Kevin Cook: Photographing the DNC by Emily Brehe

Last month, first-year master’s student Kevin Cook packed up his camera and headed to Charlotte, NC, diving head-first into the pandemonium of protestors, politicians, and fellow photojournalists at the Democratic National Convention (DNC). Given a flexible assignment by ZUMA Press, Cook used the experience as an opportunity to look for unconventional shots of the convention.

“The DNC was overwhelming, almost like a circus. There were tons of photographers fighting for unique shots. I have a quirky eye, though. I didn’t take a traditional photo of a politician at the podium. I looked for behind the scene moments. If a news agency hired me to shoot the Super Bowl and my editor said ‘shoot whatever you want’ I wouldn’t just shoot the action: I’d shoot the moments before the game, the moments in between, the moments after it’s over. Those details and moments are what I’m interested in and what I tried to do at the DNC,” Cook said.

Cook kept his mind on finding these unique shots, despite the overwhelming atmosphere he worked in. Although he was given free-reign over the types of shots he produced, space was limited in the crowded arena. To avoid becoming bored, Cook kept his mind focused, looking for that special shot. When things got overwhelming, Cook took a moment to remind himself why he was there.

“While inside the Time Warner Arena where the DNC was held I kept thinking ‘How do I keep this fresh?’... I just kept a lookout for interesting people, moments and details. The final day was way harder than the first, not because Obama was accepting the Democratic nomination, but because I was in the same space for 6+ hours a day, three days in a row. My final day I made it a point to sit down for an hour to clear my head and just relax before making...”

A young delegate watches Vice President Joe Biden’s speech on the final day of the DNC in Charlotte, NC on Thursday, September 6, 2012.
Master’s Student Spotlight: Kevin Cook

1) Tell us a bit about yourself.
I'm a first year master's student studying photojournalism. I graduated from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA in 2010 with a double major in Journalism and Film & Media Arts. Since graduation I have freelanced fulltime in the Philadelphia area shooting stills and video for various local and national publications.

I'm very passionate about visual storytelling and I'm interested in working on longer-term documentary pieces. I worked on personal projects in Egypt and Kenya in early 2012. I’ve won recognition from the Society of Professional Journalists, National Press Photographers Association and the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association.

2) Why did you choose the Missouri School of Journalism?
The Missouri School of Journalism is a fabulous school with an outstanding list of students, alumni and faculty. To be able to grow as a photographer at Mizzou is an awesome experience. It's definitely challenging, but very rewarding.

3) Tell us about what you're doing in the program.
I'm particularly interested in longer term documentary photo work/photo stories/photo essays.

4) What do you want to do after you’ve received your degree?
I'd be happy covering Capitol Hill for a wire service or newspaper, or working in a small town on photo essays, or working locally and internationally for a major daily. I have a wide range of photographic interests, but the ability to document history whether it's on a local, national or international scale is awesome.

Before I came to Mizzou I was set on shooting internationally after graduation, but even after being here for only a few weeks I'd love to do local work, too. Stories are everywhere - - you just have to find them.
Students, faculty and alumni presented over 100 papers at AEJMC Chicago. We were happy to have a full house during the annual Missouri Social, and the weather in Chicago that week was gorgeous as well!
2012 On-Campus Seminar

We had 17 online master’s students join us this year for the annual on-campus seminar. We want to extend a huge thank-you to the students, faculty, & staff who make each seminar great!

News

Several faculty, students and alums will be participating in the annual American Journalism Historians Association (AJHA) conference this October in Raleigh, NC. Alums include Mike Martinez, Michael Fuhlhage, and Janice Hume. Faculty members include Earnest Perry, Keith Greenwood, Berkley Hudson, Yong Volz and Tim Vos. Doctoral students include Paula Hunt, Youn-Joo Park, and Chris Matthews. You can see a list of their paper titles in the Presentations section.

Alum Mugur Geana and Glen Cameron were both at the European Association for Communication in Healthcare. Mugur had two posters and the two co-presented a third paper on novel statistical analysis of social media. The paper was based on Cameron’s and Geana’s tailored health news app, Treepple.

Berkley Hudson will be a panelist at the American Journalism Historians Assn. meeting in Raleigh, Oct. 11-13. As part of the panel, “The Vanishing Media Archive: Challenges for Historical Research in the 21st Century,” he will discuss a Mizzou Advantage pilot project to digitize the papers of author and journalist Kay Mills. Hudson was a principal investigator for a Mizzou Advantage project that for the last two years has focused on the digitization of campus archives, including media ones.

Later in October, Hudson will be a panelist at the American Folklore Society annual meeting in New Orleans. The panel, “Transformation on the Tongue: From Oral Tradition to Contemporary American Storytelling,” will center on the archival documentary project Hudson and his wife, storyteller Milbre Burch, conducted for the Cotsen Storytelling Project (1997-2000). Burch is a doctoral student in the MU Department of Theatre.

In November, Hudson will chair a paper presentation, “Images of Modernity in Latin American Literary Magazines,” as part of “Cultural Bricolage: Artist’s Books of Ediciones Vigía,” an international conference at MU, Nov. 11-13. The conference idea originated with Romance Languages professor, Juanamaria Cordones-Cook. As the principal investigator, she received a $50,000 Mizzou Advantage grant to help stage the conference.
News, Cont.

It was one of a few projects designated to receive support from the Chancellor’s Fund for Excellence. MacArthur Fellow and University of Michigan cultural anthropologist Ruth Behar will be the conference's keynote speaker. In addition, speakers will include Cuban poet and artist Rolando Estévez Jordan; Nancy Morejón, one of the most distinguished poets who emerged after the Cuban Revolution, and Ivo Zander, a scholar of entrepreneurship, who is the Anders Wall Professor of Entrepreneurship at the Department of Business Studies, Uppsala University.

Hudson is one of several journalism school professors and students involved in the symposium. Steve Rice, along with some of his students, and Discovery Fellow Andrew Beasley, a first-year journalism student, are also helping. Former journalism assistant professor Rhonda Prast also had been involved in conference planning. In addition, as part of her thesis research, journalism master’s student Catie Carter travelled to Cuba last summer with Dr. Cordones-Cook.

For more information, see http://vigia.missouri.edu/.

From Sept. 3- Sept. 7, 2012, María Len-Ríos attend the “Primer Congreso Centroamericano y del Caribe de la Alfabetización Informacional y Mediática” (i.e., The First Conference of Information and Media Literacy of Central America and the Caribbean) supported by UNESCO at the University of Costa Rica. She has joined the research network.

Debra L. Mason, professor of Journalism Studies, was an invited speaker on "The God Beat," at a meeting for foreign journalists held at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross Sept. 10-16 in Rome, Italy. There may or may not have been lots of delicious pasta and gelato involved.

Tim P. Vos recently traveled to Fribourg University in Switzerland to serve on the dissertation examining committee for Lea Hellmueller. Hellmueller studied at the Missouri School of Journalism on a Fulbright scholarship and a scholarship from the Swiss National Science Foundation from 2010 to 2012. While at Fribourg Vos met with students and faculty and presented a lecture on “The Changing Media Ecology in the U.S.”

Presentations


Publications


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SUBMIT AN ARTICLE, ANNOUNCEMENT, OR ITEM OF INTEREST

Deadline for submission for the November newsletter is Friday, October 26. Late submissions will be included on a space-available basis, or in a following month.

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