

Photojournalist aims to inspire

By IAN HOOPES
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When everyone else is thinking in terms of the present, Angela Shoemaker, adjunct professor of journalism, imagines what things will be like in the future.

Shoemaker thinks in photos, almost seeing the world as sort of a photo montage. She said she has been fascinated with photography all her life.

"Photography is my life," Shoemaker said.

Shoemaker was motivated at an early age to enter a career of photography.

"I remember enjoying flipping through magazines and looking at the photos," she said. "Time and National Geographic were my early inspirations."

After being accepted to the University of Louisville with a scholarship, Shoemaker promptly declared herself a photography major. Five years later, she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Conceptual Photography.

"I can't imagine doing anything else now. I think I was originally going to do something with medicine or botany," she said.

A Louisville native, Shoemaker has grown up in the area where she now works as a freelance photojournalist.

However, her career has taken her all over the globe. As part of her degree, she traveled to several other universities in San Diego and New Mexico.

Shoemaker has also spent time in Portugal and lived for four months in Brazil. Her penchant for travel is no

surprise, considering one of her long-term goals.

"I'd eventually like to be working with a large market publication like the New York Times, based in a foreign city as an international correspondent," she said.

Shoemaker said she always has an idea for her next project in mind, no matter what the situation. When she's not on assignment, she works for herself, always trying to get the next project, going with the hope that one of her projects will be able to take on a grand scope.

"That's always been a dream of mine, making a big project on my own," Shoemaker said.

Every photographer looks for the perfect shot, but when taking photographs, she aims to create a powerful story in the frames she captures.

"Powerful images can move people emotionally," Shoemaker said.

Shoemaker has favorite subjects, as well.

"I like to photograph women and female issues," she said. "I try to create visual excitement whenever possible."

Her work in female photography led her to an assignment for the Lexington Herald-Leader. An article claimed the Kentucky Derby was a must-attend event for exotic dancers, and Shoemaker took a series of photos for the Herald-Leader at Deja Vu in Louisville, which is several blocks from Churchill Downs.

"I really enjoyed doing that assignment," Shoemaker said. "It was challenging showing the girls and their



Photo by Ian Hoopes

Angela Shoemaker, adjunct professor of photojournalism, explains camera settings to Kyle O'Donnell, journalism senior.

environment without showing too much for the printed version."

Her talents are known well in the journalism community. Jim St. Clair, professor of journalism and coordinator of the journalism program at IU Southeast, professed his love of Shoemaker's photography.

"She has such a wide range of experience for her age," St. Clair said. "She did a spread for [Louisville Eccentric Observer] on women's roller derby that was phenomenal."

John Nation, photographer for Louisville Magazine, who Shoemaker has interned with, said he thinks highly of her.

"I've known Angela for 10 years now, and she's a strong photojournalist," Nation said. "She always comes back with good images."

He also said Shoemaker's commitment to her work is second to none.

"She's a tenacious woman," Nation said. "She gets the jobs that she wants, not what is thrown at her. She achieves out of desire."

As a new instructor at IU Southeast, Shoemaker hopes to bring a different perspective to the photojournalism program.

She feels she can change the curriculum in her inaugural course by bringing new knowledge in every day from her time spent taking

photographs.

Shoemaker wants to teach not just how to take a picture, but why a picture should be taken. In the course, she hopes to give students a strong sense of visual literacy.

"I want to teach powerful, real-life photography skills to journalists, ideas they can use in their whole life, even if they don't plan to become a photographer," she said.

The class gives students varying assignments covering a wide range of journalistic areas, and at the end students will be required to turn in a portfolio of their work as part of their final grade. This idea comes at a time where journalists are

being forced to multitask in the world.

"This way, students take more than just knowledge away from the class," Shoemaker said. "They have a real portfolio of work they can use in their careers."

Shoemaker has many goals in mind. In the near future she plans to get a master's, and travel more. She hopes teaching can give her even more experience for her future.

It makes sense that Angela Shoemaker sees things differently than most people. She's always looking through the lens of a camera.

"Even if you don't know it, photography is always in your life," Shoemaker said.

Professor teaches social justice, interracial understanding

By CAROLINE BRYAN
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Carl Kramer, visiting assistant professor of history at IU Southeast for 29 years, uses his classroom as a means to channel the importance of social justice and interracial understanding.

Kramer grew up in nearby Speed, Ind. His parents shared some prejudices that characterized white America as he was growing up, but still believed in a fundamental fairness.

During Kramer's formative years, this value was reinforced by a minister at Speed Memorial Church named Delbert Wickstrom.

Wickstrom led the senior high school Youth Fellowship.

"I was inculcated with a sense of just being fair," Kramer said. "Morally, I just thought it was right."

After high school, Kramer attended Anderson College, a private, church-related liberal arts school.

While at Anderson, Kramer took part in a march that was organized to coincide with the march from Selma to Montgomery.

The march started on the Anderson College campus and ended downtown at the court house.

"There I was in the third row, a flat-topped freshman marching in the parade," Kramer said.

"This was of major significance to me."

In the spring of 1968 Kramer experienced some-



Photo by Caroline Bryan

Carl Kramer, visiting assistant professor of history, administers a quiz. Kramer has been teaching at IU Southeast for 29 years.

thing he will never forget that helped shape his commitment to social justice.

When returning to the student lounge of his dorm after listening to the presidential debate that took place that evening on campus, Kramer saw his friend, a young black woman, Connie Rogers.

"Connie was crying," Kramer said.

"I just thought she had had a spat with her boyfriend."

When Kramer asked Rogers what was wrong, she responded with the news Martin Luther King, Jr. had been shot and was dead.

"That hit me like the

proverbial ton of bricks," Kramer said.

"I don't remember what I said, if I said anything. I just remember standing there holding her as she cried on my shoulder, feeling helpless."

Kramer remembers the next day being very tense.

The black students wanted to hold a vigil but wanted to do it by themselves.

They did not want any white students there.

"I would have liked to have participated," Kramer said.

"Myself, and others like me, tried to understand. It was sort of like the pain of a toothache. You're so much focused on the pain, you can't focus on what else there is."

The event led Kramer to believe even more he should be doing something other than going to graduate school.

At this same time, there was war in Vietnam and Kramer's student deferment was coming to an end.

He was wrestling with his future.

Kramer applied for the National Teacher Core, where there were only elementary teacher positions available.

However, he waited too long to apply, and the program was full.

"I thought, well, here's an opportunity I've missed," Kramer said.

"I'm going off to Michigan State," he said. "I'll be there one semester and then get drafted. By that time, I was pretty much of the same

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Carl Kramer
assistant professor
history

mind as thousands of other young men, that I am now putting my life on hold."

However, Kramer got lucky and received a letter from the Chicago Board of Education, right before leaving for Michigan State.

The letter was offering him a position in the Chicago Urban Teacher Core Program.

The Chicago Urban Teacher Core Program was an internship program with schools on the south and west sides of inner city Chicago.

Kramer began his teaching career there in 1968 at the George T. Donahue Elementary School.

"When I started, the principal told me to leave my middle class white values at the door," Kramer said.

"I was able to see close up the consequences of racism, poverty and defacto segregation."

It was while teaching in Chicago that Kramer decided he was not cut out to be an elementary teacher.

Seven years after his experience at George T. Donahue Elementary, Kramer was diagnosed with Tourette's

syndrome.

The chemical ups and downs characteristic of Tourette's syndrome made him ill-suited to be an elementary teacher.

"Being an elementary school teacher is the hardest job I've ever had," Kramer said.

Kramer left Chicago knowing he wanted to be a college teacher and an urban historian.

"I enjoyed history in general, but the city gave me a true sense of fascination," Kramer said.

"This decision was also made with the realization that college teaching provided an opportunity to draw on my experience to promote social justice and interracial understanding."

Kramer uses his classroom to help others see that in order to recognize and overcome racism and prejudice, it is important to understand their roots.

"Teaching at IU Southeast provides an opportunity to do that in the broader community in which I was reared and which I care about very deeply," Kramer said.