

A MOMENT IN TIME

ALUMNI CAPTURE INCREDIBLE IMAGES OF THEIR LIVES

BY ELYSE RUDOLPH

With cameras now readily available in every pocket, purse or backpack, it is possible to take dozens of photos in a single second. Yet despite the ubiquity of cameras and pictures in our daily lives, photography hasn't lost its magic. The human fascination with capturing on film what we see with our eyes remains unchanged.

For members in the Kent Denver alumni community who have dedicated time and energy to learning the art of photography, it's more than a fascination; it's a way of interacting with the world. In the following pages, a few of those talented photographers share stories about their introduction to the medium and how it has shaped their lives.

ANAYANSI RICKETTS '82

ARTIST AND ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL

// Photography allows me to look deeply and connects me to my environment. I am forced to actually "see" and analyze the world around me. A photograph can tell a story or allow for a different perspective.

In 10th grade, I took an Interim class offered by Steve Ericsson. It was winter and I remember shooting black and white images of fog at Washington Park, kids at play and storm-filled skies. I was hooked from the beginning.

My scholastic and art classes [at Kent Denver] developed me as a critical thinker who could imagine and explore my talents.

I am now an Environmental and Community Development professional who is also an artist. As an artist, I have been lucky enough to explore many mediums. While living in California, I along with some artist friends owned Empire Squared (E2), an art gallery for emerging artists. In Chicago, I wrote a book, *Zen Garden Transformation*, a photography and poetry tome. I have been honored by Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art and the book is in a show, 'The City in the Twenty-First Century'. //



Cloud Gate courtesy of A. Ricketts



Selma c.1965 courtesy of G.Waldman



Snake, Daytona c.1992 courtesy of G.Waldman



Circus courtesy of G.Waldman

GEORGE WALDMAN '68

PHOTOJOURNALIST

// A U.S. history course at Denver Country Day taught by Walter S. Rosenberry III—the one teacher some have in their lives able to stir a passion and set a course—laid a foundation and a solid background in social movements and ideas which grounded much of my journalism career. He started within me what still leads me 60 years later, like being set on railroad tracks, not able to get off.

I was a reporter and taught myself photography, which I saw as a way to reach deeper in connecting people, seeing what we have in common with each other, easing conflict, making connections and seeing life for myself. Sharing important moments in the lives of others has been a gift and a blessing.

The end of the story may be a small book I produced called *Voices of the Strike*, a series of photographs by myself and others (with their own words) resisting the busting of the newspaper unions in Detroit in the late-1990s. I sent a copy to Mr. Rosenberry and thanked him for what I had learned from him. //



Evening in Florence courtesy of C. Vickers



Escapism:Green courtesy of C. Vickers

CAITLIN VICKERS '17

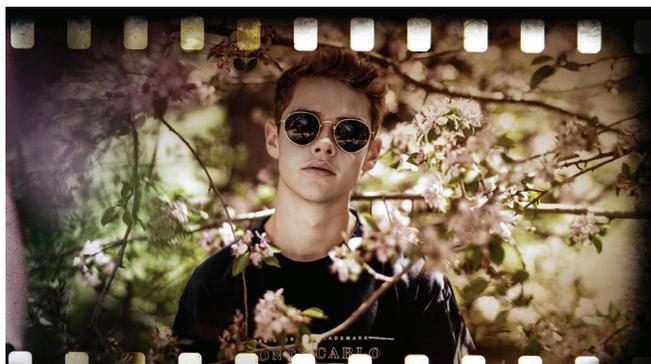
PHOTOGRAPHER AND UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS STUDENT

// I am a firm believer that everyone should begin with film and here's why: you learn the basics (I wouldn't have been able to shoot in manual mode without this training or at least be half as confident in it); you have a limited number of exposures, or photos, which you can take (forcing you to think through what you're using them on rather than taking a picture just to take a picture), you learn not to rely on instant gratification (you can't immediately see the image you have just made, delete it if it is bad, and reshoot – you need to be focused on doing it right).

If you were to ask what I love about photography, it would be the way it impacts my interaction and observation of the people and the world around me. Kent Denver played not only an essential role in my mentality, but also my artistic process. Nothing can be finished which hasn't been properly started; every artist needs a process. //



Soie courtesy of T. Schmergel



Monte Carlo courtesy of T. Schmergel

TATE SCHMERGEL '19

PHOTOGRAPHER AND UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STUDENT

// As a photographer, my eyes capture the world around me. Like a good book, my images tell a story. Behind the camera, I am not just clicking a button—I am stopping time to depict the authenticity of a single moment.

Portraiture is my niche because of the intimacy I find in its human connection. My subjects trust me to display their most genuine selves.

From the sixth grade on at Kent Denver, I was encouraged by my teachers and peers to take risks with not only my academic work but with my art and photography as well. Teachers including Ms. Pringle, Ms. Mitchell, Mr. Fortmiller, and, of course, Mr. Dean (knowingly and unknowingly) acted as catalysts in the development of my photography skills. They challenged me to fully embrace my talent and gave me the determination to always go a step beyond my comfort zone. //

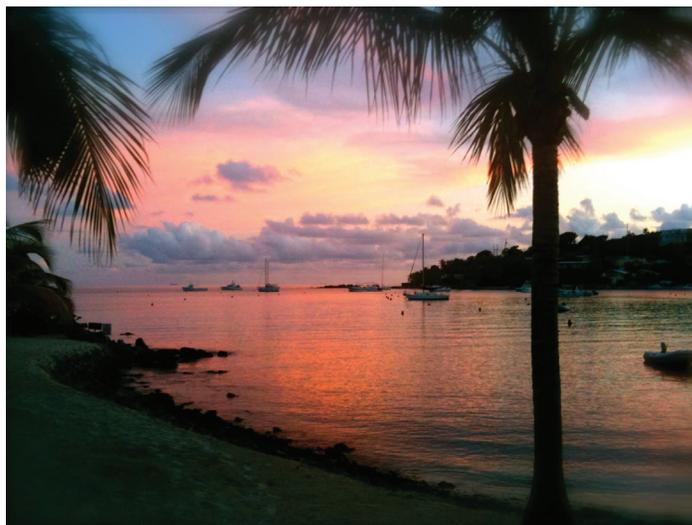
BRIDGET SKJORDAHL '74

PHOTOGRAPHER AND GLOBETROTTER

// My journey to expressing myself through art began in Ginny Poe's middle school art classes at Kent. We were exposed to a variety of art media, from ceramics to metals. That was where I first experienced the joy of creating something with my own hands, and the first time I made art that I loved.

You know that moment when something exquisite catches your eye? Maybe it's so immediately stunning, it even takes your breath away! If you're like me, you're thinking, "Wow! I wish everyone could be right here next to me, seeing what I'm seeing, and feeling the poignance of this moment for themselves!" And at once you realize that THIS moment is fleeting, and will never come around again. This is why I started taking photographs.

On a personal level, photography reminds me of the impermanence of everything. //



Down Island Sunrise, St. Thomas courtesy of B. Skjordahl



Rainbow Over the Forum, Roma courtesy of B. Skjordahl

KRISTEN PETERSON '70

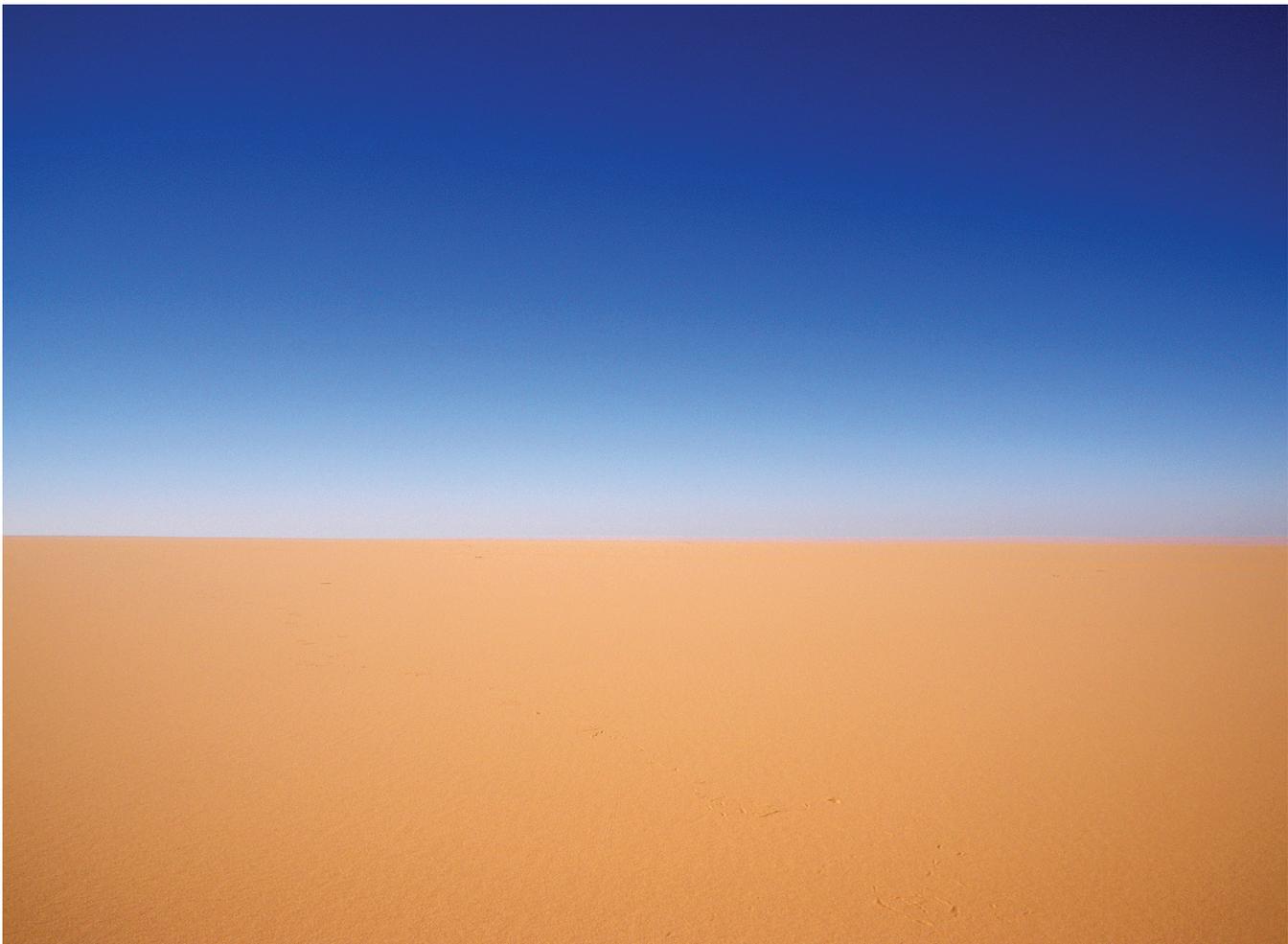
PHOTOJOURNALIST AND SMALL BUSINESS OWNER

// Because Kent was so small, I was able to jump into whatever subject or project interested me. If I'd stayed at a bigger high school, I'm not sure I would have had the same opportunities to learn new skills. I learned how to process film by taking pictures for the yearbook and for classmates who wanted senior portraits.

My photos are personal souvenirs, like layered memories of travels and adventures. I document and share everyday events, quiet moments, celebrations, interiors and food—all to encourage a closer look and a "being there" experience." //



Japan, 1979 courtesy of K. Peterson



The Western Desert of Egypt, 2011 courtesy of K. Peterson



To see additional images submitted by our contributing photographers, visit www.kentdenver.org/alumni/alumni-magazine-bonus-content. ☀