The Louis Schmidt Award

1948 – Leo C. Massopust, FBPA
1949 – Anne Shiras, FBPA
1950 – Stella Zimmer, FBPA
1951 – Ralph P. Creer, FBPA
1952 – Leonard A. Julin, RBP, FBPA
1953 – Oscar W. Richards, PhD, FBPA
1954 – Ferdinand R. Harding, RBP, FBPA
1955 – C. Graham Eddy, FBPA
1956 – Mervin W. LaRue, Sr., FBPA
1957 – Lloyd E. Varden, RBP, FBPA
1958 – Albert Levin, RBP, FBPA
1959 – Paul H. Holinger, MD, FBPA
1960 – H. Lou Gibson, RBP, FBPA
1961 – Warren Sturgis, RBP, FBPA
1962 – Stanley J. McComb, RBP, FBPA
1963 – Marie E. Ikenberg, RBP, FBPA
1964 – Peter Hansell, MD, RBP, FBPA
1965 – Howard E. Tribe, RBP, FBPA
1966 – John V. Butterfield, FBPA
1967 – not awarded
1968 – Chester F. Reather, RBP, FBPA
1969 – Laurence B. Brown, RBP, FBPA
1970 – Verlin Y. Yamamoto, RBP, FBPA
1971 – Stephen P. Dittman, RBP, FBPA
1972 – Clifford L. Freehe, RBP, FBPA
1973 – Stanley Klosevych, RBP, FBPA
1974 – Roger P. Loveland, FBPA
1975 – E. Lynn Baldwin, RBP, FBPA
1976 – Charles P. Hodge, RBP, FBPA
1977 – Lardner A. Coffey, RBP, FBPA
1978 – John P. Vetter, RBP, FBPA
1979 – Donald H. Fritts, RBP, FBPA
1980 – Fritz Goro, RBP, FBPA
1981 – I. Lloyd Matlovsky, RBP, FBPA
1982 – Leslie Bowcock, MD, AIMBI
1983 – H. Paul Newman, RBP, FBPA
1984 – Percy Brooks, RBP, FBPA
1985 – Leon J. LeBeau, FBPA
1986 – Nile Root, RBP, FBPA
1987 – Martin L. Scott, FBPA
1988 – Ralph J. Marshall, PhD
1989 – Thomas P. Hurtgen, FBPA
1990 – Raymond E. Lund, RBP, FBPA
1991 – Robert F. Sisson, RBP, FBPA
1992 – Nicholas M. Graver, RBP, FBPA
1993 – A. Robin Williams, FBPA
1994 – Will E. Renner, RBP, FBPA
1995 – Dan Patton, RBP, FBPA
1996 – Kenneth V. Michaels, FBPA
1997 – Ronald F. Irvine, RBP, FBPA
1998 – Heather Angel, FRPS, FBIPP
1999 – Richard M. Williams, FBPA
2000 – Herbert R. Smith, Jr., FBPA
2001 – William J. Stenstrom, FBPA
2002 – W. David Tredinnick, FBPA
2003 – Joseph Ogrodnick, FBPA
2004 – Robert C. Turner, RBP, FBPA
2005 – Samuel Giannavola, RBP, FBPA
2006 – Gigi Williams, FBPA
2007 – Michael R. Peres, RBP, FBPA
2008 – Norman J. Barker, RBP, FBPA
2009 – Steven J. Harrison, FBPA
2010 – Andrew Davidhazy
2011 – Gale E. Spring, FBPA
The Louis Schmidt Award

This Award – the highest given in the BCA – is named for our second President. It is awarded annually for “outstanding contributions to the progress of biological communications.” The selection of the recipient each year is made by a committee composed of the nine most recent winners. This selection is subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.

Mr. Schmidt was in charge of photography at the Rockefeller Institute in New York City and was a founding member of the BPA in 1931. He had an abiding interest in sharing his photographic knowledge with his students and in promoting the highest technical standards in our association.

In 1943, on the occasion of his death, the BPA Journal commented, “In many ways, the BPA is a monument to Louis Schmidt.”

To give special distinction to the Award, those who receive it are known as “Louis Schmidt Laureates.”

The BioCommunications Association, Inc. is grateful to Mrs. Mary Lappan Vetter, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the generous gift of a 100-year-old, gold-headed cane. It was received August 4, 1990, in Phoenix, Arizona. The cane is part of the BCA Louis Schmidt Award and was presented the first time to Robert F. Sisson on August 3, 1991, in Tampa, Florida.

The gold head is composed of heavy inlaid gold on a copper base. The principal value of the cane is due to the goldsmith’s ability to create and fashion a design of elegant beauty. The cane’s original owner was Dr. Goebel who received it in a presentation of unknown designation in 1902. It came into Mrs. Mary Lappan Vetter’s possession upon the death of her uncle, Father Thomas T. Lappan.

Many universities, colleges and hospitals in Great Britain and America have adopted the practice of awarding a gold-headed cane as the highest honor that can be bestowed on one of their staff members. The BioCommunications Association, through the generous gift of Mary Vetter, is pleased to present this special cane as its highest honor.

The 2011 Louis Schmidt Laureate
Gale Edward Spring, FBPA

Gale Spring received a Bachelor of Arts from Austin College in Sherman, Texas and a Masters of Fine Arts in Graphic Design/Photography from North Texas State University (University of North Texas) in Denton, Texas. He began his professional career in 1976 as Director of Photographic Services, Department of Pathology, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, serving in this position until 1987.

In 1988, Gale accepted an academic appointment to the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University, Melbourne, Australia, as Senior Lecturer. He became Acting Head of the Department of Photography in June 1989. He was Associate Professor of Scientific Photography and Program Leader of Applied Science Photography, RMIT University from 1988-2008. He then was Associate Professor and Program Leader, Applied Multi-Major, School of Applied Science, Engineering and Health at RMIT University. Gale Spring was appointed Associate Dean of School of Applied Science at RMIT University in March 2011.

Among his many association activities and contributions, Gale was a member of the BPA Board of Governors in 1977-78 and General Chair and Program Chair of the BPA annual meeting in Dallas in 1983. On the local level, he served as Texas Chapter Chairman. In 1990, he received the honor of Fellow of the Biological Photographic Association.

His commitment and dedication to biomedical imaging continued in Australia through the Australian Institute of Medical and Biological Illustration (AIMBI) and the Institute of Photographic Technology (IPT). He began his longstanding affiliation and leadership role to promote scientific photography through The Australian Photography Council (later to become Photo Imaging Education Association). Gale remains instrumental in developing conferences to bring together these three organizations. He presented his initiative to promote the scientific aspect of alternative and historic processes in his presentation at the 2009 BCA Annual Meeting.

He has supported his educational commitment by continuously organizing scientific meetings and workshops. He presented numerous scientific papers, wrote articles of distinction for scientific journals and was frequently engaged by legal counsel as an expert in forensic photography.

Gale Spring has made significant contributions to our field on an international scale and has done so with style, grace, and a work ethic that can be admired by all.

We are proud to add to his achievements and recognize Gale Edward Spring as the 2011 Louis Schmidt Laureate.