

# THE CONTACT SHEET

JOURNAL OF THE UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHER'S ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
SPRING 2006



# EDITOR

GLENN CARPENTER, MORAINE VALLEY COMM. COLLEGE, PALOS HILLS, ILLINOIS



PHOTO BY VICTORIA NEUBECK O'CONNOR

Soon after joining the UPAA, I was amazed to find that there were others like me sharing the same day-to-day challenges. To say such a thing today sounds naive, but before UPAA I thought I was alone: not a wedding photographer, not exclusively a photojournalist, occasionally a product photographer, quite often a portrait photographer, and once a small mammal and reptile photographer. The best part of the job—diversity—kept me from fitting in to the established organizations.

During those first two years I was connected via the listserv. This was incredible; ask a question and receive 5 great answers in an hour. At the same time, I was also a bit intimidated, as the answers revealed just

how little I knew. One theme that continued to be raised was the Symposium. Phrases like, “At the Symposium we learned...” or, “In Florida at the Symposium Fred said...”, helped me realize that I needed to be there to get the information first hand.

Utah 2001 was my first Symposium; I was not disappointed. In that one week I learned more practical tips and ideas than I had learned at any other conference. This is where I needed to be to stay current. Learning occurred not only during the sessions, but on the bus, at lunch, and in the hospitality suite.

A key characteristic of the UPAA is the sharing of ideas, stories, information, equipment, and expertise. As I take on this new role as editor of *The Contact Sheet*, I hope to foster this characteristic in its pages. The knowledge is out there in our members and I hope to bring those unique solutions to these pages. If you have ideas, suggestions, or criticism, please contact me.

Tim Webb has set the bar high and I will work hard to measure up. Thanks Tim, for your hard work and support.

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## ABOUT THE COVER

THIS ISSUE'S COVER WAS SHOT BY BILL BITZINGER. THIS DIANA IMAGE WAS MADE AT THE SPORTLAAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CHILDREN'S GARDEN IN THE NETHERLANDS AND WAS PART OF BILL'S GALLERY SHOW IN MARCH AT FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY.

## CORRECTION

IN THE LAST ISSUE WE MISTAKENLY CREDITED THIS IMAGE. THE CORRECT PHOTOGRAPHER IS DARREN PHILLIPS. SORRY DARREN.



Since I've belonged to UPAA there's been discussion from time to time about whom we include as members and how they can fit into this organization. During the Board meeting at the University of Mississippi last January we took a look at the way things have been and where we could make changes. Here is what we hope are changes for the better.

Full Membership is reserved for the working university photographer, as it's always been. For the \$50 annual fee that person receives full benefits which includes voting, holding elected office, and participating in the various competitions.

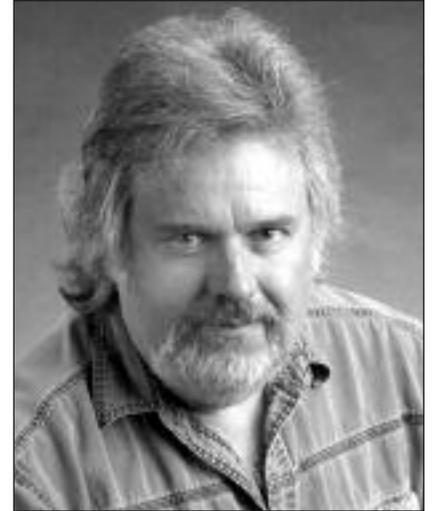
Associate Membership is geared toward "friends of the profession". They can include freelancers, former university photographers, other university personnel, company representatives, etc. The cost of Associate membership was dropped down to \$35.

There has been long standing discussion on what we as professionals can do for the students who assist us or study photography on our campuses. We are initiating a Student Membership category that will have a fee of \$25. Students do not vote, hold office or compete in competitions. Right now we feel that we can welcome them to the listserv and at symposiums where they will have the opportunity to interact with professionals and hopefully be inspired to continue an interest in photography. Attending a symposium carries a financial obligation that perhaps your university can help a student with. The Board discussed the possibility of student competitions. Certainly we will not be mixing them into our professional competitions. Will there will ever be enough students to have UPAA conduct a separate competition, I do not know? However, I think we can at least come up with ways to have their work evaluated by our members offering helpful critiques.

The Board also decided to do away with the Institutional Membership category. Few people have taken advantage of it and the category posed a problem with bookkeeping. The purpose of Institutional Membership was to allow a university, rather than individuals, to become members. This allowed a way around the red tape raised by a few institutions. We do not think elimination of this will cause any static, but if it does we are sure that our treasurer can come up with a workable solution to get by isolated roadblocks.

The Board will continue to look at the functionality of UPAA's offering to professional photographers and will always have an open ear to ideas the membership brings forth.

This group has come a long way from when I first came on board back in 1985. But the one thing that has remained constant is the flow of talented and personable photographers who makes this such a great organization to be affiliated with!



On April 19, 2006 an event at Ball State was held to showcase John Huffer's photographs as well as works from the next generation of Huffer photographers – images captured by Huffer's daughters Jordan, 18, and Emily, 15.

The event was hosted by the Ball State community in response to the loss of the Huffer family home in a fire in March. John, his wife, Pam, and their daughters all escaped the devastating blaze without injury.

The fire destroyed the 130-year-old farmhouse that was a historic and family treasure. The home was built from local timber on land granted to Huffer's great-great-grandfather after the Civil War.

John joined Ball State Photo Services in 1984. Well known for his sports photography, John has won awards from the Professional Photographers of America and has been named the UPAA Photographer of the Year twice in the past three years.

**Donations may be sent to:  
University Communications  
Ball State University, AC 224  
Muncie, IN 47304  
Attn: Layne Cameron  
Please make the checks payable to John Huffer.**

## DEPTH OF FIELD

BY NICK ROMANENKO, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, PISCATAWAY, NEW JERSEY

# HAWAIIAN SHIRTS, SMILES, AND A MID-LIFE CRISIS



PHOTO BY GLENN CARPENTER

He possesses an infectious smile that seems to end up in more than one fellow UPAA photographer's symposium photo edit. That smile, and a fun easy-going attitude help him "put folks at ease, because everyone is a bit nervous in front of a camera." You'll also have no trouble finding a photo of Bill in a Hawaiian shirt, as he has a collection of 53, which certainly humbles this writer and probably a few other UPAA veterans. Meet Bill Bitzinger, hailing from Ferris State University in Michigan, the newest member of the UPAA Board of Directors.

Photography is actually a second career for Bill, who graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in biology. He was a laboratory research assistant until at age 30 he had an early mid-life crisis. "I grew sick of killing lab rats and cleaning test tubes," Bill says. He then decided to use some darkroom experience gained at the research lab to "be the best photographer I could be." To that end, he enrolled in an intensive two-year program at Lansing Community College. Upon graduation, Bill landed a job right away at a Detroit commercial studio that needed someone to

run their new E-6 sink line. When the studio closed five years later, Bill was able to procure a freelance contract at Michigan State where fellow Lansing graduate, Bruce Fox was the photographer.

Bruce, who is currently the photographer for Buffalo State University, taught Bill how to move away from the commercial side of lighting, to a faster and lighter style of campus shooting. Bill caught on quickly using less equipment and more available light. So when the photographer at Ferris State retired two years later in 1992, Bill had the experience to beat out 38 other applicants and land the position. He's been there, as an official full UPAA member, ever since. For more than ten years he was the only university photographer at Ferris. Recently he hired another shooter, 22-year-old Matt Yeoman, who started out as Bill's student intern.

Budgets were tight at Ferris, but Bill finally attended his first UPAA symposium in San Antonio in 1996, and has attended five more since then. He remembers John Poindexter well (besides the shirts of course) and the blazing heat of Texas in June. "Only Vanderbilt was hotter," says Bill. So when we ventured to the University of Houston in 2004, Bill knew a steady supply of cold drinks was needed for the membership. So once again he lent his talents to the hospitality room committee. In 2001 Bill recalls driving all over Provo Utah looking for a store to obtain supplies, finally finding a discreet brick building that obviously wasn't advertising 'Happy Hour.' We'll need his expertise and dedication again this year when the annual symposium returns to Brigham Young University.



PHOTO BY BILL BITZINGER



PHOTO BY BILL BITZINGER

Like many fellow UPAA members, Bill enjoys his profession because it allows him to do something different everyday and meet interesting people in the process. “That first symposium was a real revelation. To meet all these folks from around the country that were doing the same job, and had the same frustrations and joys as I did”, recalls Bill. “I really dig the mission of the group,” (hey, Bill also admits to being a bit of a 'Deadhead' with thirty-three shows under his belt) “and I wanted to participate more,” he adds, as two of the reasons for running for the Board at the Brockport symposium.

Bill recently had a gallery show of 30 black & white photos, showcasing three different cameras and the merits of each. The majority of the images were made with a Diana but others were made with a Hasselblad or a 4x5 view camera. “I love how each camera brings different things to the image-making process. I’ve even put the three cameras on display so people can see the differences in the equipment.”



LETCWORTH STATE PARK PHOTO BY BILL BITZINGER

# MEMBER PROFILE

BILL BITZINGER, FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY, BIG RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

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Employer: **Ferris State University**

Job Title: **Photographic Services Coordinator**

Department: **University Advancement & Marketing**

I have been a Photographer for: **20 years**

First Camera: **Folding Kodak from my grandfather**

Current Camera(s): **2 D1x, D70, F3, N90, Bronica, Hasselblad, SINAR**

Favorite Lens: **Nikkor 85mm**

Education: **B.S. in Biology, Michigan State University and an Associates degree in Photography, Lansing Community College**

Family: **Amy Packard, Favorite Woman in the World and daughters, Erika & Jessica**

Age: **51**

Town: **Big Rapids, MI**

Major Job Responsibilities: **Publications, marketing and sports photographs**

Most Enjoyable Part of Job: **Something different every day and meeting interesting people**

Most Challenging Part of Job: **Being creative on demand**



NETHERLANDS CANAL PHOTO BY BILL BITZINGER



SOUTH BEACH, MIAMI PHOTO BY BILL BITZINGER

Best Work Traits: **Making good photos quickly**

Colleagues Describe Me As: **Fun and easy to work with**

Earliest Career Interest: **Marine Biologist**

My Very First Job Was: **Manager of park concession stand at 16**

A Perfect Day of Work Is: **Completing a terrific, well conceived assignment**

Most Memorable or Humorous Memory On Job:

**Telling every new University president that at least 2 people will be at every event– him and me**

Achievement I Am Most Proud Of: **Nurturing some incredible young photographers who have become very successful**

Describe Your, Management, or Work Style: **I'll provide the tools and training–show me what you can do**

The Best Advice I've Received That Has Helped Me With My Job Is: **You're only as good as your last photo**

What Keeps Me Motivated To Do My Job:

**Making the next photo better**

The Five Guests (Living or Dead) at my Fantasy Dinner Party would be: **Jerry Garcia, Lyle Lovett, Kurt Vonnegut, Ray Bradbury, and Thomas Jefferson**

The Book About My Life Would Be Called: **Is it 5 O'Clock Yet?**

If A Movie Was Made About My Life, I'd Want to Be Played By: **Jeff Bridges**

Experience That Has Had the Biggest Impact On My Life: **Career switch from Biology to Photography**

I Knew I Was An Adult When: **I figured out how to get somebody to pay me for what I knew**

My Philosophy On Life: **Don't sweat the small stuff...and it's all small stuff**

My Biggest Pet Peeve: **Automated phone trunks at utility companies – lemme talk to a real person**

Favorite...

Saying: **Coolsville, daddy-o**

Movie: ***Blade Runner***

Book: ***Dune***

Place: **Any coastline**

Food: **Roasted Glazed Salmon**

TV Show: **I don't own a TV**

Musical Performer/Band: **The Grateful Dead**

Hobbies/Pastimes: **Gardening, home improvement**



GENESEE VALLEY COUNTRY MUSEUM, NEW YORK  
PHOTO BY BILL BITZINGER

# MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING

BY NICK ROMANENKO, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, PISCATAWAY, NEW JERSEY

A little later than usual, the UPAA Board of Directors held their Mid-Year Board Meeting over the weekend of January 15, 2006. Seems it was impossible to get everyone together during the traditional November slot due to conflicts with members' homecoming weekends and Thanksgiving holiday schedules. Robert Jordan hosted the Board for a second time in three years, at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi.

Some members came prepared to wear shorts in the Southern clime of January, and were very disappointed that temperatures averaged only in the high 40s. Regardless, the camaraderie was warm, we got some work done, and we're all looking forward to seeing everyone again at the BYU symposium this summer.

The first order of business was the initiation rites for new board member Bill Bitzinger, from Ferris State University in Michigan. Due to the vow of silence however, we can't really go more into detail, except to say Bill survived and is still with us.

The annual Print Competition was the first item discussed. Some names were brought up to work with Larry Dean, the current Chairman, on helping run and eventually taking over the administration of this competition. Robert Jordan and Jim Dusen raised the point that the success of the competition is causing major space issues at every school hosting symposiums. Last year at Brockport we approached nearly 300 entries. This is up from approximately 200 just a few years ago. The ever-present interest of some members in making

the competition all electronic was briefly entertained by the board, but the consensus was that this type of competition brings up a slew of new problems. Board members expressed various reasons: 1. members like to judge at their own pace; 2. see large images next to one another, and 3. image quality is easier to judge from a large print than from a computer screen. Robert and Jim suggested limiting entries to five per member or reducing the entry print size from 11x14 to 8x10. The possibility of eliminating the Personal Vision category was also suggested. Nick Romanenko felt the total number of prints would not decrease substantially by eliminating the Personal Vision category. Members would just shift their entries to other categories, taking advantage of the "having paid for six anyway" rationale. Plus it would disenfranchise Associate Members, since Personal Vision is the only category they can enter. Dean Carothers suggested doing away with a flat entry fee and charging \$5 for each print entered. This should cause members to enter only their strongest work, and not encourage members to enter the full six because they're already paid for six entries. The board liked this idea best and voted for the fee change.

Dawn Van Hall raised the related issue of returning large numbers of prints after the Print Competition. The board argued that the cost and time for members to make prints has decreased considerably in the digital age. By a vote of 7-1, with only Nick dissenting, a new rule requires members to pick up their prints at the symposium if they want them returned. Otherwise, prints will be discarded. Steve Mangione submitted a report stating that entries were way up in the



L TO R DEAN CAROTHERS, JIM DUSEN, JAY FERCHAUD, NICK ROMANENKO, BILL BITZINGER, GLENN CARPENTER, DAWN VAN HALL, AND ROBERT JORDAN. THE MAGIC BUS IN OXFORD, MS JUST SEEMED APPROPRIATE AFTER MORNING OF MEETINGS.  
PHOTO BY ROBERT JORDAN AND BILL BITZINGER.

Publications Competition this year, and he would like to train a replacement(s) to take over his responsibilities in running this competition, and in helping Larry run the Print Competition.

Jay Ferchaud reviewed the Monthly Image Competition, (MIC), with reference to a written report from Chris Hughes. The major issues are occasional low participation and lack of clarity in the category eligibility rules. The Board tweaked the rules and instructed Chris to post them on the UPAA website. The Board also decided to institute a two-day “cooling off period” between the end of entering the MIC and the opening of voting. This will allow the MIC and web administrators to determine eligibility issues and address categories that have less than 15 entries each.

Reports from Chris Hughes (written) and Dean Carothers (in person) followed concerning the UPAA website and the very popular listserv. Chris, along with his crew at the University of Waterloo, has made major changes and additions to the UPAA site. The vast majority of feedback from the membership has been positive, especially once members were able to choose their own passwords and then have access to change their personal information.



JAY FERCHAUD REPORTS ON THE MIC AND ITS NEW SPONSOR, THINK TANK.  
PHOTO BY GLENN CARPENTER

The shift of the listserv to Google Groups has been a success. Despite a “learning curve,” members are getting used to the new way of posting messages.

Glenn Carpenter discussed the future of *The Contact Sheet*. Board members were very excited to see the first use of full color in the Winter 2006 issue, and much discussion was devoted to how to use color in the future and not ‘break the bank’ on printing costs. The Fall 2005 issue was Tim Webb’s last issue as Editor. The Board expressed its gratitude to Tim for his hard work. The possibility of cutting back to two issues a year was discussed. Glenn would like to be able to enlist some professional design and copyediting help.

Jim raised the topic of publishing an annual UPAA book. This is something that could be done via the LuLu website where, for a fee, interested members could purchase a copy of the book. Glenn and Bill volunteered to take on this project. It is anticipated that the book would cover winning Print Competition and MIC images, along with accompanying backstories. UPAA history could be covered, and additional member profiles would be included.

Robert Jordan announced that we have 18 new members since the Brockport Symposium. The topic of membership renewals and categories was discussed for an extended time. After much back and forth banter, the board decided to institute a new Student membership category, with an annual fee of \$25. In addition, the fee will remain \$50 per year for Full membership (those photographers on full-time staff) and \$35 for Associate membership (a broad range outside full-time staffers). Running separate print and MIC competitions for the Student category will be addressed later.

The board voted unanimously to eliminate the Traveling Show. It has not been shown since the



BILL BITZINGER LISTEN AND NICK ROMANENKO TAKES TAKES NOTES AS MARK PHILBRICK REPORTS ON THE SYMPOSIUM. PHOTO BY GLENN CARPENTER

## MID-YEAR CONTINUED

Eastern Kentucky Symposium, and interest is nil for future exhibitions. The costs of shipping, along with the physical demands of storage, do not justify continuing this program.

We reached Mark Philbrick on a ski slope via cell phone, and he gave us an update on the 2006 BYU Symposium. The biggest possible change in scheduled symposium events would be having an awards luncheon instead of a dinner. This is mostly due to the UPAA group shifting to Moab in the latter part of the week. Mark also has a very good spouses program planned. Details on accommodations and programs are now posted on the UPAA web site. Mark informed the Board he was ready to produce another UPAA Print Competition poster and make it available to us to send out with membership renewals.

Glenn is working on hosting the 2007 symposium in Chicago with the help of several other member schools in his area.

Dawn Van Hall covered corporate sponsorship, and commended Jeff Shaw for bringing in several companies to support the MIC.

Dean Carothers summarized the UPAA financial report, and declared 2005 "a very good year." This was mostly due to a nice surplus from the Brockport Symposium. Thanks were given to Jim and the administration of Brockport for keeping our expenses as low as possible. Dean reported that after dues are collected in March and April, our combined accounts will top out around \$44K. Some of this will be used for marquee speakers/presenters at future symposiums, including BYU. We will also be able to keep symposium registration for BYU at a very reasonable \$300 for members.



ROBERT JORDAN WAS THE HOST AT THIS YEAR'S MEETING.  
PHOTO BY GLENN CARPENTER



TREASURER, DEAN CAROTHERS, DECLARES 2005, "A VERY GOOD YEAR".  
PHOTO BY GLENN CARPENTER

The last major item for discussion was future insurance coverage for UPAA and symposiums, and incorporation of the organization. Several board members were entrusted to look into legal and incorporation options during the spring.

The board positions of Robert Jordan and Dean Carothers will be open for election in June at this year's Utah symposium. Steve Mangione was unanimously voted a Life Membership to UPAA for his years of service to the organization on the occasion of his retirement.

The Utah Symposium is approaching rapidly. For all you Boy and Girl Scouts out there we have prepared a packing list for your experience in Utah. It's going to be FUN, FUN, FUN and educational experiences as well.

The second half of the week will be spent in Moab. This is a great part of the country, but quite different than most other locations. Please review the lists and websites and pack appropriately for the trip.



CLOCKWISE  
THREE GOSSIPS, MOUNTAIN BIKING, AND BALANCE ROCK.  
PHOTOS BY MARK PHILBRICK

WE WILL BE HIKING IN HOT WEATHER AT HIGH ALTITUDES. PLEASE REVIEW THE FOLLOWING WEB SITES TO KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT.

- <http://health.utah.gov/travel/spring/dehydration.htm>
- [http://health.utah.gov/travel/spring/altitude\\_illness.shtm](http://health.utah.gov/travel/spring/altitude_illness.shtm)
- <http://health.utah.gov/travel/spring/insects.htm>

## EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

### PERSONAL ITEMS

- Standard Travel Gear – toothbrush, books, medications, etc.
- Camera Gear – If you don't know what to bring don't come

### CLOTHING

- Shoes/Boots – Sturdy breathable shoes or light hiking boots. You need to feel comfortable hiking 6 to 8 miles in your footwear
- Socks – Preferably synthetic, cotton promotes blisters
- Backup pair of socks – to keep in your daypack for emergencies
- Short Sleeved shirts – light and breathable – again: synthetics are better than cotton
- Light jacket/sweatshirt/fleece – it will get chilly in the evenings
- Long pants – again for the evenings
- Shorts or light breathable pants

### ON THE TRAIL

- Hat
- Sunblock – sweat proof, at least 30 SPF
- Insect Repellent
- Lip balm
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Rain gear – jacket or poncho
- Water Bottle – you will need at least four liters a day. If you bring containers for two liters of water there should be a place to refill
- Snack food – can be purchased in Moab
- Daypack

### ON THE TRAIL (OPTIONAL BUT USEFUL)

- Sunglasses
- Utility knife
- Bandanna
- Money to bribe a fellow photog to carry your photo gear

### BASIC FIRST AID ITEMS

- Band-Aides
- Disinfectant swabs or ointment
- Moleskin
- Ibuprofen/Aspirin/Tylenol

# PRINT COMPETITION

LARRY DEAN, WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, MACOMB ILLINOIS  
MARK CARRIVEAU, ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ELGIN, ILLINOIS

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A highlight of each Symposium is the Print Competition. The symposium provides the opportunity to showcase your work and to see what your colleagues from across the country have been doing. UPAA Print Competition Awards are coveted because the prints are judged by photographers who know what it takes to get that one shot and what it takes to solve those tricky mixed lighting situations.

It's time to choose your best photographs for the annual competition. In order to keep the process running smoothly, we need your help. When submitting prints please remember these few guidelines.

- Prints must arrive in Provo, Utah no later than Friday, June 9, to be eligible for the competition.
- Prints must be mounted on Gator Board or foamcore.
- Be sure to included a completed entry form.
- Each print must have it's own print label securely fastened to the back of the print in the upper right hand corner. This helps the volunteers to know which end is up when hanging the prints.
- Make sure the correct category has been entered on the print label. The Competition chairs cannot be responsible for placing your print in the correct category if it is not labeled.

## NEW FOR THIS YEAR

- The entry fee is \$5 per print with a maximum of 6 prints. You may choose to enter all your prints in one category or evenly distribute your prints.
- Only checks will be accepted for the print competition. Only Print and Publication Competition checks should be included with the entries. Also be sure you send a check!
- Because of the volume of prints and inconsistency of supplying return postage, prints will not be returned, but may be picked up at the symposium.



PHIL HUMNICKY PREPARES TO JUDGE THE ANNUAL PRINT COMPETITION. PHOTO BY FRANK WILLIAMS



JAN BAUMGARTNER, JAY FERCHAUD, CHUCK BERRY, GLENN CARPENTER, AND DONNY CROWE JUDGE THE 2005 PRINT COMPETITION IN BROCKPORT, NY. PHOTO BY FRANK WILLIAMS