

# the CONTACT SHEET

JOURNAL OF THE UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



2024 ANNUAL

# THE SPIRIT OF UPAA



Shared Experiences, Mutual Respect, and a Collective  
Passion for Our Craft

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear UPAA Members,

As I reflect on my tenure as president of UPAA and my time on the board, one phrase resonates deeply: "I found my people." It encapsulates the essence of our association and the reasons why so many of us invest our time, money, and energy into UPAA.

What drives us to come together, to support each other's professional growth, and to create a community that feels like family? This question has been at the forefront of my mind throughout my term. The answer, I believe, lies in each of you—the dedicated members who embody the spirit of UPAA.

During the Symposium in Utah, I witnessed firsthand the warmth with which new members were welcomed and the bonds that strengthened between old friends. This camaraderie is the foundation upon which UPAA thrives. It is your openness to change and your willingness to adapt that have kept our association vibrant and relevant amidst evolving industry landscapes.

The field of content creation, much like UPAA itself, has undergone significant transformation. We've embraced new technologies and expanded our skill sets beyond traditional boundaries. Today, digital cinema is becoming integral to our work, challenging us to grow and evolve once again. As we navigate these changes, let us approach them with the same enthusiasm and determination that have defined us thus far.

Another crucial discussion we've engaged in revolves around our core identity. Are we marketers, photojournalists, or perhaps something in between? This question of responsibility, reflects our diverse backgrounds and the varied paths we've taken in our careers. It's a testament to the richness of our perspectives and the complexities of our profession.



Glenn and Jill Carpenter photo by Matt Cashore

Looking ahead, our commitment to continuous improvement remains steadfast. We are refining our contest categories, exploring the implications of artificial intelligence, and equipping you with resources to navigate these advancements effectively and help shape your institution's understanding of the issues.

As I conclude my term, I am optimistic about the future of UPAA. We will continue to uphold our core mission, embracing change while cherishing the friendships and connections that define us. Our journey together is marked by shared experiences, mutual respect, and a collective passion for our craft.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication. Together, we will chart a course that ensures UPAA remains a pillar of excellence and innovation in the world of visual storytelling.

Sincerely,

Glenn Carpenter

President, UPAA

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The Contact Sheet is the annual journal of the University Photographers' Association of America. Founded in 1961, UPAA has sought to advance the profession of university photographer through networking and continuing education.

Editor: Matt Cashore, University of Notre Dame  
Design: Lotta Barnes

For more information on UPAA or The Contact Sheet, visit [www.upaa.org](http://www.upaa.org).



Melissa Lytle was one of an all-star lineup of inspiring presenters at the 2024 UPAA Symposium. See more photos and read some important takeaways from a packed week of learning and friendship starting on page 14. Photo by Jeff Gage



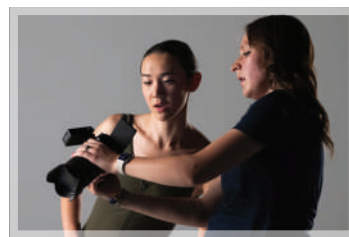
**SHARING THE SPIRIT:** Bill Bitzinger and his wife Amy Packard established a fellowship to help more UPAA members attend a Symposium. Learn more about the Bill & Amy Fellowship on page 6.



**A LASTING LEGACY:** For many, if not most, UPAA members, Glenn Carpenter is the only president of UPAA we've ever known. He will end his term on the board at the end of 2025. An appreciation of Glenn begins on page 8.

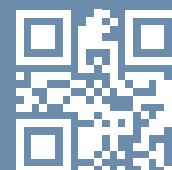


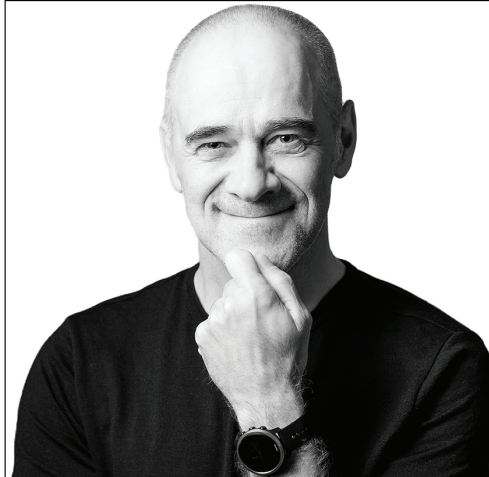
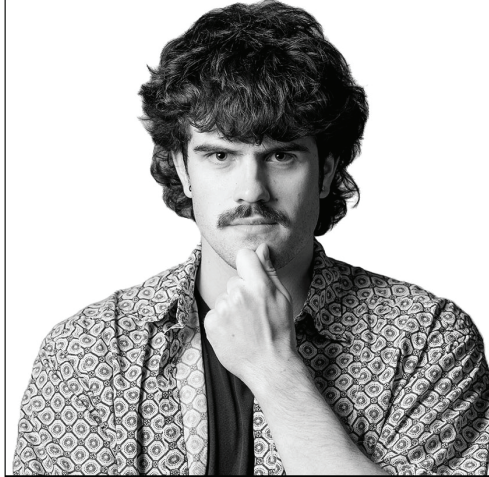
**THAT FRIENDLY GUY IN ORANGE:** Steven Bridges is the Mark A. Philbrick Photographer of the Year for the fourth time. Read why it came as a surprise to Steven starting on page 23.



**STUDENT POY:** Brooklynn Jarvis Kelson had another busy year behind the camera, capping it off with her second Student Photographer of the Year honor. Read more about Brooklynn on page 27.

**The UPAA Board of Directors** will elect a new president for the first time in a long time! There will be new roles for many board members but everyone is here to help. The Board directory is available by scanning the QR Code here:







# Steve Jobs Project

Photos by Levi Sim

You may have noticed Levi Sim busy in a corner of the Symposium hospitality room, making photos of attendees in the style of Albert Watson's iconic photo of Apple Computer co-founder Steve Jobs. It's

“My Steve Jobs Portrait Project started the day Jobs died and is ongoing. I've done this with more than 2000 people.

Personally, I love to meet people but I have a hard time hearing at parties. This project is the perfect way for me to break the ice with loads of people and introduce

myself. Then I can talk with them later one-on-one in a class or at a meal. Being interested in people makes me good at my job, and this project helps me exercise my getting-to-know-you skills.

We all know people who have done a photo project and ended it. I guess I'll stop doing this when it stops being fun. There is no end in sight.”

Here are just some of the UPAA members Levi photographed at the Symposium. For the full set, scan the QR code below.



# SUPPORT FOR UPAA MEMBERS

Don't have the budget or institutional support you'd like? UPAA and its corporate partners can help. Here are two options for professional development support:

## **Bill and Amy Fellowship**

Retired Ferris State photographer Bill Bitzinger and his wife Amy Packard established the Bill and Amy Fellowship to cover the Symposium fee for first time attendees.

In 2025, The Bill and Amy Fellowship generously helped five people attend their first Symposium.

Look for an email from the UPAA board in spring of 2023 with information on applying for the 2023 Bill and Amy Fellowship.

## **Photoshelter Grant**

The UPAA / PhotoShelter grant was established in 2017 as a way to assist higher ed photographers in expanding their creative abilities with a cash award that can be used for professional development and/or equipment purchases.

Katherine Seghers of Louisiana State University won the 2024 Photoshelter Grant. She intends to do a personal project on coastal land loss in southern Louisiana and intends to use the grant money for location lighting gear to help with portraits. As she told Photoshelter, "This way I won't be stuck with just window light and I can take it from more basic to a more elaborate look-while still maintaining the message behind it."

Watch the UPAA Facebook group or contact a board member for information on how to apply for the 2025 Photoshelter Grant.



*Top: Bill Bitzinger with 4 of 5 Bill and Amy Fellowship recipients. Left to right: Dakota Williams, University of Florida, Sean Elliot, Connecticut College, Taylor Wolfram, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Liz Cuccio, Louisiana State University. Photo by Jay Ferchaud. A photo of Bill and the fifth recipient, Tim Evans of Milwaukee Area Technical College is on the contents page.*

*Bottom: Katherine Seghers of LSU poses for a photo with Photoshelter's Caroline Summers. Photo by Jay Ferchaud.*



# New Board Members

Jeff Fitlow of Rice University and Kristen Grace of the Florida Museum of Natural History were elected to the UPAA Board at the 2024 Symposium in Utah.

Interested in serving on the UPAA Board? There are elections every year for a 4-year term. Look for more information in an email from UPAA or contact a current Board member.



*Kris Bosworth of Tamron talks to Jeff Sabo of Miami (OH). Photo by Nick Romanenko.*

## THANK YOU CORPORATE PARTNERS

UPAA couldn't do all that it does without our corporate partners.

The world-class presenters we have the privilege of meeting and spending time with at the Symposium are there with the support of corporate partners. The gear you borrow during the Symposium is there with the support of corporate partners. The free cleanings, the lens cloths, the pens, the candy... the list goes on.

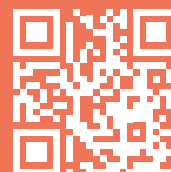
Corporate sponsors can support us because we support them. Thinking of a gear purchase or setting up a DAM? There is almost certainly a corporate partner who can help. Contact a board member to find out who has EDU discounts or can simply give more personalized service because of their UPAA connections.

### WE NEED WRITERS FOR THE UPAA BLOG!

The UPAA Blog is like a little dose of the Symposium every two weeks on your computer, tablet or phone. UPAA members are always happy to give each other tech tips, behind-the-scenes looks at photo shoots or just offer some insights and share experiences we can all relate to.

The Blog needs your stories and ideas. UPAA is a growing group with a diverse range of backgrounds and interests. We're gaining more video-first members, so topics relevant to the world of video are of particular interest.

Even better, thanks to UPAA Corporate Partner Exposure. co, the Blog is richer visually and can better showcase video-oriented stories. Use the QR code to see past articles, subscribe for updates and get contact info on how you can contribute.



# THE PRESIDENT, AND THE PROFESSION: GLENN CARPENTER RETIRES FROM UPAA BOARD

By Nick Romanenko – Rutgers University

Glenn Carpenter (Moraine Valley Community College) is probably the only UPAA president most of the membership has known. Glenn is retiring from the board after 20 years (five elected terms) of service this December. He has been president since 2009. It's been quite a ride, and UPAA has grown a lot in those 20 years. I only had to ask Glenn "Are you feeling it?" on the first day of the Utah Symposium, and he knew right away what I meant.

"Yeah, I've really been thinking about it, wanting to step back and take it all in," He said. "I realize this will be the last symposium where I'm UPAA president. It's a weird feeling."

Glenn's 16 years as UPAA president is a record. Only his immediate predecessor Jim Dusen (SUNY-Brockport -retired), comes close at 11 years. Longevity is kind of a pattern with Glenn. After graduating from Cedarville College (now Cedarville University) in 1989, he started as a college photographer at Moraine Valley Community College in 1990 and has been there ever since, currently working as Visual Media Coordinator and supervising a staff of two. He's also been married since 1991 to Jill Carpenter, who's a powerhouse UPAA volunteer in her own right, running the Partner's Program and the annual symposium registration table (this year in 1800s period clothing).

Glenn first learned of UPAA through The University & College Designers Association (UCDA). "I was at a UCDA thing in San Antonio and somebody there said, 'Hey, there's this group that's really dedicated to photographers and it's run out of Brigham Young.' So I just looked around, found Mark Philbrick's contact information and sent him an email."







*Glenn Carpenter at the Bonneville  
Salt Flats, Photo by Nick Romanenko.*

Glenn attended his first Symposium a few years later in Utah. “I remember listening to Fred Sisson talk about Nikon and what was going on. And I knew at that moment, I’m like, “I have to be here every year. There’s just too much information.”

Glenn must have made an impression himself at his first few Symposiums, as he was informally asked (he can’t recall by whom) to run for the board, and was elected on his first try in 2004.

Jim Dusen recounts: “It was very evident, right in the beginning of Glenn’s attendance at each Symposium that he was a prime candidate for consideration of membership on the Board. We were correct in that observation after he was elected and began his tenure. It was a combination of contributing great ideas and working with the team to bring more value to UPAA members. Of course we needed to have a friendly relationship, not just a strict business atmosphere to make all our work smooth.”

And unlike some other business groups, we were friends in the truest form. The daylong meeting might be finished but we had a good time at dinner and into the evening.

“When my long tenure on the Board and as President came to an end with my retirement at SUNY Brockport, I really appreciated Glenn giving me a call to sometimes discuss the ongoing business to seek out my opinions. Just as we advanced UPAA during my time on the Board it

continued well after I became an ordinary member.

Glenn and his team really accomplished plenty during his tenure as president. And it’s been very obvious that UPAA has come a very long way since I joined in 1985.

“Looking back to the UPAA I joined and what it has evolved into is simply amazing. Glenn deserves plenty of credit for guiding the Board to make that possible”.

When Jim Dusen stepped down from the UPAA board at the end of 2008, Glenn was chosen to lead the organization through an unprecedented period of growth. He inherited a lively email listserv, a volunteer-created website and the earliest programming of an online photo contest which became the Monthly Image Competition (MIC). Glenn’s vision was to make UPAA “a more professional organization”.

Ken Bennet (Wake Forest University – retired) sums up Glenn’s impact nicely: “Under Glenn’s leadership, UPAA has become significantly larger, stronger, and more diverse. Turnout at the annual symposiums has tripled, while at the same time we’ve grown the offerings to include the multimedia and video components that so many members now have as part of their jobs. We’ve had two complete overhauls of the UPAA website, improving the online contests and the member experience. And we’ve adapted our contests to meet the needs of our members, adding video and making everything online. Being on the board with Glenn

*The UPAA Board surprised Glenn with custom T-shirts. Photo by Matt Casbore.*



while those changes were underway was exciting, challenging and fun.”

It’s something Glenn is most proud of achieving “We were great, but we were a hidden gem of greatness. Now we’re much more known.”

So much so that other professional organizations have called and inquired about the success of how UPAA is run. And of course higher education videographers reached out to UPAA.. While there was a lot of discussion about this change and the original mission of UPAA as a resource for staff still photographers, the integration was tried at the last few symposiums and seems to be a win-win for all.

“The concern over managing the growth is a big one,” said Glenn. “You’ve got to control it and maintain in that family atmosphere, which is what everybody loved and still loves to this day. That’s what it needs to be. When you get big, it still needs to have that vibe to it”.

A big part of that vibe is how all the UPAA members interact, learn from each other, get inspired from seeing new work and then want to take those ideas and tricks and make something else out of them for their own great images. As Glenn pointed out in his very well received presentation on leadership at this year’s Symposium, listening is key.

Quoting a football coach he worked with “Do you want me to listen, listen and comment or listen and get involved”, Glenn told the crowd “So trust and respect over the last year have become things I consider

constantly. It’s a two-way street, but your team must trust you and respect you and you earn that every day. Listen to what people need. Be honest. Understand that what your perception of the circumstances or the situation may not be exactly correct. I’ve learned that leading UPAA. I see it as we all just work together and figure it out.

And yes, Glenn readily admits he had a lot of help from board members and other volunteers from the membership, from help at the Symposium to communications with membership and corporate partners.

Amanda Pitts (Grand Valley University – retired) greatly expanded and cultivated corporate involvement and support for UPAA in the last decade. She had this to say about Glenn: “I cannot put into words how

thankful I am to have had the pleasure of working with Glenn on the board. In his time as president, UPAA has gone from a small-ish group, to a nationally known and respected professional organization. This was not by accident. On a personal level, Glenn has been a sympathetic ear during some really tough times in my professional career. He is kind and encouraging, and helped me realize that my worth extends far beyond being a button pushing monkey. For this, and everything else I learned from him along the way, I will be forever grateful”.

Corporate partner Kristine Bosworth (previously with Nikon, and now with Tamron, adds: “What is there to say about Glenn? So, so much! He’s made us feel like family from the very first day I met him at the Elgin

Symposium. He’s been a joy to work with and always there to support our ideas and be a sounding board for our frustrations. Glenn has provided inspiration to all of us in his years of leadership and friendship. (spouse) Patrick and I can’t thank him enough for all our symposium experiences and look forward them for years to come”.

*“We were great, but we were a hidden gem of greatness...”*



*Jill Carpenter (standing at right) and the UPAA Partners Program volunteered at a Habitat for Humanity build at the 2018 Symposium at Wake Forest.*



*Glenn's Award-winning photos include a photo of a tennis athlete who was reluctant to be photographed and then loved the result, and a composite photo illustration to promote a play titled "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg." "We set up lighting and photographed the wheelchair. Then we used the exact same lighting to photograph the egg and just put 'em together," Glenn Said.*



Glenn found his career in college. "I went to Cedarville College, a small liberal arts school in Cedarville, Ohio. I was a broadcasting major. But in the first semester I figured out that's not what I wanted to do. So I started working with their college photographer (Lonnie Richards), beginning of my sophomore year and figured out that's what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

Richards set up Glenn nicely "He was a trained photographer, so he knew how to light. That was his thing. And so he started teaching me lighting and how to do the gig".

After graduating from Cedarville Glenn says "I worked at a tire shop for not quite a year, and then I did some telemarketing--worst job in my life. And then I saw the job at Moraine Valley (in the Chicago Tribune classified section) for College Photographer and I applied for it.

"What was great was that I had a formal print portfolio of what I'd shot when I was in college— sports, recruiting things, stuff from a class trip to Israel. And I had a bunch of publications that I'd actually shot for. Which was actually, I think, what sealed the deal. Yep. So I applied and the rest is history."

Like all UPAA Board members, Glenn combines his service to UPAA with the day-to-day demands of being a full-time university photographer. In addition to getting urgent calls about website issues or Symposium planning, Glenn has managed to excel at his job as the Moraine Valley Community College photographer, winning numerous awards over his 34 years on the job.

A few photos stand out in his memory: "I had a Best of Show in the MIC probably in 2005 with a soccer photo shot on a D1, of all things. It was like a Brazilian college team or

something, came and played our soccer team. It was really one frame. I just threw the camera up. It actually hit focus and fired, just a miracle for the D1”.

Another award winner stands out less for the professional accolades and more for the personal connection. “The tennis player didn’t want her picture taken. Her teammates had to talk her into it, and then I make the picture and everybody runs over to look at the back of the camera and she’s like, ‘Oh my gosh! Oh my gosh! Maybe I can be on the wall at my house, My parents always put my brother’s photos up, but they never put my photo.’

“Of course she got a big print of this. To me that was like, I changed somebody’s mind who didn’t want her picture taken, and made something she loves.”

Some photos took no persuasion at all, like the photo of a building emerging from the clouds in downtown Chicago.

Glenn smiles and says, “Yep. It’s the easiest photo to ever made. We were up on the 95th floor of the John Hancock Building and it was souped in below. I looked down, saw that, made a quick photo, and went and had a drink.”

Glenn is stepping down from the UPAA Board but not retiring from MVCC. . . just yet. “I’ll work as long as I need to,” he says, “I’m realistically thinking three to four more years”.

Glenn explains his thoughts on retiring from the UPAA board: “It’s time for the next generation. Somebody else needs to have a vision and move the organization forward.

Glenn continues, “I’m proud of the UPAA tagline, ‘The Visual History of Higher Education.’ I wrote that for the 50th anniversary. It changes what we do from making pictures to having some value in our administrator’s minds. And that’s what I like about it, and this is that history.”

“This is a great organization with great people. It needs to continue on. We’re 63 years old. Even that in and of itself is amazing. It’s the family reunion you always wanted to go to. People need to care about it, cherish it. It’s great. This is an amazing thing that we have here. It’s everybody created it from years past. Phil Szczepanski, Dean Caruthers, Steve, Caroline, Robert, Don, Jim, Jay, Bill, all of them. I mean, it was really just amazing. To be a part of that is an honor”.



*900 North Michigan Avenue from the 95th floor of the John Hancock Center in downtown Chicago. All photos by Glenn Carpenter.*

# TAKEAWAYS

## 2024 UPAA SYMPOSIUM

DJ Pearson of Fort Valley State University in Georgia made this photo at the Friday workshop with Joe McNally on the Bonneville Salt Flats in western Utah.

“The biggest takeaway for me was the sense of community and being around people who all have unique stories and backgrounds, which made attending a conference with hundreds of university photographers’ who share similar challenges and rewards a life changing experience for me.

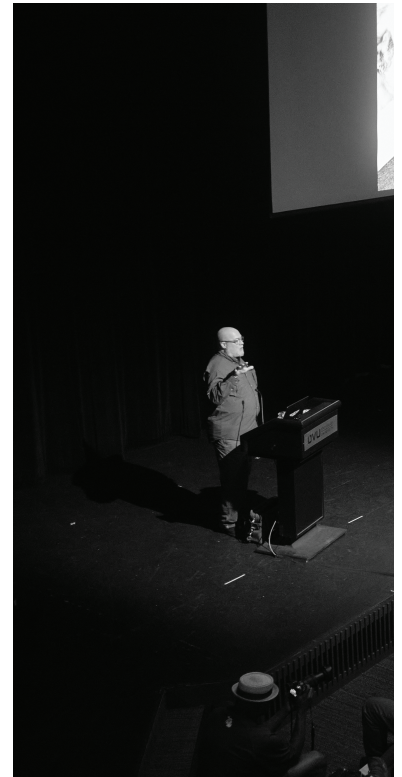
This top down drone shot gave me that feeling of community, which lead to the unity of many who were in attendance at this years UPAA Symposium.”







Photo by Sean D. Elliot



**“UPAA, ARE YOU OKAY IF WE POUR SOME SUGAR ON THIS?”**  
–Clint Pulver

*“It feels incredibly rewarding to have successfully pulled off the biggest Symposium ever and to finally reach the end of this very unusual journey.*

*Reflecting on the experience, I’m overwhelmed with a sense of accomplishment and deep gratitude for everyone involved, especially partnering with Jaren Wilkey and Nate Edwards, whose dedication and hard work were instrumental in making these events a success.*

*Planning three Symposia has been an extraordinary journey.*

*The 2020 Symposium was set to be a groundbreaking event until the pandemic forced us to pivot quickly to a virtual format. The 2020 Virtual Symposium was a testament to the adaptability and resilience of the UPAA and its board of directors and members, showcasing the ability to innovate and connect in new ways despite the circumstances.*

*Hosting the 2024 Symposium has been the culmination of years of hard work and dedication. It feels like a dream come true to see it all come together on such a broad scale.”*

*-Jay Drowns, Utah Valley University*



Photo by Sean D. Elliot



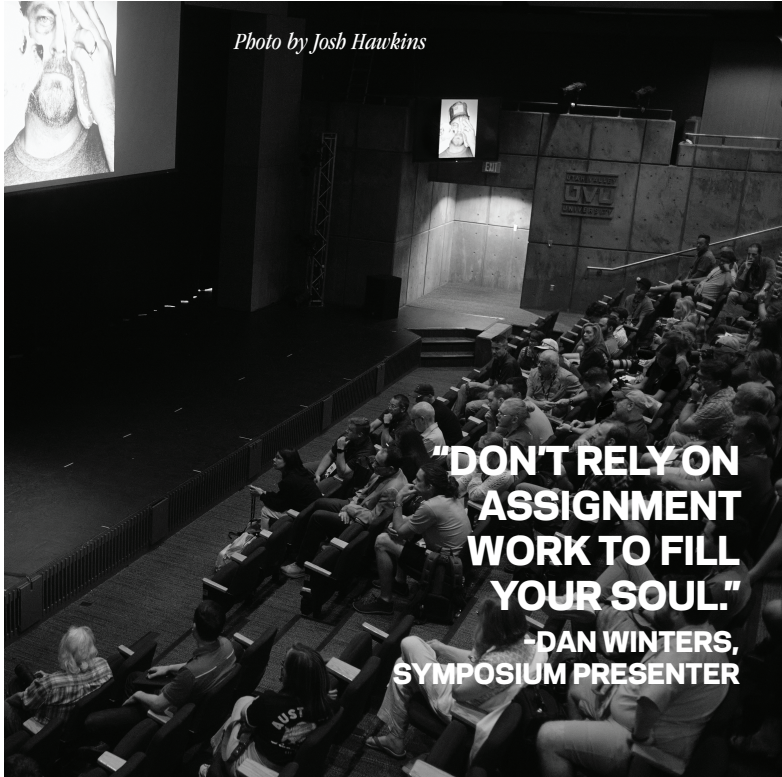


Photo by Josh Hawkins

**"DON'T RELY ON  
ASSIGNMENT  
WORK TO FILL  
YOUR SOUL."  
-DAN WINTERS,  
SYMPOSIUM PRESENTER**



Photo by Nick Romanenko

**"THIS WAS MY FIRST  
SYMPOSIUM, AND I WAS A  
LITTLE NERVOUS. I HAD NO  
IDEA WHAT I WAS GETTING  
MYSELF INTO. I HAVE TO  
SAY MY BIGGEST TAKEAWAY  
WAS Y'ALL! EVERYONE WAS  
SO KIND, WELCOMING AND  
EXCEPTIONALLY FRIENDLY THAT  
I IMMEDIATELY FELT AT EASE  
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, I FELT  
LIKE I BELONGED THERE."**

**-EMILY PAINE, BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY**



Photo by Sean D. Elliot

**"IF IT MATTERS TO YOU,  
FIND A WAY TO MAKE IT  
MATTER TO OTHERS."**

**-MELISSA LYTTLE,  
SYMPOSIUM PRESENTER**

Photo by Brianna Scroggins



After the salty sunset on Friday night, I drove back down to Provo with several of my students. During that drive I was overwhelmed with a sense of relief. After all the work and all the meetings and all the stress, I realized that we accomplished all the goals we set out for. I'm just so grateful for everyone that contributed to make the Utah Symposium a success.

-Jaren Wilkey, Brigham Young University



Photo by Sean D. Elliot

"I came away with a renewed sense of confidence in my work. I'm motivated knowing I can push myself past my photography comfort zone knowing I have the support of the UPAA safety net behind me."

-Matt Stamey, Santa Fe College



Photo by Steven Bridges

## ROCKY TOP—IN JULY

The University of Tennessee will host the 2025 Symposium in July 2025. Watch [upaa.org](http://upaa.org) and your email for details.

East Tennessee is known for the Great Smokey Mountains, Dollywood and the infamous Secret City of Oak Ridge. This year will be another four-day symposium with a bonus opportunity on Friday.

Why the date change? When trying to schedule spaces on campus, we found that June was completely locked out due to orientation. The only way we were hosting a symposium at Tennessee is if we moved it to July.

Everyone being together is what makes it fun. Come on down and we'll have a blast!

-Steven Bridges, 2025 Symposium Host

# 2024 Annual Awards

## Life Membership

Ken Bennett - Wake Forest University, Retired

## Fellow of the University Photographers Association

Glenn Carpenter - Moraine Valley Community College  
Amanda Pitts - Formerly of Grand Valley State University

## Presidents Award

Kristine Bosworth - Tamron  
John Scott - Roberts Camera

## Chris Hughes Distinguished Service Award

Jeff Miller - University of Wisconsin  
Brett Szczepanski - Western Carolina University

## Board Appreciation Award

Sheryl Woodward - Cal State Chico

## Master of the Profession

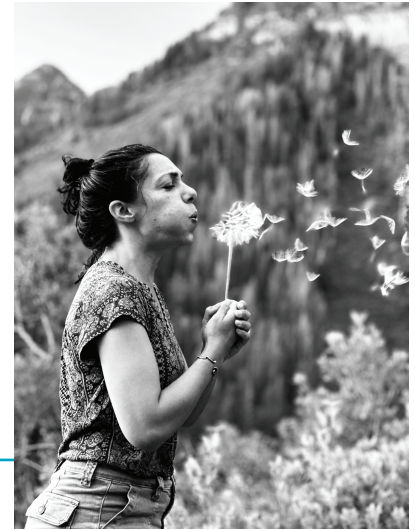
Amanda Pitts - Formerly of Grand Valley State University

## Nikon Shootout

Sam Wallace - Western Carolina University

## Roberts Video Shootout

Cameron Johnson - Miami University of Ohio

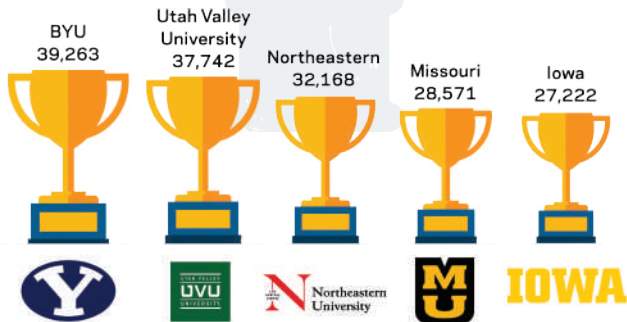


2023-2024





# MIC

## Monthly Image Competition

### Top 5 MIC points by University



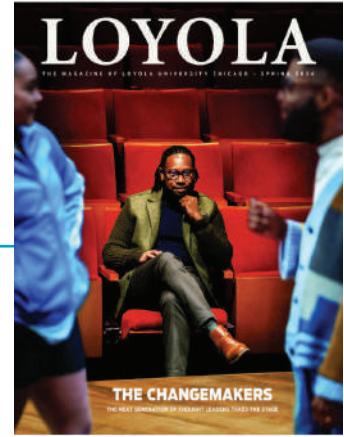
### Top 10 MIC points by Photographer

1. Nate Edwards		16956
2. Steven Bridges		16939
3. Matthew Modoono		16892
4. Fred Zwicky		16482
5. Jaren Wilkey		16100
6. Sarah Conroy		16069
7. Michael Pierce		16023
8. Matt Cashore		15779
9. Craig Chandler		15599
10. Alyssa Stone		15276

## Annual Publications Contest

### General Publication

- 1st Place** - Lukas Keapproth - Loyola University Chicago
- 2nd Place** - Abbie Lankitu - University of Missouri
- 3rd Place** - Phyllis Graber Jensen - Bates College
- Honorable Mention** - John Joyner - NC State Veterinary Medicine
- Honorable Mention** - Meredith Forrest Kulwick - University at Buffalo



### Posters

- 1st Place** - Douglas Levere - University at Buffalo
- 2nd Place** - Alex Wright - Towson University
- 3rd Place** - Emily Paine - Bucknell University



### Printed Advertisement

- 1st Place** - Mark Carriveau - Elgin Community College
- 2nd Place** - Alex Wright - Towson University
- 3rd Place** - Andrew Tucker, Dorothy Kozlowski - University of Georgia

### Covers

- 1st Place** - Michael King - University of Wisconsin
- 2nd Place** - Abbie Lankitus - University of Missouri
- 3rd Place** - Phyllis Graber Jensen - Bates College
- Honorable Mention** - Emily Paine Bucknell - University
- Honorable Mention** - John Joyner - NC State Veterinary Medicine

### Viewbook

- 1st Place** - Ken Bennett and Lyndsie Schlink - Wake Forest University
- 2nd Place** - Meredith Forrest Kulwicki - University at Buffalo
- 3rd Place** - Ryan Riley - Iowa State University
- Honorable Mention** - Emily Paine - Bucknell University
- Honorable Mention** - Cal State Chico

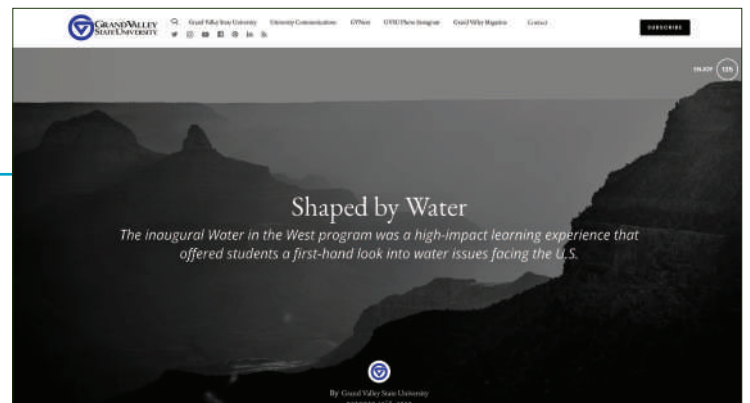


### Annual Narrative Series Competition

- 1st Place** - Isaac Fowler
- 2nd Place** - Isaac Fowler
- 3rd Place** - Adam Patrick Sanders
- 3rd Place** - Andre Quiles
- 3rd Place** - Ryan Riley
- 3rd Place** - Bryce Hunter
- Honorable Mention** - Adam Patrick Sanders
- Honorable Mention** - Ben Versola

### Online Photo Essay

- 1st place** - Kendra Stanley-Mills
- 2nd place** - Chamberlain Smith
- 3rd place** - Kendra Stanley-Mills
- Honorable Mention** - Amanda J Pitts
- Honorable Mention** - Kendra Stanley-Mills



### Social Media

- 1st place** - Nicholas Dentamaro
- 2nd place** - James Anger
- 3rd place** - Adam Patrick Sanders
- Honorable Mention** - Chelsea Purgahn
- Honorable Mention** - Darren Van Dyke

### Annual Print Competition

#### Sports Action

- 1st place** - Aaron Daniel Cornia - Brigham Young University
- 2nd place** - Justin Hayworth - Grinnell College
- 3rd place** - Nate Edwards - Brigham Young University
- Honorable Mention** - Sarah Conroy - Saint Louis University
- Honorable Mention** - Jaren Wilkey - Brigham Young University

#### Sport Features and Illustrations

- 1st place** - Brian Powers - The University of Georgia Terry College of Business
- 2nd place** - Sarah Conroy - Saint Louis University
- 3rd place** - Matthew Stamey - Santa Fe College
- Honorable Mention** - Jeff Janowski - University North Carolina Wilmington
- Honorable Mention** - Jay Drowns - Utah Valley University

#### People and Portraits

- 1st place** - Steven Bridges - University of Tennessee
- 2nd place** - Sam O'Keefe - University of Missouri
- 3rd place** - Sarah Conroy - Saint Louis University
- Honorable Mention** - Craig Chandler - University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Honorable Mention** - Matthew MODOONO - Northeastern University

#### Campus Environment

- 1st place** - Sam O'Keefe - University of Missouri
- 2nd place** - Lyndsie Ann Schlink - Wake Forest University
- 3rd place** - Briana Scroggins - The University of Utah
- Honorable Mention** - Lukas Keapproth - Loyola University Chicago
- Honorable Mention** - Matt Cashore - University of Notre Dame

#### General Features and Illustrations

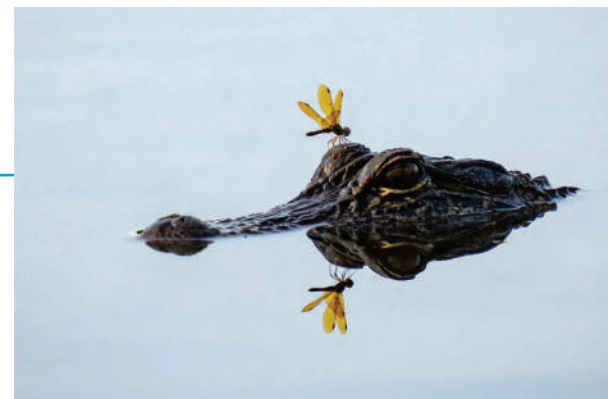
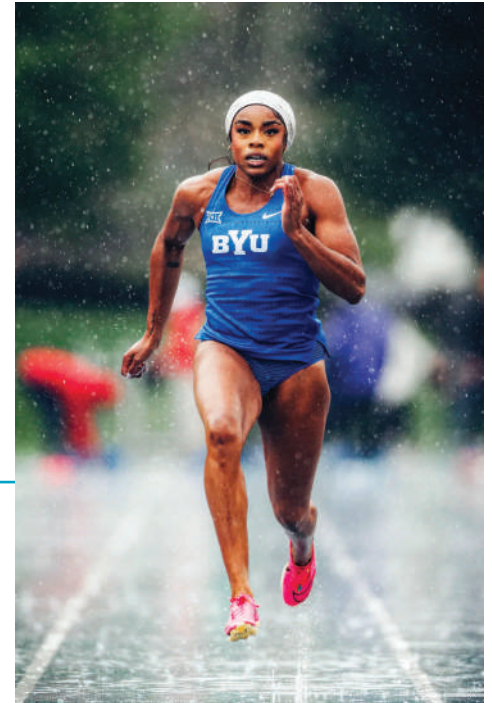
- 1st Place** - Sam Craft - Texas A&M AgriLife
- 2nd Place** - Glenn Carpenter - Moraine Valley Community College
- 3rd Place** - Abbie Lankitus - University of Missouri
- Honorable Mention** - Jason A Halley - California State University, Chico
- Honorable Mention** - Matthew MODOONO - Northeastern University

#### News and College Life

- 1st Place** - Kendra Stanley-Mills - Grand Valley State University
- 2nd Place** - Kendra Stanley-Mills - Grand Valley State University
- 2nd Place** - Lukas Keapproth - Loyola University Chicago
- 3rd Place** - Steven Bridges - University of Tennessee
- Honorable Mention** - Tim Schoon - University of Iowa
- Honorable Mention** - August Miller - Utah Valley University

#### Personal Vision

- 1st Place** - Brian Powers - The University of Georgia Terry College of Business
- 2nd Place** - Jeff Fitlow - Rice University
- 3rd Place** - Matthew Stamey - Santa Fe College
- Honorable Mention** - Scott A Kissell - Miami University of Ohio
- Honorable Mention** - Matthew Stamey - Santa Fe College



**Science and Research**

- 1st Place** - *Craig Chandler* - University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 2nd Place** - *Nate Edwards* - Brigham Young University
- 3rd Place** - *Craig Chandler* - University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Honorable Mention** - *Steven Bridges* - University of Tennessee
- Honorable Mention** - *Michael Pierce* - Missouri S&T

**Photo Essay**

- 1st Place** - *Chamberlain Smith* - University of Georgia
- 2nd Place** - *Sam Craft* - Texas A&M AgriLife
- 3rd Place** - *Matt Cashore* - University of Notre Dame
- Honorable Mention** - *Sam Craft* - Texas A&M AgriLife
- Honorable Mention** - *Matthew Modoono* - Northeastern University

**Student and Associate**

- 1st Place** - *Brooklynn Jarvis Kelson* - Brigham Young University
- 2nd Place** - *Brooklynn Jarvis Kelson* - Brigham Young University
- 3rd Place** - *Matthew Norton* - Brigham Young University
- 3rd Place** - *Anastasia Noonkesser* - Bob Jones University
- Honorable Mention** - *Brooklynn Jarvis Kelson* - Brigham Young University
- Honorable Mention** - *Anastasia Noonkesser* - Bob Jones University

**ADDITIONAL AWARDS**

**Annual Photo Contest Best of Show**

Jay Drowns - Utah Valley University

**Annual Photo Contest Overall Winner**

Steven Bridges - University of Tennessee

**Monthly Image Competition Overall Winner**

Nate Edwards - Brigham Young University

**2024 Mark A. Philbrick Photographer of the Year**

Steven Bridges - University of Tennessee





*Steven Bridges gets flat on the ground so often for photos that it's an inside joke with his co-workers. No surprise he took this position for a portrait with his four POY trophies. Photo by Breven Walker.*

# A PHOTO FINISH

## Steven Bridges wins a fourth POY

By Matt Cashore

It was close!

Someone was going to have a 4th trophy...but who?

It was truly a photo finish, but Steven Bridges is now a four-time winner of the UPAA's Mark A. Philbrick Photographer of the Year honor.

If you're new to UPAA, you may only know Steven as the friendly guy in orange at the Symposium.

If you've been around for a while, you know he's the recently-promoted manager of photography at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville who took UPAA contests by storm from the moment he joined the organization in 2019.

He won UPAA Photographer of the Year in 2020—his first full year in UPAA—and repeated in 2021 and 2022.

So Steven's 4th POY in 5 years was no surprise to most.

It did come as a surprise to Steven himself, though.

**In 2021 the UPAA Blog spent a day with Steven on the job in Knoxville. Read that article at the QR code here:**



Steven cheerfully admits to being competitive, (Come to think of it, he does everything cheerfully...) so he was well aware of the tight scoring in the Monthly Image Competition (MIC) going in to the awards banquet in June. Steven and BYU's Nate Edwards were in first and second place, respectively, with one monthly contest and the Annual Photo Contest (APC) left.

"Going into the awards ceremony, I thought my best chance to win was the MIC, never the APC," Steven said. "When Nate took the MIC, I figured my one chance of winning POY was gone."

"As the APC awards were being announced, I tried to keep the score in my head. I also knew that for several years now, the winner of the APC placed all six images."

The 2024 Annual Photo Competition did not have any 6-for-6 sweeps, and that was at least in part by design, according to UPAA President Glenn Carpenter. "For the past several years we awarded points only to the top five MIC finishers in each category. This year we recorded points for everyone who entered. The success of this decision is evident in two ways: First, it led to very close point totals into June, and that contributed to high participation in the APC. Those two situations led to a much tighter POY competition. The board could not be happier with this outcome."

The board may have been happy but Steven was just trying to keep up with the math of the scoring. He and Nate Edwards had both placed three of their APC entries, and with Nate's win in the overall MIC, Steven guessed Nate would win POY. (Which would also be Nate's fourth POY.)

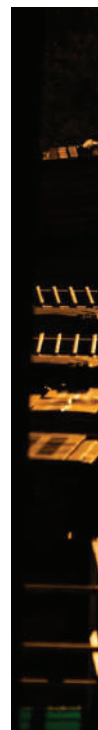
"Nate is a class act," said Steven. "Every year I won, Nate was the first to congratulate me. I already went into the event thinking how I wanted to return the favor. Now I was planning it. Nate had to walk past me to get to the stage. Do I congratulate him when he walks up to the stage? No, I do not want to take away from his moment. I can catch him on the way back to his seat. Yeah, that's what I'll do."

"I was truly shocked when my name appeared as the APC winner. I don't remember hearing it called, only seeing it on the screen. Once I was back to my seat, my brain started churning again. I ACTUALLY had a chance to win POY, but as close as everything was, so did Nate."

"The fact is, all the great work in the contest spread out the wins more than in the past. I just

*With BYU as co-host for the Symposium, Mark A. Philbrick—who the Photographer of the Year honor is named for—was in the room to congratulate Steven on his fourth win. Even with four wins, Steven is only halfway to Mark's eight Photographer of the Year honors.*  
Photo by Sean Elliot.

*BYU's Nate Edwards congratulates Steven at the 2022 Symposium in Georgia. Photo by Chris Gannon.*







*"Grow Lights" took 4th place and "Morning Walk" took 3rd place in the Annual Photo Competition. Both images were also Monthly Image Competition winners.*



happened to be the lucky one who came out on top this year."

The past academic year saw several changes for Steven, both professionally and personally. At work he is now Manager of Photography with the addition of a second staff photographer, and he led the implementation of a new Digital Asset Management (DAM) system. At home, his younger son is starting high school and his oldest son is off to college at East Tennessee State University, majoring in the theater.

"Even though I've been busy this past year, I did my best to ensure that work didn't come before family. My son Silas graduated high school this past year, and most of our time has been focused on him. When the kids are little, it is all about the first. This past year has been all about last and enjoying them while we can. Silas decided to be baptized and wanted me to be the one to do it. That was my highlight.

In August, it will be about the first again as we move Silas off to college and watch him grow as an adult."

Steven says that moving into a manager role at work has changed his job more than he expected.

"What I've realized over the last six months is that I've worked by myself for over 20 years. The most challenging and unexpected thing for me is letting go of assignments and the increase in managing. I've always been a part of meetings about the look and feel of our photos, but my meeting load and extra responsibilities have increased a lot since becoming a manager. While meetings are less exciting than creating photos, I'm lucky that my leadership wants me there and values my opinion as a visual expert and a person."

As a manager, the opportunity he looks forward to the most is mentorship. "During the hiring process, I told my wife I hoped to be a mentor to our new photographer. She responded, "You will be a mentor if you want to or not. It's up to you if you'll be a good one." I think of how I've been treated throughout my career and try to apply the good things from those times. I am far from perfect and learning as I go. I just hope to live up to being that good mentor."

# THE STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

Steven's striking photo "Light from Above" was a 1st place winner in the Annual Photo Competition. He gives a behind-the-scenes look at that image:

I plan to post about this image on Instagram and include a timelapse shot of the whole session. This was made in February 2024. I had just finished a portrait series of professors who received a Chancellor's Innovation Fund award; otherwise, I had not shot anything in the studio for months.

Josh Dobbs, an aerospace engineering alumnus, president of the UT Alumni Board of Directors, and NFL quarterback, was going to be on campus and we had some time with him for a cover story for our flagship magazine, Torchbearer. I had to quickly develop a concept for the photoshoot while turning out my already scheduled work.

We had about a week to plan. I had meetings and conversations with our magazine editor, creative director, and designers about visuals that looked cool and fit the feel of the story.

The shoot was on a Friday afternoon, and I blocked off that whole day for it. While we had ideas and concepts, things didn't come together until the morning of the shoot. I tested and tweaked my lighting concepts, marked the floor where light stands would be used, and documented my camera and light settings. Finally, I decided on the most efficient way to move from one concept to the next.

Our photoshoot was supposed to last an hour. I was watching my time and pacing myself according to my shot list. We had finished two of my ideas when Josh unexpectedly mentioned he had to be across campus for another interview. That was an addition to his itinerary that had not been relayed to us. Luckily, Josh is one of the nicest people and agreed to do one more look before heading out. That look was the photo "Lighting from Above."

What was my takeaway?

From now on, I will start my photoshoots by asking my subject, "We have you for the next hour or until X:XX, right?"



# “I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY BLESSED.”

Brooklynn Jarvis Kelson is Student POY for second year in a row.

“I was initially drawn to photography at a very young age,” says two-time Student Photographer of the Year Brooklynn Jarivs Kelson, “My love began with taking pictures of nature, especially flowers. I enjoyed the challenge of composing images and loved noticing the naturally complementary colors among the plants at my grandma’s house.”

Brooklynn’s inspirations in photography are diverse, but a few stand out. “The first real inspirational figure was Brandon Woelful,” she says. His unique style of dance photography resonated with her. However, it was mentors Nate Edwards and Jaren Wilkey who had the most profound impact on her development as a photographer. “They’ve taught me pretty much everything I know about photography,” she explains.

For aspiring photographers, Brooklynn’s advice is simple: find a mentor and take the shot. She also emphasizes the

*John Scott of Roberts Camera, UPAA President Glenn Carpenter, Brooklynn Jarvis Kelson, her husband Landon, and Kris Bosworth of Tamron pose for a group photo at the 2024 UPAA Symposium Awards Banquet.*



*One of Brooklynn’s award-winning dance photos.*

importance of seizing opportunities, even when it’s inconvenient. “If you are tired, but know the sky looks crazy outside, go out and take the shot.”

Reflecting on her recent win of the Student Photographer of the Year (SPOY) award for the second year in a row, Brooklynn is both proud and grateful. “It was a very emotional experience for me,” she says. The support from her friends, mentors, and husband made the achievement even more meaningful.

As she looks to the future, Brooklynn is excited about her freelance work and the upcoming arrival of her first child. “We’re actually expecting a little baby boy at the beginning of October! We are so excited to meet him!”

“I have been deeply blessed by so many individuals in my journey as a photographer, Brooklynn said, “I wouldn’t be who I am today without every single one of them.”

Scan this QR code to read a longer interview and see more of Brooklynn’s extraordinary photography in an article on the UPAA Blog.



## “THE STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION...

...is obvious from the attendance,” said UPAA President Glenn Carpenter at the 2024 Symposium, co-hosted in Utah by Utah Valley University and Brigham Young University.

BYU student photographer Matt Norton made the 250+ person group photo at LDS Motion Picture Studios following a live lighting demonstration by Gregory Heisler, who was just one of an all-star lineup of presenters.

See highlights from the 2024 UPAA Symposium beginning on page 14.



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