

RANGEFINDER



COOPER COUNTY ANIMAL HOSPITAL'S Whitney Fahrendorf distracts Sadie while Courtney Smith, left, and Hannah Huntsperger trim her nails on Tuesday in Boonville. The owners of the hospital, Scott and Kelly Fray, have been married for 30 years. They work 10-hour shifts together at the hospital. YUVRAJ KHANNA | TEAM CLIFF AND VI

MPW.50's lessons last a lifetime

By Madison Parry

In the 21 years since the Missouri Photo Workshop covered Vanessa Dorman, a lot has changed. Sheila Vemmer, the MPW.50 photographer who covered Dorman in 1998, is no longer a stay-at-home mom.

With more time to herself, Dorman is living a much different lifestyle. "I have the best freaking life ever," Dorman said. "I do whatever I want right now. I run, I exercise, I go to the lake, hang out with my boyfriend... I'm lucky."

Now the Associate Executive Director and Healthy Living Director at the Boonslick Heartland YMCA as well as a Second Ward councilwoman in Boonville, Dorman continues to love what she does. "It's a pretty flexible job," Dorman said of her position with the YMCA.

"My passion is fitness and helping people to be the best version of themselves. I do that every day. My passion and my job are the same thing, and a lot of people don't get to do that."

When Dorman was photographed for the 1998 workshop, she recalls being very willing to open her life to Vemmer. She thought nothing of it and appreciates the time spent documenting her life. "I cherish it now," Dorman said, reflecting on the process. "I'm not as interesting now, probably, but back then, it wasn't a bad experience at all. It was really a pretty cool experience. Anybody who has the opportunity and has their own story photographed should cherish it."

For Sheila Vemmer, her experience photographing was just as impactful. Vemmer, who had served in the navy, expressed her concern at the time with being out of her element.

"I was coming from a very different place than the other



participants. I didn't know all the people and the names [of the well-known faculty] like everyone else did. I purposely stayed at a different place to be separate from everyone because I wanted to focus on the on the work without so many distractions, and to learn as much as I could," she said.

She also remembers a statement from faculty member Lois Raimondo that continues to have a lasting impact on her, "Lois said something that

has stuck with me: 'Ordinary people lead extraordinary lives.' I've carried that with me throughout my career and even now." Vemmer says the experience helped her learn how to be more open to quiet situations.

Dorman reminisces on the experience, recounting a memory from that week, "I remember a particular moment when the photographer was with us - I was standing in my kitchen and I was in a rush. I had my youngest daughter

Vanessa Dorman's office at the YMCA is adorned with photos of her daughters Peaches and Samantha.

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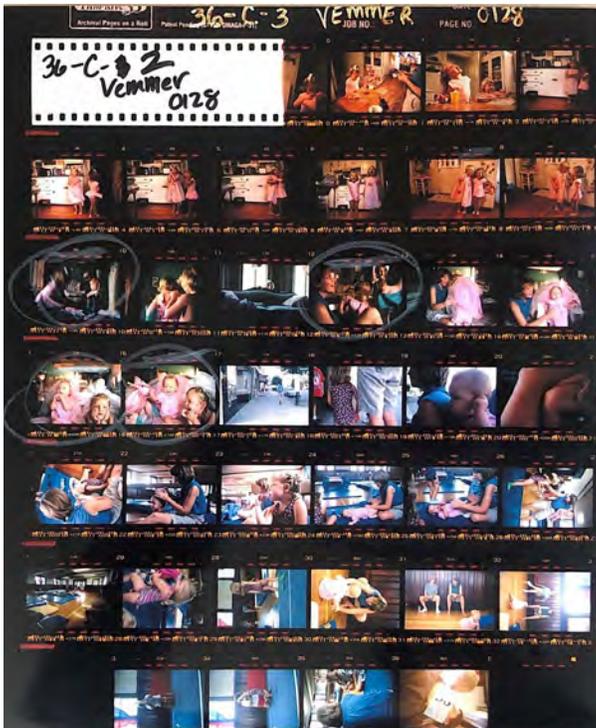
strapped to my back and I was stuffing my face trying to eat something before leaving the house," Dorman laughs.

"But I hadn't even thought anything of it before. It was just my life, just the way things were." Dorman admits she doesn't remember a lot during that week in 1998, but she still has the photos taken of her and her children, which help her to remember. Vemmer gave her a set of prints and Dorman continues to appreciate them as much now as she did then.

Her favorite photo of the take: a close-up of her two daughters playing dress-up. One thing the experience taught Dorman is that everyone has something interesting to share, "Everyone has a story. It's up to the people to be willing to share and the photographer to pull the story out."



Vanessa Dorman's MPW story from 1998



Sheila Vemmer's 1998 photo story from MPW.50 portrays Vanessa Dorman as a proud stay-at-home mom. Today, Vanessa says her favorite photograph from the series is of her two daughters Samantha and Peaches, left, playing dress-up.



MPW.71 Scholarship Recipients

By *Lauren Richey*

There are nineteen scholarship winners attending this year's MPW. Among these photographers are students chosen specifically by members of faculty, including students Jeff Dean and Denise Silfee.

"It's an incredible experience to be here with these talented people," Jeff Dean smiles. "It's my second time coming back to visit... It's starting to feel like a family, and I'm not even a part of this family."

There's no doubt of the value this workshop offers to its attendees. "I love getting the feedback," says Denise Silfee. "I get feedback from the University of Oregon grad programs, but I know them pretty well at this point. It's nice to get feedback from different faculty members here."

For many students, extracurriculars can be expensive and timely. This leaves workshops and other important opportunities out of reach for many



Denise Silfee

people.

"It would have been possible, but probably not financially smart for me to do this," muses Silfee. "But the chance to come here with Torsten (Kjellstrand) along with the scholarship made it an easy decision."

"Nothing's impossible, but it would have been pretty difficult [to afford]" Dean noted. MPW's scholarship programs offer a chance for students of all income levels to learn from a talented group of industry professionals.

Scholarships

Verónica G. Cárdenas-Mary Clerc Scholarship
Danielle Da Silva-Helge Hummelvoll Scholarship
David 'Dee' Delgado-Directors' Scholarship
Nathan Gibson-Darrell Barton Scholarship
Bing Guan-Nikon Emerging Professional
Caroline Gutman-Directors' Scholarship
Madeline Jordan-Bill & Duane Scholarship
Jessica Lee-Nikon Emerging Professional
Jeff Dean-Torsten & Jean Kjellstrand Award
Sarahbeth Maney-Komenich/SFSU Scholarship
Rosem Morton-Bill Marr/Sarah Leen Award
Jacob Moscovitch-Ray Wong & Mardy Fones Award
Liv Paggiarino-Randy Cox Scholarship
Moriah Ratner- CPOY Gold Documentary Award
Denise E. Silfee-Kjellstrand/Oregon Scholarship
Nadav Soroker-Returning Crew scholarship
Keshab Raj Thoker-Jack and Dorothy Fields Scholarship
Morgan Timms-Mary Clerc Scholarship
Gabiella Angotti-Jones-POYI Angus McDougall-Overall Excellence in Editing Award

What's in your camera bag?



Angela Douglas Ramsey

Favorite feature of your bag?: It has a lot of pockets. I'm organized, so I like having little homes for everything.

What is your favorite item that you carry that is not camera related?: Tissues. I get cold easily and my nose runs, especially in the winter.



Bear Goldstein

What is your favorite item that you carry that is not camera related?: My jacket. It is a synthetic, down jacket. It is very warm and water resistant - I take it with me anywhere.



Rachel Wisniewski

Favorite feature of your bag?: The compartments are Velcro and can be moved around.

What is your favorite item that you carry that is not camera related?: I always put a granola bar in my bag. I can get really hangry sometimes – actually, all the time.

On-site photo discipline makes for easy edit

Respect the 400-frame limit

When photographing for three days, a 400-frame limit seems sparse. Just wait for edit day. You'll see 400-frames as too many to sort. A self-imposed story limit will be tiny by comparison.

To be an editor of your own work, you must be ruthless. You will kill your sweet babies. Edit day is brutal.

In writing, fewer words communicate better. Write short. Also show short.

When telling a visual story, limit yourself. That's a hard-earned skill. Your faculty may not be as in love with your images as you are. That's just a guess. But, it has experience to back it.

MaryAnne Golon told how she and photographer Lorenzo Tugnoli edited a wide take of

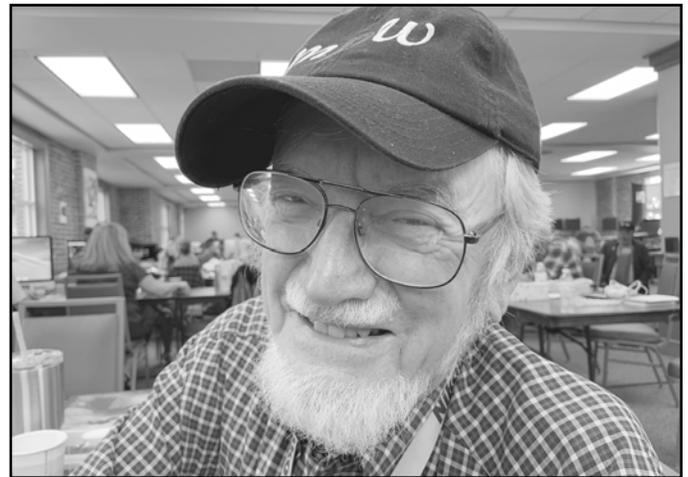
154 images down to 17. It was tough. But they won a Pulitzer Prize.

You have a tough job. Edit 400 images down to story length. What is enough? Ten or 12?

Here's a method I learned from Bill Kuykendall, former MPW co-director. Lay out prints on a table. Sort them into groups of similar photos. Make groups of baby photos, parent photos, details, story-telling segments and more.

Edit each group, one by one. Get rid of duplicates or similar and turn rejects face down. Reduce possible photos into small group, finally to two or three images.

MaryAnne described a similar process. Images were spread out on her table and



DAVID REES | RANGEFINDER

then sorted.

Editing on screen is difficult for me. Handling prints makes it easier. Call me tactile. Turn it over, it's dead. As I say, you must be brutal.

Start now to make your job easier. Limit loose shooting.

However, in an action-rich episode, shoot more than one

frame. Shoot three frames instead of 30. Of the three, one will be better than the other two. That helps maintain quality.

As you photograph this week, think ahead. What separate piles will you need for your story? What are the chapters?

Wear MPW memories on your sleeve

By Lauren Richey

By now, most attendees are familiar with the buttons that populate the lanyards and desks of MPW. Buttons feature headshots of faculty, famous photographers or snarky text, usually lining the collar of a denim jacket. "The buttons go at least as far back as MPW.63," co-director Jim Curley says.

Randy Cox first made the buttons as a fun souvenir for photographers and faculty at MPW.63. Cox passed away in 2017. "It started with famous photographers, then famous photographs. I love the Einstein sticking his tongue out," Curley recalls.

More than good for a laugh, the buttons are a great way to keep MPW as a fond memory. Plus, what better way to decorate your camera bag?

Kristen Zeis, a former staff member of MPW, and staff photographer of the Virginia Pilot, recalls the buttons fondly: "Buttons were one of my fondest memories during MPW weeks with Randy... I still have a button I made with him in my camera bag to date." At 2011's Clinton



Workshop, Zeis served as Cox's "button queen" and taught her how to make them.

Long-time staff have developed extensive collections. Curley describes a 100 size film canister full of his favorites, and David Rees' jacket displays a sizable selection on the front pockets. "One of my favorites: Randy made two variations for Dave [Rees] and me. The one for me was 'Go ask Dave' and the one he made for David was 'Go ask Jim.'"

The button tradition continues this year with gusto. Stop by the concierge to dig through the bin and collect your free souvenirs or win Amanda's Activity of the day for an exclusive edition.



TOP LEFT | The finished buttons made by Randy Cox and Kristen Zeis at MPW.63. This collection featured portraits of David Rees and Jim Curley.

ABOVE | Kristen Zeis and Randy Cox make buttons at MPW.63 in Clinton in 2011. Zies explained, "Randy Cox made me his button queen that year and taught me the ropes... He loved those buttons."

The Amazing Amanda's Activities

Name the female photographers in these MPW pins.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

E. _____

F. _____

G. _____

H. _____

I. _____

J. _____

K. _____

Yesterday's Puzzle Solution

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

E. _____

1. A

2. B

3. C

4. D

Fill out, return the puzzle for prizes!

See Amanda from the Rangefinder team with your filled out puzzle for daily prizes. Each day the prizes get bigger!

- A. Henri Cartier-Bresson
- B. Mary Ellen Mark
- C. Dorothea Lange
- D. Robert Capa
- E. Jackson Pollock!

Congratulations to Anto Tavitian for winning yesterday's prize!

3-DAY FORECAST

THURSDAY

HIGH | 77 LOW | 64

Sunny

10% chance of rain

Sunrise: 7:02 a.m.

Sunset: 7:01 p.m.

FRIDAY

HIGH | 86 LOW | 64

PM Thunderstorms

60% chance of rain

Sunrise: 7:02 a.m.

Sunset: 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY

HIGH | 75 LOW | 68

Scattered Thunderstorms

50% chance of rain

Sunrise: 7:03 a.m.

Sunset: 6:58 p.m.

SOURCE | THE WEATHER CHANNEL

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RANGEFINDER CREW

Amanda Lee

Madison Parry

David Rees

Lauren Richey

Maddie Davis

Photographer

Ray Wong

Impressario Editor

Duane Dailey

Editor Emeritus