

Picture Perfect

Public Relations Committee sponsors another successful "Day in the Life" photo contest

by Phill W. Johnson



As if the controversy surrounding the first “A Day in the Life of the Law Library Community” photo contest was not enough, this year we have Bret Christensen doing his imitation of a flamingo—in silhouette, no less!

Fortunately for us, Christensen chose not to wear stiletto heels like Stina McClintock did in the original photo Tina Ching took to win the Best Overall Photo in 2005. To refresh your memory, read the great article Ching wrote about her picture: “Images from a Library—Reflections on a photo and a profession” in the March 2006 issue of *AALL Spectrum* (www.aallnet.org/products/pub_sp0603/pub_sp0603_persp.pdf).

This year’s “Day in the Life” contest consisted of 43 individual librarians from 34 different libraries submitting a total of 155 photos for judging. Of the entrants, seven were from private law libraries, 26 were from academic law libraries, and 10 were from state, court, and county law libraries. Librarians from a total of 24 states entered the contest this year. Overall, the geographic distribution was relatively even across the country, with no state or region dominating the entries. We had entries from Alaska to Florida, from Texas to New York, and Oklahoma, Iowa, and Ohio—even Canada. But the best number of all was the number of AALL members who voted for their favorite photos. This year we had 535 members who voted!

As in the first contest, these numbers constitute only a small portion of the total number of people involved with each entry. For instance, those numbers do not take into account the subjects of the photos, those who helped with general logistics, or our friends at AALL Headquarters who made this contest possible. Of particular note are Julia O’Donnell and our intrepid Webmaster, Chris Siwa, who made the online voting possible.

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A Look at the Winners

Enough about numbers. Instead, let’s take a look at who our winners were this year. On the following pages you will see the top three winning photos in all six categories and the best overall photos.

Alan Pannell, reference librarian at the University of Colorado Law Library, was our big winner this year. One of Pannell’s photos (“The Fine Art of Multitasking”) won first in the category for Librarians as Information Evaluators and Managers. His second winning photo (“Inspiring the Next Generation”) won third place in the category for Librarians as Mentors. Of course, the best news for Pannell was that he also won first place in the Best Overall Photo category.

Others entrants won in multiple categories as well. One of those winners is Melissa Bernstein, a reference librarian at the University of Texas School of Law. Bernstein won second place in two categories and had multiple entries besides. Kelly Kunsch, a reference librarian at Seattle University School of Law Library, had second and third place entries in separate categories as well.

Add to that group Kathryn Broad, a systems librarian at the Oklahoma City University Law Library, who garnered a second place win in one of the individual categories and another second place in the Most Humorous category.

Barbara Swatt, a reference librarian and adjunct professor of law at Seattle University School of Law, had one



entry that won second place in an individual category and a second place finish in the Best Overall Photo category.

And finally, the industrious Tina Ching was busy again this year. She teamed with colleague Charity Bracerros, a three-time winner from the inaugural contest, to take photos that won second and third place honors in two separate categories. Bracerros also took the photo that placed second in one of the individual categories and eventually won third place in the Best Overall Photo category.

As we have done in the past, the Public Relations Committee will frame all of the winning photos and present them to the winners during the Annual Meeting in New Orleans. We will also have the framed photos on display during the Annual Meeting. To see the photos, simply drop by the PR Showcase in the Exhibit Hall during the Conference. The ceremony to present the winning photos will be held in the Exhibit Hall toward the end of the Conference. For those not able to join us in New Orleans, you can view all the submitted photos online at www.aallnet.org/dayinlife. Congratulations to all our winners! ■

Phill W. Johnson (Johnsonpw@umkc.edu) is director of electronic services and communications and adjunct professor of law at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Leon E. Bloch Law Library.