

Just so you know...

Shoot in fine, large JPEG, not RAW

You may download images to your computer but do not delete!

You have **400** frames for the story you shoot this week...choose wisely!

“I’m hoping that, by the end of this week, you will be as proud and happy as I am to play a part in this small and incredible effort.”
-Jim Curely



Food for thought

Photo by: AN GUANGXI

Missouri Photo Workshop photographers, faculty and crew dine with Macon civic leaders and townfolk at the opening picnic at Blee Park and Lake. Photographers ate food from the Lion’s Club and had conversations with potential story subjects.

Follow MPW on twitter: #mpw62

Rangefinder

founders:

Cliff and Vi Edom

co-directors:

Jim Curley and David Rees

director emeritus:

Duane Dailey

MPW coordinator:

Amy Schomaker

graduate coordinators:

Calin Ilea and Bakob Jerr

photographer:

An Guangxi

Rangefinder staff:

Beth Suda and Mallory Benedict

tuesday

schedule:

8 am-12 pm: Story approval session

1 - 5 pm: Story consultation

7 pm: Henri Cartier-Bresson’s, “The Decisive Moment”
Evening program-- story critiques

weather:

Sunny. Huzzah!
High: 68 (fahrenheit)
Low: 52 (fahrenheit)

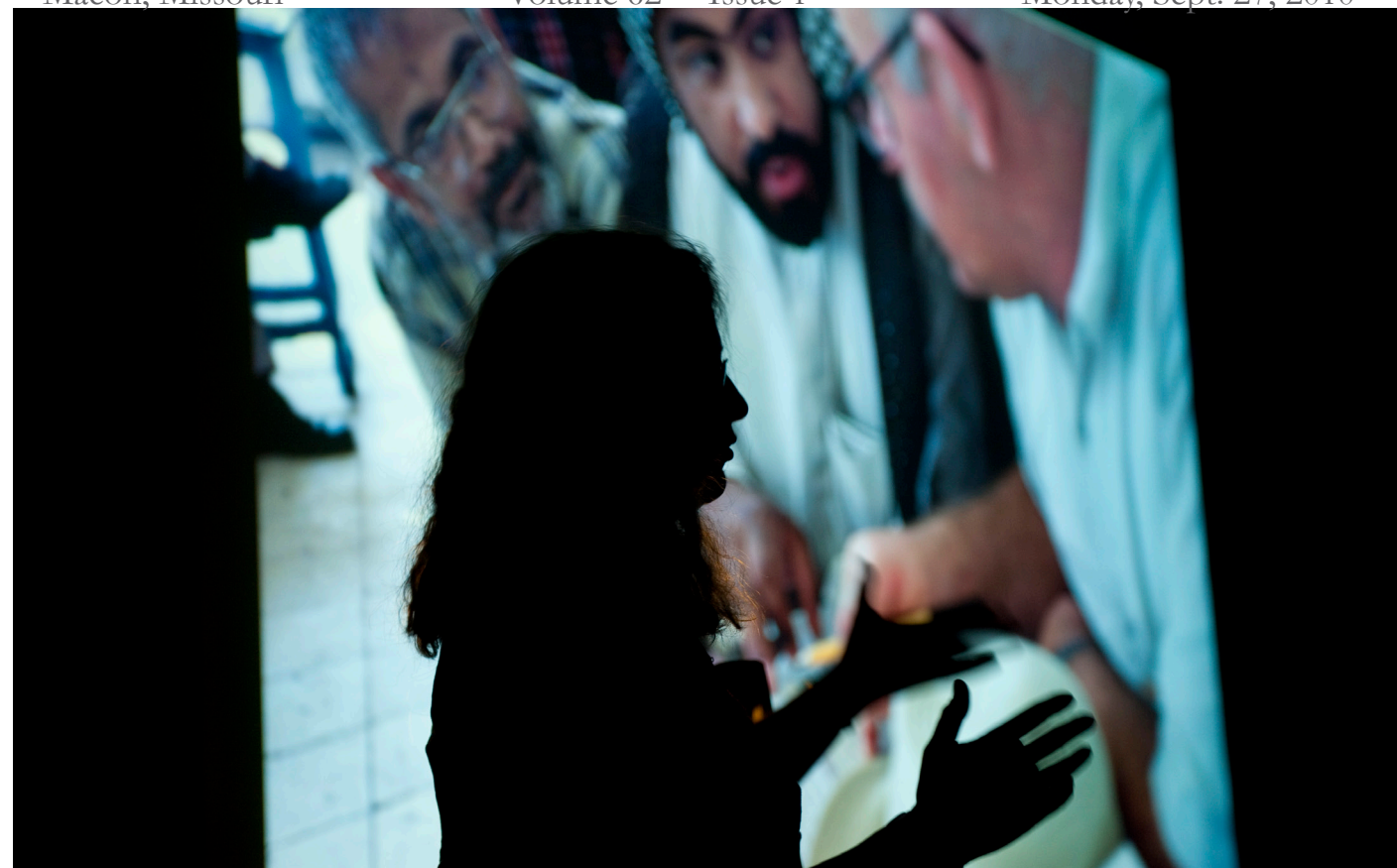
Sunrise: 7:01 AM
Sunset: 7:00 PM

The Rangefinder

Macon, Missouri

Volume 62— Issue 1

Monday, Sept. 27, 2010



Lois Raimondo talks about finding a story on Monday.

Photo by: AN GUANGXI

Culture shock

By: Mallory Benedict

Driving into Macon, it suddenly feels a little bit like home. The dilapidated buildings, gravel roads, and ubiquitous trees are reminiscent of the environment of Virginia - and many other parts of the U.S. as well. As familiar as Macon may seem, it’s still a different culture. And it’s something to be conscious of inside and outside of the viewfinder.

“Be very aware of the cultural differences you’re getting into,”

MPW Co-Director Jim Curley said last night during his presentation about the history of the Workshop. “The reason we come to small towns is because people allow that to happen.” But only if you earn their trust.

Absorbing the cool air at the welcome picnic, workshop photographer Peter Eversoll said, “Imagine coming to a town and seeing a different aspect...a different perspective. I think the

thing about this is having fun, taking shots, and looking at it and saying ‘this is my creation.’”

With the first day of documentation under way, photographers have tasted this culture and examined how they can fit into it. “You have the chance to explore...to meet people, see what things look like, talk with people,” said co-director David Rees.

Absorb the culture. Document a lifestyle.

Like, so excited...



"I'm so excited to learn this week."

-Eve Edelheit, Vortex Columbia, Mo.



"I am really excited about meeting all the different photographers as they come in and out during the day and seeing what they shot."

-Taylor Glascock, Conceirge Columbia, Mo.



"I'm excited by the challenge of delving into small town America and being inspired by my fellow photographers."

-Olivia Elsner, photographer
Lionsville, In.



The bar in the basement of the lodge.

Photo by: AN GUANGXI

Keeping the order

By: Beth Suda

A bar is in the basement. Is that why David Rees and Jim Curley chose The Elks Lodge in Macon, Missouri as the location for this year's MPW? On the contrary, the bar is just a perk. The Elks Lodge was chosen merely for logistical reasons. "It is big enough and has a sense of Americana," Rees says.

Location and workability of the space are other factors in determining an MPW site. It's a bonus if the building is near the town center and it needs to be rent-free. Thankfully, The Elks were receptive to the idea of loaning the building to MPW. Jerry Chezum, The Elks Exalted Ruler, says, "It's a charitable donation, a community service thing. That's the basis of our organization. 'Elks share. Elks care' is our motto."

The building dates back to 1922. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE), more commonly referred to as just "The Elks", maintain it. The American Elks organization dates back to 1868 when a group of actors in New York City decided to create a charitable cause out of their weekly bar gatherings. Apparently, after establishing a set of rituals and a mission statement, the 15 founding members struggled to choose a representative animal for the Order. With several members voting for a buffalo, they finally decided on an elk for its protective nature.

The symbol of the elk holds strong in the organization today as can be seen in the five pairs of elk antlers displayed around the building. "And if we could keep the kids off the elk out front, he'd have a set too," says Chezum.

Beyond the 'members only' chain and up the stairs on the second floor is a wood-paneled hallway leading to two rooms. One is a meeting room with the same wood paneling as the main room on the main floor, and musty smell. It has a completely different, almost esoteric, feel. There is an elaborate chair on each of the four sides of the room, and all face inward toward an altar in the center. It is in this room that ceremonies for new members are conducted and where, on the 11th hour, there is a remembrance of those members who have passed on.

And while Exalted Ruler Jerry Chezum has the most decorated chair in the meeting room, he also enjoys a bar stool. It is at the bar that The Elks enjoy the social aspect of their fraternity. Chezum reminds us that it is non-profit. So if you find yourself without a story and in need of a drink this week, you cannot buy a drink directly. You must ask one of the members sitting at the bar to buy it for you. Who knows - maybe you will find your story sitting at the bar in the basement.

The founders of the future of photojournalism

By: Duane Dailey

You are part of a 62-year history of the Missouri Photo Workshop. You're in a movement inventing the future of photojournalism. More than anywhere the definition of our profession was formed by this gathering of talented photographers discovering how to communicate in new ways.

This continues today. The values and ethics, the labor and the love of photojournalism continue. The tools of communicating with pictures change. Equipment, reproduction, distribution, organizations and economics change. That change continues at startling speed.

We adapt. We adopt. Photoshop manipulation tempts us. But we defend the honesty and integrity of reporting. The philosophy of telling truth with a camera as first taught by Cliff Edom remains our guide. Hold the values. Dig deeper and test harder. Innovate in the delivery of the message.

This is a people workshop, not an equipment workshop. You will refine your methods of using the tools you have. You are here to embrace a way of thinking. You will learn to articulate your story ideas more accurately. Learn here to communicate visual ideas to your editor more

effectively. Learn new ways to connect to readers. This is a words-and-photos workshop. It is photojournalism as taught in the location where the term photojournalism was created.

Treasure the past. Learn from the past. Change the inefficient ways of the past. Our methods evolve. Edom and his innovative faculty borrowed ideas of Depression-era FSA photographers. The one photo with caption evolved into the picture story. A melding of photos with words: Headline, captions, blurbs and text: A package adaptable to many

formats. This week, we concentrate on the photos in that mix. But, you must have the headlines, captions and blurbs to go with those photos. Right off your faculty will ask: "What is your headline?" Keep good notes. Mind the words as you seek the pictures.

You will learn to capture powerful pictures that grab readers' minds and emotions. Your sensitivity to the world around you will sharpen.

You are a journalist, a multi-talented photojournalist. This week, you become a reporter with enhanced powers.

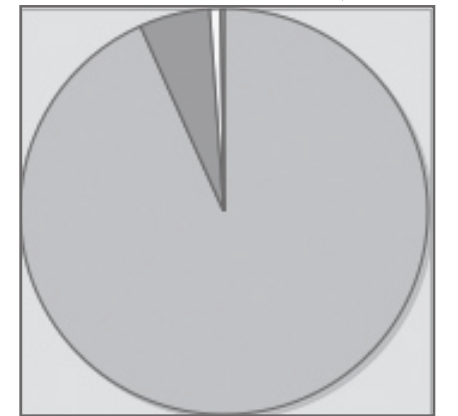


Photo by: AN GUANGXI

The names are in...

Kyle Spradley from Jefferson City, Mo., Craig Walker, staff photographer for the *Denver Post*, and Melissa Farlow, freelance photographer from *National Geographic* talk during their first team meeting after the faculty presentations on Monday night.

By the numbers Macon, Mo.



*Data from <http://www.city-data.com/city/Macon-Missouri.html>

- Male: 2,493
- Female: 2,905
- White: 5,102
- African American: 295
- Hispanic: 49
- Asian: 13
- Total population: 5,398