

# Rangefinder

The Missouri Photo Workshop September 24, 2013 • Volume 65 Issue 3



**ABOVE:** Photographer Constantine Savvides runs along with the Trenton High School football team during practice Monday.

(Photo by Whitney Hayward)

**RIGHT:** Trenton High School football coach Wes Croy speaks to players during practice Monday. Savvides wants to capture the contrast and complexity of Croys life on and off the field.

(Photo by Constantine Savvides)





Photo by Whitney Hayward

# IN CONCEPT

Kim Komenich started the photographic world Sunday night, the opening night of the 65th Missouri Photo Workshop, by applying a 19th century mathematician's analysis of time and space to the world of photojournalism. Hermann Minkowski, was a German interested in creating and developing, "geometry of numbers and ... geometrical methods to solve problems in number theory, mathematical physics, and the theory of relativity." (Wikipedia)

As we all know, making a photograph is hard work and involves brain processing activity on both conscious and unconscious levels. We have all thought about images in Gestalt terms – figure/ground, for example, and classroom critique inevitably invokes the rule of thirds, framing, tonality, and on and on.

Kim said his notion of applying Minkowski's visualized model of time in space came from, "Watching too much Science Channel," and is eager to dismiss skeptics with the assurance that he, himself is still trying to figure it out, and doesn't necessarily claim a new solution to the formulae of photography.

Nonetheless, Minkowski's cones of past (below) and future (above) and the "hypersurface of the pres-

ent" makes sense. As Kim says, "It's what's observable to everyone at present. It comes down to the essence of a decisive moment.

"What it illustrates to me is that the picture is always happening, it's just whether or not you are there to observe it.

"Wherever you are in the 'meta space' (if we think of whatever's happening in time as part of the matrix) if you turn your head this way or that way, it's a different picture. it all comes down to the confluence of what's happening in the place that you have chosen to be.

In Kim's own photography, he says, "When I was at my prime in the 80s and 90s - I was in tune with the minimal

equipment I carried - prime lenses on Leicas, shooting film. I always knew what the picture would be. Whether looking through the viewfinder or not, I knew. I was into the "experiment" - and didn't get to see the picture, which really helped to one my ability to anticipate intuitively the composition. I could focus the Leica before it came to my eye; I only had two lenses and because I wasn't zooming, I knew what it would look like.

"One my 'tricks' was to use a 21 mm lens, but to crop a 35mm lens image out of it - sometimes - essentially get the depth of field with a 21, but angle of view of a 35."

With this picture in Viet Nam in 1989,

Kim says, the "Camera was definitely not to my eye, I was wearing dark clothing, I took a knee, but having the camera at the waist they were not looking at me. And there was some luck involved."

His decision to shoot from the hip was thoughtfully considered. "It was about being a big guy and I was always looking for a way to disappear, to be a fly on the wall, not a fly in the soup..."



# THE (MOSTLY) OLD FOLKS



KAEL MARIE **ALFORD**

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**Q:** *Why does photography matter?*

**A:** Photography matters because it's my passport ... It gives me an excuse to go to places I wouldn't otherwise have a reason to go to.

*What is the most underrated vegetable?*

**A:** Kale because it is such a fibrous and nutritious vegetable.

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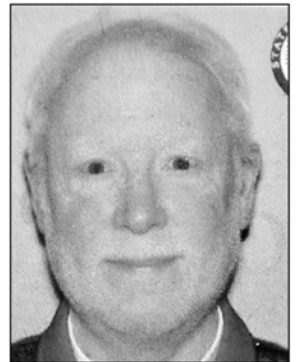
PAUL RANDY **COX**

**Q:** *What is the most comfortable piece of clothing you own?*

**A:** A ratty, old Mizzou T-shirt that I just don't want to throw away.

**Q:** *What photographer would you eat dinner with and why?*

**A:** Jacques Henri Lartigue because he made better and funnier photographs of his relatives than any I've ever seen.



JAMES PATRICK **CURLY**

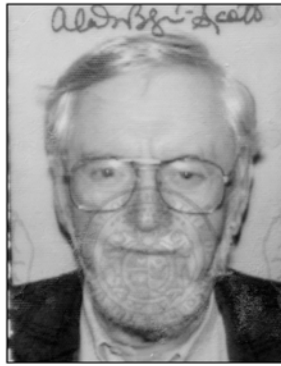
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**Q:** *What is the most comfortable piece of clothing you own?*

**A:** His corduroy jacket. Unfortunately, it was ruined in the Holi Festival (but he is still going to wear it!)

**Q:** *Most underrated vegetable?*

**A:** Cucumbers. Pro tip: put them with some onion, vinegar, water and sugar.



## FRED DUANE **DAILEY**

**Q:** What is the most comfortable piece of clothing you own?

**A:** Cotton and denim shirts are his go-to's. He calls them his "farmer clothes."

**Q:** Most underrated vegetable?

**A:** A good tomato. They're hard to find. We're talking a fresh tomato out of the patch.

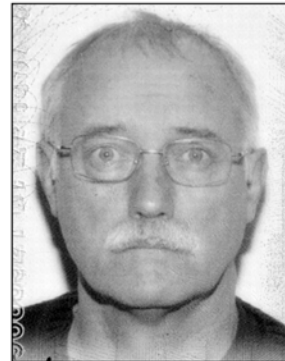
## DENNIS RANDALL **DIMICK**

**Q:** What photographer would you have dinner with and what would you ask him or her?

**A:** Garry Winogrand and William Klein; why they found photography rewarding.

**Q:** Most comfortable piece of clothing?

**A:** An old, loose sweater.



## MELISSA KAY **FARLOW**



**Q:** What photographer would you have dinner with and what would you ask him or her?

**A:** I would want to simply spend time with women photographers and not ask questions.

**Q:** Most comfortable piece of clothing?

**A:** My Patagonia sweater. It can be a pillow or keep you warm.

## DEANNE RAE **FITZMAURICE**

**Q:** Why do you think photography matters?

**A:** Photography is the universal language. It connects us all with a visual language as a society to help with understanding issues and people.

**Q:** What advice would you give to a photographer making a portfolio?

**A:** Show us who you are as a person and a photographer. I want to know you and understand you when I look at your work.

**Q:** Most underrated vegetable?

**A:** Artichoke.



## PRESTON MCDOWELL **GANNAWAY**

**Q:** Why does photography matter?

**A:** It helps connect us to the world around us.

**Q:** Most underrated fruit?

**A:** Blueberries are the most perfect fruit. They are highly nutritious, full of antioxidants, you don't have to wash them, they don't get your hands dirty and they have a really long shelf life.

## MARYANNE **GOLON**

**Q:** What advice would you give to a photographer making a portfolio?

**A:** Say who you are as a photographer. Show how you see and what's important to you.

**Q:** What photographer would you have dinner with and what would you ask him or her?

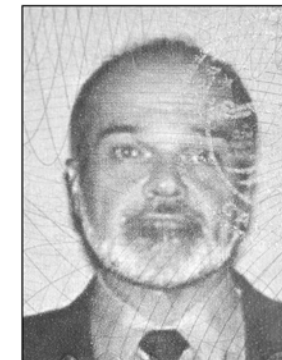
**A:** Margaret Bourke-White, and how she thought her vision of the world did or did not differ from her male compatriots.

**Q:** Most comfortable piece of clothing you own?

**A:** "shrugs" (or the things you put over your other clothes)



## KIM **KOMENICH**



**Q:** Why do you think photography matters?

**A:** The nature of a picture shows us everything at once. There's nothing that can convey so much information and emotion so quickly.

**Q:** Most comfortable piece of clothing?

**A:** A black T-shirt.

**Q:** If you weren't a photographer, what would you be?

**A:** A black T-shirt (yes, this is his answer.)

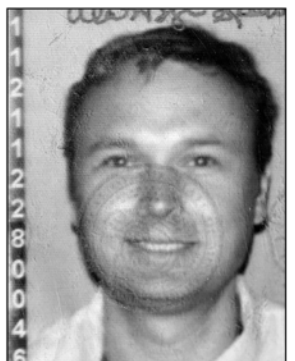
## BRIAN WAYNE **KRATZER**

**Q:** What photographer would you have dinner with and what would you ask him or her?

**A:** Arthur Rothstein and his experience with the Dust Bowl and what he had to say about the people he met in the 1930s.

**Q:** Most underrated vegetable?

**A:** Kale, of course.





## DAVID LEROY REES

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**Q:** *Why does photography matter?*

**A:** Photography matters because it creates a visual history with a personal vision. It's a very distinctive creative marker of the times we live in.

**Q:** *If you weren't a photographer, what would you be?*

**A:** I would either be a farmer or a psychologist.

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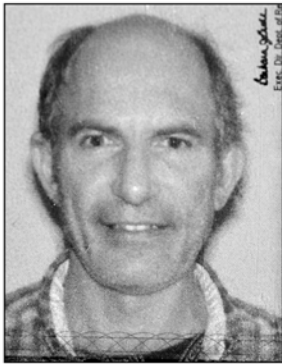
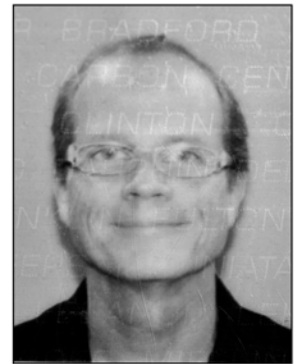
## RANDY JACK OLSON

**Q:** *What advice would you give to a photographer making a portfolio?*

**A:** Get rid of the speed bumps.

**Q:** *If you weren't a photographer, what would you be?*

**A:** I would be a blues harmonica player.



## CRAIG FAIRCLOUGH WALKER

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**Q:** *What is the most underrated vegetable?*

**A:** Craig doesn't like vegetables... but he eats them because he has heard they're good for you. However, he's still unsure of the evidence.

**Q:** *If you weren't a photographer, what would you be?*

**A:** Lost.



FROM LEFT: Craig Walker, Melissa Farlow, Preston Gannaway, Kael Alford and Randy Olson Monday night. (Photo by Whitney Hayward)

# ADAPT, ADJUST, EMBRACE

By Duane Dailey  
Co-Director Emeritus

Things will change. Just accept that idea. The story you pitched to your faculty team, seeking approval to photograph, can end quite far from where you envisioned.

It happens. That's life. Also, accept the idea that while out working on stories, you will feel uncomfortable. Documenting others' lives, if done well, won't be easy or comfortable.

For a Rock Barn full of Guy Noirs seeking answers to life's persistent photo questions, the MPW faculty shares photo-life tips by the bushel. Gather the harvest. Life will be easier with knowledge.

As I listened in the dark, I jotted down one-liners. Those gems practically glow in my reporter notebook. They are brilliant life guides. Gather them. Take them and polish them.

The theme of the evening program evolved, as each teacher shared amazing tips. You may have noticed that their words weren't about pictures. But, about you as you work in making pictures.

That's not stuff you learn in a photo texts. Or, from a blog online. It's here, now, and so very personal. Appreciate.

How do you find stories? Preston Gannaway finds stories by being observant. Be out there. Insert yourself into social situations. Doesn't that sound easy? It's not. You will feel uncomfortable, she says. Accept that.

At events, be early and stay late. "You can't make pictures if you are not there." Or, "As you drive, be observant." Whatever the weather, hurricane or snow: Be out there. On a slow news day, go out and see.

Or, take this: "Time is the crucial ingredient in making a story."

As the photographer you are the exotic

creature. You will push yourself to the edge of socially acceptable behavior. No one knows the rules, but you must be aware there are lines you can't cross. You can lose access.

Maryanne Golan, Washington Post, explained her workshop philosophy. It's a week in a bubble, totally devoted to photography away from real life. "Embrace the Bubble. Accept the rules."

You won't have the assignment to photograph Obama or Biden this week. But, you can learn from photos Maryanne showed of Post photographers who did.

Basically, Barack is never seen by photographers when his staff isn't in total control of the optics. However, this photographer learned the path from one optic site to another. The natural shot was captured in the hallway. That photo made page one.

In contrast, Joe Biden gave total access, up close and personal. What a difference in display: Pages of copy and photos. Access is all.

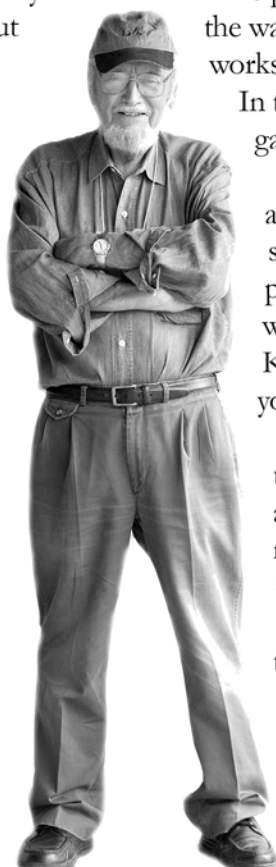
The photographer gained that access, by the way, over years. It was not a one-week workshop.

In the evening finale, the faculty chorus line gave tidbits.

At work, with people: Be a person. Not a hard-driving photographer working the scene all the time. Be a likeable, pleasant person who other people enjoy being with. Know when to share your life. Know when to back off. Don't wear out your subject on the first day.

It has happened. At the end of the day, the subject is exhausted with constant attention. They can say: "Enjoyed meeting you; but, don't come back tomorrow."

After you gain access, you must work to keep it. The time inside a person's private life is precious. Treasure it. It's a gift to you from them. Learn what you can give back.



# HIDDEN GEMS

## OF THE APP STORE



### VSCO CAM

A Photoshop-like app that uses a variety of presets to emphasize exposure, contrast, cropping, etc. for mobile devices.



### 500px

Like Instagram, this app allows uploading of high-res images and a variety of community interactions are possible.



### PANORAMA ON YOUR IPHONE

If you're not already aware of this wonderful new feature, try it. It's addictive, shows the world in new ways and according to faculty member Kael Alford, "it's actually gotten me a couple of jobs."

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#### SOCIAL MEDIA

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#### WEATHER FORECAST


TOMORROW

 81° / 55°

THURSDAY

 84° / 59°

FRIDAY

 84° / 61°

#### RANGEFINDER STAFF

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co-director emeritus:

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GREG KENDALL-BALL

KELLY COLEMAN

Rangefinder editors:

BEATRIZ COSTA-LIMA AND

SHELBY FEISTNER AND

RANDY COX

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**ATTENTION:** Give our old friend and crew member Quint Smith (multimedia team) a pat on the back for his birthday today! Born during the week of MPW.32 in Sedalia, you do the math (anyone else with a birthday this week, best wishes also!)