, whose funding was recently cut, while the second is a ghost-hunting story. The latter video is especially inventive, as it was shot completely in the dark. Chris Garff, another of Katie’s professors, admires her work, writing that she has “an excellent eye for composition and created great content with her strong ideas.”



Kristen Yarber, University of Maryland Global Campus – Adelphi, Maryland

Kristen Yarber is the definition of hardworking and a multitasker. A photojournalist with the U.S. Navy for seven years, she is also attending the University of Maryland Global Campus to obtain her bachelor’s degree in communication studies. As she writes, “Photography and photojournalism have always been my passions, and I’ve been fortunate enough to get to do them both while serving my country.” Assigned to Japan in late 2020, the photographs she submitted to the Foundation document life in Japan during COVID. Thomas Smith, a Navy Operations Manager in Tokyo who wrote one of Kristen’s reference letters, writes that she is not only extremely talented, already winning awards for her work, but is capable of shooting a variety of events “ranging from humanitarian aid to disaster relief and emergency/historical documentation.” Michael Hutchinson, a Navy Station Manager in Tokyo, is equally impressed, writing: “She is routinely my first choice for high level projects.” One of these was photographing First Lady Jill Biden on a recent visit. He also notes that Kristen earned a special distinction – a photography certificate from the U.S. Department of Labor - which required 6,000 hours of practice.

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 photojournalist like Jim.

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Annette Carlozzi and Dan Bullock	Marjorie Goldner, in memory of	Lina Husodo and James Linville *	Shirley Prud'homme	Deana Ward
Carolyn and Gordon Carlson *	Norman Goldner *	Martie Jean Linville	Nancy and James Raper *	Vivienne and Bill Wardle * °
Judith and Terence Casey *	Geoff Gorka, in honor of Jen and her family *	Beata Liszka	Sandi and Larry Rebeck, in memory of	Mike Watkiss
Castle Oak Securities	Thomas Gorka *	Jennifer Long	your precious son, Jim *	Francine and John Webb °
Brad Cesmat	Jo A. and Billie Jo Graves	Deb and Bob Loucks, in celebration of	Michelle Reynolds-Ricart, West Coast	Fiona and Evan Weisman *
Jami Champagne	Family Foundation *	Deb's mom's 100th birthday *	Plumbing & Air *	Kathleen and Calvin Westcott, in
Norma Chapa	Dorcas Green	Susie and Michael Lynch	Mary Ritter	celebration of Jimmy Cox *
Susan Charney	Isabelle and Bill Griesmeyer	Diane & Ron Mahan, in memory of Jimmy *	Claudia Rivero	Sandra and John White
Susan Chen	Teresa Griffin *	Anne and Arthur Maple, Jr., in memory of	Donna Robinson *	Bonnie and John Williamson *
Mary Cheng, in honor of Richard Cheng	Stephanie Guadian	James Alan Cox *	Pamela Robbins, in memory of Cheryl	Cornelia and Lloyd Wilson *
Portia Chiarella	Mike Guerrero, in honor of Leslie Cox and	Karen Martin, Karen Martin Photography	Robbins Laing *	Elise and Robert Wilson +
The Christi Center Moms, in honor of	all the wonderful work she does	Todd Martin	Arnold Romberg	The Sam and Sonia Wilson Family
Barbara's 80th Birthday	The Haffner Family	Jennene and Ray Mashburn *	David Romm	Foundation, in celebration of Jimmy,
Kate and Larry Clarkson and Family *	Paulette Hagar *	Gail Mazur *	Christie Roshau	Sterling and Sam *
Elaine Cleveland	Rose Marie Hagman *	Tom Mazur *	Carol and Gordon Ross *	Rebecca Witter
Ellen and Michael Clowes *	Carol and Robert Hall *	Traci and Steve Mazur *	Michael and Cary Rothkopf &	Brenda and Carson Woodall *
Amy Bowerbank Coreham *	Bonnie and Denny Hamill, in memory of	Beth A. McDonald, in celebration of more	The Rothkopf Greenberg Family	Frances and James Woodrick
Jim Cole	Holly Hamill *	great photogs! *	Foundation Trust *	Ruby Woods *
Mike Conlee	Michael Hammond	Marianne McDonald and Hal Hailey, in	Ann and David Rouse	Wally Workman, Wally Workman Gallery *
Natalie and Jake Controne *	Jim and Kathy Hancock, in memory of	memory of Dylan Graves and Jimmy Cox *	Terri and Ron Rumin	Christine Wotkyns
Bob Cook *	Jimmy Cox *	Mary and David McDonald and family *	Ann Russell, in celebration of Barbara and	Julie and Erik Zimmerman *
Margaret and Robert Cotter, in honor of	Edward J. Hanslik	Laura and Mark McGinnity	Leslie Cox *	* Multiple donations
Barbara Cox *	Janet Harris *	Caroline McGroder	Lucille Ryan	° In-kind donations
Barbara and Alan Cox * ° +	Rachel Harris, in memory of Jim Cox *	Patrick J. McGroder III	Nathaniel Sanford	+ Board member
			Judy Sargent	

Letter from the Foundation Vice President

Those of you who receive this newsletter each year are aware of the steady growth we have experienced over the past 16 years, but you may not know that most of our success is due to the efforts of our daughter Leslie. Following the unimaginable July 27, 2007 media helicopter accident that took the life of our son Jim, Leslie announced that she had an idea to build a lasting legacy to his memory by establishing a scholarship program in his name. Although we may have been a bit skeptical at first, her enthusiasm was catching and there was no doubting her determination. When we approached family members and good friends with the idea, all were enthusiastic and eager to help. Our Foundation board is composed of a President who is a retired New York Telephone executive with a degree in civil engineering, a vice president who is a former stewardess and real estate broker with a degree in fashion merchandising, and a treasurer with a degree in history and a Master's in Pre-Columbian art history who taught herself accounting . . . an unlikely combination lending credence to the old adage "where there's a will there's a way." In her years as Treasurer of the JACF, Leslie has more than established Jim's legacy and the love for her brother shines through each day. We couldn't be more proud and grateful for her "stick-to-it-iveness," a trait she has in abundance. I have no doubt that she will continue to tackle every challenge that comes her way with the same grit and determination that she used to build a foundation honoring the memory of her brother.

Barbara H. Cox,

VICE PRESIDENT

"I use photography as a way to uplift my community, and to highlight those who deserve to have a voice."

– Madalen Erez,

2022 High School Scholarship Recipient



Jen, Jim and Leslie Cox

*"You can look at a picture for a week and never think of it again.
You can also look at a picture for a second and think of it all your life."*

– Joan Miró,

Spanish artist, on the power of photography

NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE

This year's application process will begin on July 15, 2023 and conclude, with the deadline for applications, on November 15, 2023. To apply for a scholarship, please see "Apply" on the Foundation's 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.)

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.



P. O. Box 9158
Austin, TX 78766