Above is one of the original BPA logos. Note the mitotic cells on the bottom of the logo. This logo has been incorporated into the BIOCOMM logo designed by RIT student Michelle Leung.

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- **Editor – Joe Ogrodnick, FBPA**
- **Design – Charlene Baron**

**BCA Headquarters**
- **Central Office Manager:** Nancy Hurtgen
- **220 Southwind Lane**
- **Hillsborough, NC 27278**
- **BCAoffice@aol.com**
- **Voice/Fax: 919-245-0906**

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**Portland, Oregon - July 21-24**

BCA is celebrating its 75th Anniversary in Portland, Oregon. The BIOCOMM program will include a look back at our history along with a scientific program that includes the latest information about digital technology and topics looking towards the future.

Plan to spend some extra time during your visit to Portland. Outstanding public art, dozens of urban parks and greenspaces, a lively downtown, and a world-class transportation system are just a few of the many reasons to visit this jewel of the Pacific Northwest. Downtown Portland boasts an amazing array of attractions, including an outstanding collection of cast iron and terra-cotta architecture, the largest new-and-used bookstore in the world, a nationally acclaimed art museum, and a vibrant culinary community. The city has a sense of whimsy and wonder, and offers dozens of family-friendly events and festivals throughout the year.

“I love visiting Portland because it is a very visitor friendly place and you can walk to almost anything you want from the downtown hotels. Micro Breweries and pizza joints are favorite hangouts. Art galleries galore are within walking distance as well or you can get to everything in Portland by public transportation” enthuses Lorayne Ham, a member of the local committee and Seattle resident.

The BIOCOMM local planning committee is hard at work organizing this special meeting. Karna McKinney from NOAA in Seattle, is the Program Chair and Tom Turner from the University of Alberta is the Workshops Coordinator. Cheryl Montgomery and Lorayne Ham are organizing the BioImages judging and salon. Other members of the local planning committee include Dan Austin, Brian Demmings, Steve Frick, Dan Hallett, Sheri Imai-Swiggart, Morgan Lavin, Dave Lawton, Bruce McCaughey, Pat McGiffert, Janet Schukar, and Chuck Stephens.

The meeting will be held at The Benson Hotel, a city landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This lovely, grand hotel is within easy walking distance of shopping, restaurants and public transportation. Register with the hotel directly. Pre-registration is due by June 27th. More information about the meeting can be found on page two of this issue of BCA News and at www.bca.org.
Stephen Johnson is a landscape photographer, designer and teacher. He has been a photographer since 1973. His work has been featured in *Communication Arts*, *Life Magazine, American Photo, Outdoor Photographer*, and ABC Discovery News, among many others. His books include *At Mono Lake*, the award winning and critically acclaimed *The Great Central Valley: California’s Heartland, Making a Digital Book* and the new *Stephen Johnson On Digital Photography*. Internationally recognized as a digital photography pioneer, Johnson’s photographs have been exhibited, published and collected in the United States, Europe, Mexico and Japan. In 1994 he embarked on an ambitious ten-year major new endeavor, *With A New Eye*, the ground breaking all digital photographic look at American national parks. His photography studio and gallery is located in Pacifica, California.

Jim Henderson

**Keynote Address**

James W. Henderson is the owner of Applied Photograph Research, and specializes in providing solutions to difficult imaging problems associated with science and medicine. He is a Registered Biological Photographer, holds degrees from Oberlin College and The Rochester Institute of Technology. He has served on the Board of Registry and as Chairperson, Pacific Northwest Chapter BPA. Henderson was a medical photographer and later Chief, Medical Media Production Service, Department of Veterans Affairs from 1977 until 1994. In 1992 he developed cross-polarized lighting equipment for portable field photography and a hybrid enhancement procedure to record faded American Indian rock paintings and Oregon Trail inscriptions. His current research projects focus on preserving images of archaeological artifacts. His most recent publication, Use of Cross-Polarized Lighting in Archaeological Photography, can be found in the *Journal of Biocommunication* Vol. 30 No. 3 (in print). Henderson is the recipient of numerous grants and awards for his work, including the 1999 Lennart Nilsson Award in Photography.

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<td><strong>Karna McKinney</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Stephen Johnson</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Cheryl Montgomery and Lorayne Ham</strong>, <strong>BioImages Coordinators</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tom Turner</strong></td>
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**BIOCOMM 2005 - The Benson Hotel, Portland, Oregon**

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Some Thoughts from the President

“You are going to learn something.” The statement in and of itself creates a sense of excitement, and oftentimes, of a pending revelation. I have always considered the fact that we are always learning to be a fringe benefit of our work. It’s almost osmotic. We are in contact with the “new” all the time. Knowledge hangs in the air around us. Experiments, discovery, analysis and interpretation foster knowledge in astronomical proportions. One time, when I was meeting with a Chief of Service, he pointed to the piles of journals stacked up around the office and lamented that he could not keep up. There was too much knowledge to assimilate, and in some cases apply. He pleaded for a moratorium on knowledge.

Is there too much knowledge? I don’t believe so. I do believe that we are overloaded, and I know we are a curious species. We read the backs of cereal boxes in the morning. People carry books, papers, journals, and all kinds of material on the subway. If you don’t, you stare into space or scan the advertisements around you. It seems the whole world is competing for just a moment of your attention. I believe that rather than there being too much knowledge, we are instead burdened with information overload. How do you sort out what is important? What should you learn? We know that whatever our pursuits, professional or otherwise, we must continue to learn. It seems as though we are in an eighteen-month cycle for technology roll outs. We run to stay in place. W. Edwards Deming, founder of Total Quality Management and continuous improvement programs, said “Learning is not compulsory… neither is survival.”

The BioCommunications Association works as a type of filter that helps me sort out the relevance of thousands of snippets of information. This is what ties me to the BioCommunications Association. I can access a population of learners who are more than willing to share knowledge. The people in BCA are doing what I am doing. When a colleague recommends purchasing a piece of hardware or a using a particular technique, I give it extra credence because there is a high probability they these are being used for a task similar to something I am doing. BCA members shortcut the sorting process. There are a few hundred testers out there who will pool their knowledge and report both positive and negative results. Commercial photofinishers used to call on us and show samples of weddings and portraiture. The work was good but it wasn’t our work. When we sent them some of our routine work they were lost. BCA members do what you do.

The listserv is an excellent way to pick up tips, recommendations and advice. In the past week the listserv has solved PowerPoint problems, offered solutions to working with raw file issues in Photoshop CS, and listed scanner recommendations. It’s all out there for everyone to see. No “respond directly to me.” Everybody can check it out. If you are not on the listserve you should be. You are passing up a great resource. The Journal of BioCommunications is unique in that it brings together people from four professional organizations. The other critical component is meetings. To think of meetings as just lectures and papers is extremely two-dimensional. The personal contacts we make are what add depth to both local and annual meetings. A side comment over coffee can open discussions that lead to solutions. That little thing you say or do might just cause someone’s workflow to improve, or provide some other ideas to help someone work better and smarter. Personal interaction puts a face on those gems of wisdom and builds relationships that will last for years. The learning process thus becomes personalized.

The annual meeting this summer in Portland, Oregon is your opportunity to cultivate a new dimension in your professional growth. Think about the possibilities from what I call the “unlisted program.” The personal exchange that occurs between colleagues is a living interactive reference library. Remember, you are part of the process. No one has access to all the resources they need. I know that I could not function as the President of BCA without a strong Board of Governors and a supportive membership. I not only use the ideas that I have, but any that I can borrow as well. You can do the same. It’s not compulsory, but it’s all within your grasp if you want to take advantage of it.

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Transitions

Larry Cherkas, a very active Boston BPA/BCA member, passed away January 2, 2005 after a determined and long fight with neuroglioblastoma. A wonderful memorial service was held for him at Mass General Hospital, Boston in the Ether Dome, with standing room only. MGH is where he had spent his entire medical photography career. He specialized in two areas: neuropathology and dermatology. I met Larry Cherkas at my very first BPA meeting. He was an active participant and speaker, medical photography was much more than a “job” to him. He loved his work and he enthusiastically shared information.

Larry Cherkas was active in the BPA on the local level. Larry served at least two terms as chapter chair, and was secretary when together we planned programs for several years. He was incredibly knowledgeable about medical photography and new technology, especially in the areas of dermatological photography and photomicrography.

He continued to work at Mass General Hospital, even past retirement age. He loved his work more than anything. But, aside from his devotion to medical photography, anyone who knew him, loved his wonderful “Charlie Chaplain” slapstick sense of humor. That is the Larry Cherkas that earned him so many close friends and the Larry that I’ll remember. Marilee Caliendo
Ken Michaels Receives President’s Award

Ken Michaels was the recipient of The President’s Award at the Annual Winter Staff Meeting of SAIC-Frederick, Inc; SAIC-Frederick is a contractor that provides operating and technical support for the National Cancer Institute at Frederick in Frederick, MD. The Winter Staff Meeting is the only official gathering for the whole company each year, and it’s where people are recognized for length of service, plus a number of awards for service to the company, scientific achievement, etc. The President’s Award is the top award made, the recipient being chosen by the president himself. “Having only been here for three and a half years, I was completely surprised,” Ken said. “As a relative newcomer to the organization, it’s especially meaningful to me.”

Michaels went to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences straight from RIT and worked there for 29 years, deciding in July 2001 to move to the National Cancer Institute at Frederick, MD.

Dr. Larry Arthur, President, SAIC-Frederick in making the award said, “This award gives me special pleasure because when I took over the job as the Principal Investigator of the OTS contract and President of SAIC-Frederick, the first real crisis I faced was with our Publications department. The Publications department was in disarray, we had serious morale problems, and in fact, it had been suggested by the National Cancer Institute that we terminate our Publications department. We moved to reorganize it, and I had the great opportunity to recruit a leader for that group and that was Ken Michaels. So Ken, if you’ll come forward, please”

The Inscription on the trophy reads: For your skill and effective management in transforming the Scientific Publications, Graphics & Media department and for inspiring in the NCI-Frederick community a renewed sense of excellence in the visual presentation of science.

Dr. Larry Arthur presents Ken Michaels with President’s Award

Gigi Williams Awarded Chairman’s Medal

The Chairman’s Medal is awarded to a member of the staff who has been nominated by her peers and colleagues for a major contribution to the hospital in a particular field. Nominees are noted for their integrity and professionalism.

Gigi Williams has made an outstanding contribution to The Royal Children’s Hospital, both professionally and personally, for over 22 years. Gigi is committed to client centred, cost-effective service provision and this commitment is reflected throughout her department. She has the ability to recruit staff, not only with appropriate skills, but the personal attributes to fit in with her team. Her vision and leadership of ERC have contributed to it being recognised nationally and internationally for setting the highest possible standards in audio-visual presentations and publications in the clinical field.

Gigi’s warmth and understanding, humour and dedication, and her ability to problem solve endear her to her colleagues. Due to her wisdom and integrity she has become a mentor and inspiration to many staff across the hospital. Gigi is a very worthy recipient of the Chairman’s Medal.

New England Chapter Views Images from Science Exhibit

Kristen Toohey, from Harvard’s New England Primate Research Center, hosted an open house on March 25th to view the Images from Science Exhibit. The exhibit is traveling to different locations around the world from its RIT home. An image shot by Kristen at NEPRC was accepted for hanging in the juried exhibition.
Members Rendezvous in Rochester

BCA members from Arizona, Massachusetts, Toronto, Buffalo, Syracuse, and Rochester, along with a handful of RIT Biomed students, got together at the Rochester Institute of Technology on Saturday November 6th for the Annual Rochester Rendezvous.

The meeting got underway with a demo/hands-on session with Joe Ogrodnick in which attendees worked in groups sedating live moths with carbon dioxide and trying to photograph them before they could fly away. Both the carbon dioxide and the “creative juices” flowed freely throughout the 90-minute session, the bugs cooperated and there were literally dozens of widely different photographic interpretations of this particular moth when everyone was finished.

Richard (Dick) Williams from Arizona Heart Institute just happened to be on the east coast and agreed to make his way to Rochester and participate in the meeting with a presentation on the current status of his department in Arizona.

Other presentations included:

- Pat Saine – “Your New Digital SLR”
- Raymond Boyer – “Presenting with Producer from Microsoft”
- Mark Sawyer – “Tethered Digital Photography”
- Ken Meats – “Digital audio”
- Jim Atkinson – “Digital Clinical workflow”
- Michael Peres – “Where RIT students are finding employment in the technology imaging Industries”
- Sarah Moyer, a 4th year student at RIT wrapped up the program speaking about “The Value of the Summer Work Study Experience”

The group got together later on that evening for dinner at the Dinosaur BBQ in downtown Rochester.

“The Rochester Rendezvous has been continuously held at RIT for the past 10 years,” said Michael Peres. “The original idea was the brainchild of Jim Atkinson in 1994, and we have done some version of the event every year since.”

Upcoming Regional Chapter Meeting

April 9-10, 2005
Toronto Chapter and RIT will host a meeting at Sunnybrook and Women’s Health Science Centre and The Hospital for Sick Children.

Topics include:
Digital asset management
Video in the OR
Colour management
OCT-Eye imaging
Digital cameras
RIT student papers

For more information contact Jim Atkinson
416-486-6286
MediMedia@sympatico.ca
Biocommunications – A Family Affair

Brian Wilson began college at Lake Superior State University where he studied geology. After three years in the program he decided that geology was not something he wanted to be doing the rest of his life. While he was in the process of trying to decide what to do with his life, his friends encouraged him to try something in the art field since his artwork had helped pay his way through geology school. A family friend recommended he look into the Medical Illustration program at RIT, and in the fall of 1985 he transferred there.

Kelly Gath had wanted to be a photographer from the age of 12. Her dad was from Cortland, NY, knew about RIT and encouraged her to apply. Kelly started in the photo illustration program in the fall of 1986, but transferred to Biomed Photo after her first quarter at RIT. She thought the specialized program had more to offer than the general illustration program.

Brian and Kelly met at RIT through mutual friends late in 1987. You might have thought that they would have met through their respective programs at RIT, but they were both working for Residence Life and Kelly was the house manager at Photo House and Brian was the Area Administrative Assistant for one of the quads. It didn't take long for their friendship to develop into something more than just that. In the early part of 1988 they were dating and began spending a lot of time together.

Brian graduated with Honors in the May of 1989 and received a job offer at Medical Legal Illustrations in Atlanta; a former roommate of his professor at RIT owned his own company and was looking for an illustrator. Brian's professor recommended him for the job and he decided to make the move to Atlanta. Brian has worked for the same company since 1989. The company has changed names four times, has had three different owners and five different office locations. Brian likes to say, “I go along with the furniture.”

Kelly graduated from RIT in February of 1990. At this point in time, Kelly and Brian were engaged so she found work as an ophthalmic photographer in Atlanta.

The two were married in June of 1990 and bought a house in Marietta, Georgia in September of the same year.

Kelly spent the next five years working in ophthalmology. In 1995 she was ready for a change and decided to try her hand as a crime scene investigator. The job involved photography and video of all aspects of crime scene investigation including fingerprinting, and evidence collection. Kelly loved the work, but the rotating shift was difficult. She decided being married and spending time with Brian was more important than working at crime scenes. Since she was unable to find work in biomedical communications in Atlanta, Kelly worked in other areas of photography including a stock photo agency and as a photo editor for Turner Broadcasting. While working for Turner Broadcasting, a friend who was leaving her job as the medical media manager at Atlanta Medical Center recommended Kelly for the job. AMC called Kelly and recruited her to come back to the medical photography field.

Kelly was thrilled to have the opportunity to be working in her chosen field once again especially since opportunities for medical photographers are limited.

Kelly is now the medical media manager doing surgical photography, some clinical work, graphic design on poster presentations, and creating and designing PowerPoint presentations as well as some portrait work and other miscellaneous graphic/photography jobs for the Graduate Medical Education Department at Atlanta Medical Center. Having access to her own personal medical illustrator has been a great perk for Kelly in this job.

Brian is the production director and senior medical illustrator for Medical Legal Art overseeing six illustrators and support staff. He specializes in creating medical illustrations and animations for use in legal cases. He has created illustrations for the famous Rodney King case, the McDonald’s coffee burn case, and the 400 plus million dollar verdict against GM for the exploding gas tank case. He has hired quite a few RIT graduates over the years.