BIOCOMM 2015
Annual conference wrap-up and looking to the future

What do you get when you mix photographers, videographers, imaging specialists, and managerial staff together, with insightful presentations from over 27 presenters, to discuss innovative techniques and creative strategies, plus participate in workshops? A magical conference!

The 85th annual meeting for BioCommunications was a huge success. For four days, BCA Members turned the Drury Hotel in Santa Fe, New Mexico into a dynamic, energizing hub of inspirational presentations and face-to-face networking. BIOCOMM 2015 in Santa Fe, one of the most vibrant art communities in the United States, was the perfect setting for exploring, learning and thinking together.

Great job to the entire Planning Committee who helped to create BIOCOMM 2015 and made magic happen.

Meeting Highlights
First up was BiolImages, the annual photo competition. BiolImages received 195 entries, 113 entries were chosen for the salon and 33 entries won awards. Christine Goerner, Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia took Best of Show with her Education Institute Year In Review brochure. Congratulations Christine!

Monday

Image after image, keynote speaker, Joe McNally inspired the group with remarkable photographs and insightful stories. His tenacious passion and unconquerable attitude for an assignment or personal project captivated the group. Joe also gave an informative talk on off-camera lighting techniques to create remarkable natural looking lit scenes.

Later that evening attendees were invited for a private tour of the Monroe gallery with gallery owner, Sidney Monroe and Joe McNally. The Monroe gallery features works from renowned photographers specializing in humanist and photojournalism. Joe has several pieces in the gallery.

James Hayden gave a comprehensive presentation on modern methods in Microscopy to non-destructively and quantitatively document life processes at the sub-cellular level.

Save the dates for BIOCOMM 2016
New Orleans, LA
June 20-24

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“Using Video to Reach Audience
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Gale Spring, Danielle Edwards and Clair Richards traveled from Australia to attend the meeting and share their expertise on infrared imaging in forensic photography and methods for protecting patient’s privacy in the realm of electronic medical records.

Scott Miles, Instructor at Brooks Institute in California had everyone intrigued with how he and his students design sets to create high speed films of their small subjects, mostly frogs in this presentation. Their sets and equipment are chosen to protect and not harm any of their subjects. They accomplish this with many hours of work and a good measure of humor. The Director of the Santa Fe Workshops, Reid Callanna, provided excellent examples and techniques for travel and location photography. He advises find a photographic project that feeds your creativity.

The content for each presentation covered a wide range of specialties and provided meaningful tips and techniques that can be applied to the principles and challenges all visual communicators face, regardless of their areas of expertise.

**Full Day Workshop**

After two days of oral presentations, a hands-on photography workshop offered by experts in macro work, Adam Cooper, RBP, FBCA, Chip Hedgcock, RBP, FBCA, Gabe Unda, FBCA, and James Wetzel, Ph.D. 

Now it was time for an environmental outing. Attendees spent the day exploring sites in the nearby areas of Taos. The excursion included a stop at the 200 year-old San Francisco de Asis Church, the Taos Pueblo, Ghost Ranch and surrounding mountain areas. Later that afternoon and evening others explored and photographed sites in Santa Fe. A critique of favorite photos was held the next day.

**A Full Friday**

Friday featured presentations by Dennis Chamberlain, a noted local photographer and certified in Adobe Lightroom, and Mary Hanrahan, a graphic designer. The Ann Shiras Pioneer Lecture was given by Scott A. Watson. He gave an inspiring presentation on the role photography played historically in art and science and how modern photography is pushing scientific boundaries.

With just enough time to slip into some evening attire, the Honor's reception and awards banquet concluded a totally magical conference.

For more details on BIOCOMM 2015 and view all the BioImage salon entries and awards, plus the Honor's awards go to the BCA website, [www.bca.org](http://www.bca.org).
BCA Reception and Awards

Keeping with BCA tradition the meeting concluded with the honors reception on the beautiful grounds of the Drury Hotel followed by the banquet.

Present for the Schmidt Laureates’ reception included: Back row from left to right; Robert Turner, RBP, FBPA, Richard Williams, FBPA, Gale Spring, FBPA, Steve Harrison, FBPA, James Hayden, RBP, FBCA Seated from left to right; Norman Barker, RBP, FBCA, Jim Fosse, RBP, FBCA and Thomas Hurtgen, FBPA.
Louis Schmidt Award

Jim Fosse, RBP, FBCA, visual information specialist at the National Centers for Animal Health, USDA, was selected as the 2015 Louis Schmidt Laureate by the BioCommunications Association for his outstanding contributions to the progress of biocommunications. He is the 67th recipient of the award.

The Louis Schmidt Award, named for BCA’s founder and second president, is the highest honor bestowed by the BCA. A committee of the nine most recent Schmidt Laureates makes the selection, which is subject to approval by the BCA Board of Governors.

Jim was inducted during a special ceremony at the Honors Banquet at BCA’s BIOCOMM 2015 Annual Meeting in Sante Fe, New Mexico. He was presented with a medal depicting the BCA key inset with a diamond and the Gold Headed Cane, a traditional symbol in medicine of high achievement and honor.

Jim has served BCA as president, treasurer, and chapter chair, and has been a frequent presenter at BCA annual meetings. While president, he helped create the Maria Ikenberg Lindberg Trust and appointed its oversight committee. He earned a Registered Biological Photographers (RBP) certification from the BCA in 1986, was awarded with a BCA Fellowship Award in 2008, and received the Ralph Creer Service Award in 2010.

Jim and Mardell Fosse pose with the BCA Key medal and the Gold Headed Cane, a traditional symbol in medicine of high honor and achievement.
In his tenure at the National Centers for Animal Health (NCAH), USDA, Jim revolutionized the type of services offered by his department. He began virtual tours of high containment research spaces that dramatically cut down on the interruptions caused by visiting groups of VIPs and stakeholders who wanted to see first-hand the largest construction project in US history. As a video producer, he creates content which helps encourage the next generation of animal health professionals. He also produced short videos for USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, which were used at various stakeholder meetings in the US and on Visack's blog.

Jim introduced time-saving podcasts of required content for pharmaceutical manufacturers needed to serve high quality vaccines and biologics used in food and companion animal medicine. As NCAH webmaster, he hosts distance learning webinars and meetings that help make food safer and animals healthier both in the US and globally. During the summer, he has hosted medical illustration students from Iowa State University, many of whom have gone on to earn their masters degrees at major teaching institutions such as John Hopkins and the University of Georgia.

From 1991-2004, Jim served as media production specialist at Biomedical Communications at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. While there he pioneered the transition from film to digital and brought a host of new and more collaborative processes to scholarly publications and presentations. As a result, new and better images graced the pages of journals such as Veterinary Diagnostic Investigations and Veterinary Pathology. Before joining the veterinary side of biocommunications, he served as Chief of Medical Photography at Manitoba Health Science Centre in Winnipeg, Canada, and the Arizona Health Science Center, Tucson. Jim received his B.S. and M.S. from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

All BCA Louis Schmidt Laureates recipients are listed at www.bca.org/honors/schmidt.html.
Emeritus Membership in the BCA is an honor. It recognizes distinguished craftsmanship, professional achievements and meritorious contribution in the visual communications media in the life sciences and medicine. Nominees must be an active BCA member for not less than twenty years, attained the age of 55 and retired from the field of biocommunications.

In 2015 Charles (Chip) Hedgcock, RBP, FBCA, Gale Spring, FBPA, and Gabe Unda, FBCA, were nominated, approved and awarded Emeritus Membership.

**Gabe Unda, FBCA** - Gabe's interest these days seems to be focus stacking. Probably because he's always been interested in obtaining photographically what seems impossible by combining his knowledge and embracing new technology. And for decades Gabe has been sharing his knowledge to his peers and clients. A BCA member for over 30 years!

**Gale Spring, FBPA** - From photographing speeding bullets, to interpreting images for forensic purposes, to seeing the world through infrared light, teaching or consulting, no one gets quite fired up like Gale Spring. Gale has better than 35 years of professional contributions as a biomedical photographer, mentor, educator, administrator, and BCA active member since 1978!

**Chip Hedgcock, RBP, FBCA** - Who else could unmask the beauty of a centipede, a beetle or any other creepy crawler and achieve a piece of fine art but Chip Hedgcock. One of the finest photographers of the natural world, Chip has 25 years plus as a professional photographer and mentor. Chip's first BCA meeting was in Keystone, CO., 1986!

1982 Gabe Unda, FBCA, gave two papers at the San Diego meeting. This photograph was taken as Gabe prepped for that meeting, the topic was interfacing densitometers to a TRS 80 computer. Inset photo to the right is Gabe presenting at the 2015 meeting in Santa Fe. ©

Gale Spring, FBPA, presents infrared photography at BIOCOMM 2015, Santa Fe. ©

Chip Hedgcock, RBP, FBCA, in the field, Sky Island region. ©.
**BIOCOMM 2016 - 86th Annual Meeting**

**$86.00 Registration!!**

We are happy to announce BIOCOMM 2016 will be held in the "Big Easy" – New Orleans, Louisiana, June 20th to the 24th, 2016. Check out the New Orleans visitor's guide at [www.neworleansonline.com](http://www.neworleansonline.com)

BCA has contracted with the Drury Inn and Suites New Orleans to be the host hotel. Our rate is $159.00 per night (lower than last year) and again, it includes a full hot breakfast every day, plus the kick back every day at 5PM that includes a light buffet dinner.

The Planning Committee is very busy working on the content of the meeting this past summer. We will have a wide variety of subjects, from Lightroom workshops to DSLR workshops to 3D printing, and much more. We have a lot of surprises planned! Keep your eye on the website for details as they become confirmed!

First though, we encourage you to participate by giving an oral presentation or submitting a poster! The call for abstracts is now open. Go to [www.bca.org](http://www.bca.org) and download the abstract form. The deadline for submission is December 15, 2015 but please e-mail the abstract ASAP as the meeting schedule is filling up rapidly.

Save the dates on your calendar and make sure not to miss BIOCOMM 2016, an excellent opportunity for professional development that you won't want to miss. If you have any questions or suggestions about the conference, please call me or e-mail me anytime at 516-465-8821 or acvideophoto@gmail.com.

*Adam Cooper, RBP, FBCA*

*Director of Conferences*

**New EFFE BIOCOMM Grant**

BCA has developed a new grant to support educational opportunities and enable members to attend the annual BIOCOMM meeting. This award is intended to enhance proficiency in public speaking, foster writing skills, and defray cost for members who are partially funded or do not receive any funding to attend BCA educational conferences.

Total funding will not exceed the cost of registration, accommodations and transportation up to $2,000.00. The number of awards made will depend on the quality of the applications received and determined by the EFFE Committee and approved by the BCA Board of Governors.

To apply go to: [bca.org/bca_update.html#edu_grant](http://bca.org/bca_update.html#edu_grant)

**Webinar**

**“Using Video to Reach Your Audience”**

**October 21 at 1PM (EDT)**

*Adam Knee, Boston Children’s Hospital*

Video has quickly become a preferred method for communicating your message to your audience. Using visual imagery and sound to tell your story can be an effective tool, but it can also come with a few challenges. This webinar will touch on the stages of creating a successful video.

Pre-production – talent, location, story
Production basics – cameras, audio, lighting
Post-production – editing, color correction, sharing final file

To register, e-mail James.Koepfler@childrens.harvard.edu
The BCA has recently produced a YouTube channel. You can find it at www.youtube.com/BCA. Now we are anxious to fill it with professional grade content produced by you! The BCA will PAY you $300 for your accepted video. We are looking for instructional tutorials, two to ten minutes long, on a variety of topics. They could be about photography, micrography, video, web design, desktop publishing, anything relating to biomedical/scientific imaging. Here are some suggestions;

- Best Practices for posters, publications, figures
- Advance settings in DLSRs
- Location lighting
- Environmental portraiture
- Data storage/management
- Photoshop tutorials
- Focus Stacking
- HIPPA and medical imaging
- Calibrating monitors
- Color managed workflow

These are just some of the topics that members have asked for. You may have some additional ones in mind. Need some inspiration? Go to www.youtube.com/BCA and check our current selection.

Now is your chance to share your expertise (and be paid for it) and support your association. If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail the BCA office at office@bca.org for help. We are looking forward to your participation.

Recently Retired

Alan Goldstein, FBPA
Grossman Burn Center

To all my friends in the BCA it is with heavy heart that I am retiring after twenty-three years with the Grossman Burn Center, and forty-three years as a professional medical photographer. The past twenty-three years working with Drs Richard & Peter Grossman, their team of the best nurses, and physicians, has been rewarding for me personally and professionally.

Working with doctors and documenting so many different stories of patients’ lives as burn survivors has given me many amazing opportunities in my career for growth as a medical video photographer. My work has appeared on TLC The Operation - Burns, ABC, Discovery Channel - Zubaida -A Face Restored, CBS How They Do That - The Bill Jensen Story, CNN - Youssif, Discovery Channel, A New Face for Yulce, to name a few.

During my career I have also worked with some of the best Sports Medicine Orthopedic Surgeons; Dr. Frank Jobe, Dr. Robert Kerlin, and Dr. Lew Yocum. I was able to help build the Biomechanics Lab at Centenila Hospital & Medical Center where I filmed professional baseball, football, and golf athletes using three high speed 16mm film cameras, all synchronized and all attached with electrodes in the athletes’ muscles to study them and help prevent injuries. From the study the physicians where able to change the way the athletes exercised which were photographed and filmed to produce books and videos.

Life after retirement is busy as ever with freelancing as a photographer, and consulting. My wife Nancy and I have moved to Palm Desert, a daunting task. To all my BCA friends - let’s stay in touch, alanfbpa89@yahoo.com

All The Best,
Alan Goldstein, FBPA
Of Great Service to BCA

In June of 2015 Nancy Hurtgen announced to the Board of Governors that she is retiring at the end of year as Office Manager of BCA. We gasped and moaned and promoted her on the spot as Executive Director. She is after all the glue and task master that keeps BCA rolling. But she needs some well deserved time with her family and offered to mentor and aid the next person in line. Nancy made a difference as fellow BCA members recall.

I have known Nancy since 1974 when I became a member of the then BPA now BCA. She has always been very helpful throughout the years and been a mainstay during the Annual meetings making sure everything went smoothly and during the membership drives at the start of each year. If I had a question regarding the Organization she was always helpful in trying to solve it or at least steer me in the right direction. During my time as Executive Secretary for the BPA Board of Registry, she was always helpful. She will be greatly missed in the BCA and her replacement will have a very big pair of shoes to step into and assume all of the responsibilities that Nancy took care of during her time in the Organization. YOU WILL BE MISSED NANCY.

- Peter R.B. Grattan, RBP

In 2009 Nancy received BCA’s second highest honor, the Ralph Creer Award. Her award pretty well sums up her services to the BCA. It reads, “For decades of distinguished service to the Association and the ideals to which it aspires, for loyalty, dedication, and an incredible memory, and for being a helpful resource to members and the Board of Governors. We are especially grateful for her integrity, editing skills, attention to details, thoughtful guidance and organizational skills. She is the first friendly face to greet attendees, a gracious hostess and the person “in the know”. She provided continuity, direction and support to a long line of grateful officers. BCA has been supremely served.

- Bob Turner, RBP, FBPA

BCA is similar to a ship, complete with passengers, officers, and crew. Over the many years the officers have set course and steered the ship, but it’s the keel of the ship that holds everything together. Nancy Hurtgen has been our “keel” that has held BCA together! She’s the go-to-person to get the answer; knows the information; and will somehow always get the job done. But most important, Nancy is especially cheerful dealing with everyone regardless of any difficulties. BCA is very grateful and thankful for Nancy’s contributions. We will all deeply miss this wonderful lady, but she has more than earned the right to step-away and spend more time with her ever-expanding family! Thank you Nancy for everything you have done for BCA!

- Charlene Baron, FBCA
The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne Educational Resource Center

Gigi Williams, FRPS, FBCA, FAIMBI, BAppSc
Melbourne, Australia

The Educational Resource Centre (ERC) at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia, provides an extensive range of clinical and creative services to produce high quality health communications for the Hospital and the wider health community.

Emerging from a medical photography department established in 1934, ERC launched in 1982. That year, an additional video producer and graphic designer were appointed, forming an inaugural team of eight members. In 2015, the team has over 20 members, with photography, video production, graphic design and web development services all in-house. Led by Fellow and Louis Schmidt laureate, Gigi Williams, the department is committed to providing cost-effective and creative services that inform, educate and motivate patients, healthcare professionals and the community.

ERC benefits from many connections with our global counterparts and the BCA is held in high esteem.

Since 1989 a staff member from ERC has made some representation in the BCA: be it to attend the annual conference, give a paper or travel on a scholarship to learn more from our US counterparts. We have regularly published in the BCA journal or entered the BCA salon. There is much we have learnt and we hope much that we have shared. The privilege of being able to share information with others globally has been invaluable.

During this time many of us have been fortunate to have won various BCA awards - 51 in total across video, graphic design and photography including two Best of Shows, six Warren Sturgis awards and 20 awards of excellence. Whilst distance has made it difficult to receive these awards in person, the opportunity to exhibit our work on a global stage has been extremely rewarding. It was suggested that we write this brief snapshot of the staff and services of ERC so as you might be able to get to know us a little better.

Photography/3D imaging

Our photographers provide both clinical and creative photographic services to the hospital community. Nearly 7000 patients a year are photographed, and these images are used for patient monitoring and medical records; teaching; research; publication; and medico-legal purposes. The digital Medical Photography System (MPS) that has been seamlessly integrated into the hospital systems enables clinicians to access these images within a day or two sometimes within hours.

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The state-of-the-art 3DMd system has been providing a core service for measurement and comparison for several years now and was recently upgraded to a seven pod system. The Plastics, Orthotics and General Medicine departments are the highest users of this service so they can compare and monitor the head and face shape, but is also used to monitor the changes in pectus carinatum where braces are now used to treat this condition instead of surgery. About a quarter of our patients are now 3D imaged.

The general photography can be seen throughout the hospital’s various publications and the photographers work closely with the graphic designers to achieve the desired results. Alvin has received a number of BCA awards for his work.

Case Study Photography:

“Imagine your head and torso locked in a plaster cast for six long months” says Robert Reitmaier, who manages the 3d Centre at The Royal Children’s Hospital. “For some children with severe spinal abnormalities, this is the painful and difficult reality of treatment. It’s often a very traumatic process”. Now, using measurements made from the 3dMD camera system at the hospital, a removable brace can be manufactured by the hospital’s Orthotics Department. In the case of one patient with severe kyphosis, this involved taking a 3D image of the torso whilst the patient was in traction. After some careful positioning, the image was taken with the patient in a standing position, giving better posture. “Previous castings in the operating theatre to create a brace failed” said Robert, “and it requires a very delicate rotation of the patient. So it was either back into the OR for full plaster support, or use 3d technology.”

Surgeons, orthotists, nurses and other allied healthcare were part of the team that helped capture the 3D file. A file that was captured in less than a second.

Graphic Design

The graphic design services cover printed and digital communications including graphic design, illustration, website design, creative direction and print production. From specialist medical illustration, conference posters and publication design – our skills are wide ranging. We design and produce complex educational and clinical materials and work collaboratively with our colleagues to create effective educational campaigns. Our expertise includes logo design and devising brand guidelines. The team consists of a senior graphic designer, production - Barbara McDonald; a Senior Graphic designer, creative - Christine Goerner; a medical illustrator/graphic designer - Bill Reid; one other

Senior Medical Photographer Bert DiPaolo with Alvin Aquino who specialises in general photography and Robert Peitmaier who specialises in 3D.

Graphic Team - Left to Right, Christine Goerner, David Rosemeyer, Carolyn Bedggood, Barbara McDonald and Bill Reid.
The team has won many awards over the years and this year they were awarded Best of Show for the RCH Education Institute’s Year in Review – the first time a graphic design publication has won this prestigious award. 

**www.rch.org.au/erc/design/ERC_Design/**

**Case Study Design**

*The Hospital Space is a Learning Place* is a recent publication designed by the talented graphic design team. It showcases the activities of The Royal Children's Hospital Education Institute, which is committed to providing a rich learning experience for children and young people so that their journey as learners continues in hospital.

The design features large photographic images (taken by our own photographer and art-directed by our senior designer), along with interesting cut out images of children’s sculptures and artwork. We design our images to specifically reflect the content. These were overlapped with line drawings from the children’s artworks. The publication has a strong sense of colour and activity, reflective of the client’s activities and messages. We work collaboratively with our clients and our in-house team to achieve the most creative and relevant outcomes, in line with our brand guidelines.

**Video Production**

The video production team combines expertise in television production with valuable experience in health to deliver concise and engaging communications on screen or as audio-only. The service begins with careful analysis of client’s needs and their audience before determining the best way to realize the project creatively and within budget.

Content for a dedicated hospital television channel – RCH TV – is produced by the unit, and the video team also performs clinical video recordings, including patient assessments and surgical procedures.

Facilities include a multipurpose television studio with high-definition multi-camera switching; green-screen set and sound recording booth; professional grade cameras; lighting; sound recording equipment and editing systems. Rob Grant and Simon Pase manage the section with Michael Hales and Emre Acar as associate producers. There are up to four other freelance video producers depending on production workload.
Case Study Video

When a child comes to hospital, they are confronted with strange equipment, different faces and uncomfortable procedures. The *Be Positive* show aims to equip children with knowledge about hospital, reducing anxiety and building sense of mastery in the process.

Each 15-minute episode, shown on a dedicated hospital TV channel, includes guides to having a test or procedure, told from the perspective of a child. There are also segments featuring the various staff in hospital, and the show’s two puppets – Jazz and Rocco – find out what happens behind the scenes in a busy hospital. “The number one priority is to make the show fun and engaging, without ever glossing over what could be a challenging ordeal, like a blood test” says Simon Pase, Video Production Coordinator. The show is funded philanthropically, and is the successor to the long-running Going Nuts with Macadamia show. The production is a partnership with the Educational Play Therapy department, and Simon says this partnership is critical in ensuring the content meets its objectives. “Our entire team wants *Be Positive* to empower children, to make them experts in their own healthcare.”

Web Development

ERC’s team of web developers coordinate and maintain the RCH website, the most popular hospital website in Australia and an internationally renowned source of paediatric health advice. The web team maintains a sophisticated Content Management System (CMS) to enable the hospital’s departments to contribute, review and publish online content across 9,000-plus web pages. Our expertise also covers custom web development skills including online forms and database driven applications to streamline business processes, and the incorporation of rich content such as video, blogs and social media.

The RCH website is the most popular Australian hospital website and second in the world only to the Mayo Clinic as measured by Experian/Hitwise.

The web team are now producing apps and were involved with Okee in Medical Imaging - an app that prepares children for the medical imaging procedure. The project was a collaboration between the departments of Medical Imaging, Educational Play Therapy (child life specialists), ERC and an external digital gaming agency, Conduct. Released in March it has just won a national i-Award for technology innovation.

www.rch.org.au/erc/web/

Friendships Made

After 33 years, firstly as a medical photographer and then 26 years as Department Head, Gigi is leaving The Royal Children’s Hospital to spend more time with her husband Robin Williams (also a Fellow and Schmidt Laureate) to pursue their passion for travel and photography, No doubt, Gigi’s “retirement” will still be filled with enduring connections and friendships made through BCA.

Gigi Williams, FBCA and the ERC team at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia. ©

Web Team - From Left to Right; Dhanuka Kaluarachchi, Adam Leadoux (webmaster) and Lucy Anderson.©

Spotlight getting to know ERC continued
Who Was Johnny?
Laurie Lizotte
Massachusetts General Hospital

Johnny was abandoned as a child and placed in a state mental health facility. He couldn't read, write or count money. He could ride a bike, work, cook, clean, play and eat! Johnny could not read. Yet he could give directions to any place he had ever gone by car. He was a human GPS!

Johnny worked at the dining hall with my husband Todd. They began spending time together in and outside of work. Through thirty plus years a wonderful friendship developed between them.

It was twenty years ago or so I was invited to attend a birthday party with Todd. Johnny was turning 50 and he was hosting a party. We asked who was attending and he replied, “just you two”. How could we say no? When we arrived the apartment was standing room only! You see Johnny wasn’t stupid, he told everyone the same story!

Johnny was a ward of the state, they took care of the things Johnny couldn’t, his transportation, finances, medical appointments and the like. He had amazing case workers in his life that brought Johnny to their homes for holidays. One year his case worker had an emergency and they reached out to Todd and asked if Johnny could spend a holiday with us. And so it began, every major holiday Johnny would ask Todd if he could spend the holiday with us. Our families were great, they greeted and treated Johnny just like family. Johnny would always touch someone’s shoulder and ask, “I’m your friend?” The reply was always, “Yes Johnny you are my friend!”

I admired Johnny and I reached out to other persons like him through BETA, a non-profit state funded organization, responsible for all of their clients needs. Clients may be ambulatory like our friend Johnny, others are confined to wheelchairs or use walking devices. BETA holds several events a year for their clients including picnics, holiday parties and a Spring Banquet. My first banquet was in 2006, and I was blown away with the people I met. Their personal needs are many but you wouldn’t know it by meeting them. At the Banquet I was at the bar getting drinks for the three of us and there was another client with Downs syndrome at the bar ordering a beer. My eyes widened. I never thought of them as independent people with the same desires as anyone else. They are uninhibited, they don’t care what anyone else thinks and they joy in things many people take for granted like having a drink with a friend or dancing.

I began to think it would be so nice for the clients to have a professional portrait taken at some of their events. I approach the management at BETA and talked with the banquet facilitator and in 2009 I started taking “prom like” portraits of each client.

For equipment I brought a camera on tripod, one light...
Who Was Johnny continued

stand, and SB 800 flash with umbrella, and one hand held flash. I also took an Epson Picturemate 4x6 printer so each person received a print by the end of the event. I photographed clients with their spouse, or their date, their family members or their caseworker. I photographed them individually or with a group. Basically I photographed them the way they wanted. It presented some challenges like maneuvering clients into position, posing those that were not ambulatory or some times getting them to look towards the camera. But the challenges and time spent have been well worth the effort.

Volunteering for the Beta Community Partnerships has become a very personal project that means more to me than I ever imagined. Now I also donate time several times a year photographing events for the Knights of Columbus and photographing items donated for the single largest museum fund raiser, the Attleboro Art Museum.

And Johnny? He passed away August 2011 at the age of 69. I continue to support the group that took such great care of our friend. Thank you Jim Keopfler, for loaning me your gear and for the blind faith in asking me to share this journey.

Laurie photographs individuals or groups or however the client prefers to be photographed. ©

JBC updates

The first open access issue (JBC 40-1) is still in development at the University of Illinois Chicago, UIC, campus. The launch for this publication is slated for later this year. Gary Lees, AMI Editor, Gary Schnitz, AIM Editor, and UIC faculty member Kevin Brennan is leading that effort. This inaugural open access issue will be hosted along with UIC's other open academic journals and the JBC URL will change. This new OA issue will have features and a functionality required under the open access license. We will announce this open access issue to a bit of fanfare, as this represents a milestone for us, our association, and academic publishing. Visit the JBC website at, www.jbiocommunication.org.

Alan Opsahl, Senior Scientist, Pfizer Inc. has stepped down as BCA Editor for JBC. Thank you Alan for your services and a job well done.

A search is underway to fill this valuable position. Each association identifies a volunteer representative editor to represent their organization. The primary responsibility of BCA's journal editor is to promote and solicit journal submissions from BCA.

For more information contact BCA Central Office, office@bca.org.
Give Us a Shout

BIOCOMM 2015 has been over for a few months and we are well into the planning of BIOCOMM 2016. The meeting in Santa Fe was a great success and I thoroughly enjoyed the program, workshops and photo trip. It was great to see so many dear friends and make new ones. Santa Fe was beautiful and the weather was perfect. Networking opportunities were everywhere and meeting Joe McNally up close was the chance of a lifetime. A huge thank you goes out to Adam Cooper, Director of Conferences and Karna McKinney, Program Chair. Nancy Hurtgen was amazing and always has everything under control. Thanks for everything you do Nancy. Thanks to Tom Kryton too, who handled workshops. Unfortunately, he was ill and could not attend, but we missed him. We skyped Joe McNally’s lecture to him live. Kim Pawlak kept the twitter feeds and Facebook posts going. Charlene Baron and Karen Hensley did an outstanding job with BioImages, which is not a small task.

As discussed at the business meeting, we have restructured the governing body of the BCA. The President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer will be referred to as the Executive Board presiding over the organization with voting rights. The Executive Director will be in attendance and will help the Executive Board in the daily running of the organization but will be a nonvoting member. Directors are now assigned by the Executive Board and will be referred to as Directors. They will run their assigned Committees and report back to the Executive Board.

With these changes in mind, you know by now our Executive Director, Mrs. Nancy Hurtgen, will be retiring at the end of the year. We are now looking for someone to fill the position. For more information about the job, please go to our website, www.bca.org. Nancy, the BCA would like to thank you for the many years of service, dedication and friendship. We will miss you but we know we can’t compete with the grand kids and farm! Good luck with all you do into the future!

Adam Cooper, RBP, FBCA, has been asked and has accepted to continue serving as the Director of Conferences. Karen Hensley has agreed to continue on as the Director of Communications and Danielle Edwards as Director of Education. Some recent accomplishments include:

- New EFFE BIOCOMM Grant available
- New look for our newsletter coming soon
- New web hosting service
- BCA Policies and Procedures and Constitution being edited and condensed

As your President, I can’t do this job without the support of the rest of the Executive Board, Sue Loomis as BCA Vice President and Jim Koepfler as BCA Secretary/Treasurer. We are having frequent phone conferences and making progress on the initiatives we discussed at the business meeting. A special thank you to Sue and Jim for being on the team. We are always open to comments and ideas so please don’t hesitate to contact any one of us.

Mark your calendars for June 20-24, BIOCOMM 2016 in New Orleans. Adam Cooper is busy working on an exciting program for us and has set the registration fee at $86.00 in honor of our 86th year. We hope that by keeping the meeting registration fee low that more people will be able to attend. We can always use help with meeting planning and the Directors need volunteers for their committees too. So, give us a shout and participate. BCA is only as good as we make it. Hope to see you in the Big Easy in June.

Connie Johansen, RBP
President, BCA

Save the Dates BIOCOMM
June 20-24, 2016
New Orleans, LA

Cathedral in New Orleans, Alex Demyan ©