

National Photographic Grand Champions Announced - School Photographers of America

Photographic excellence in school and volume photography honored in Houston, Texas at the SPOA International Conference on School Photography & Yearbooks

GREENSBORO, NC, UNITED STATES, June 20, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- School Photographers of America ([SPOA](#)) recognized the [grand champions](#) of the first 2022 National Photographic Competition this past Friday, June 10, during the association's awards banquet and celebration. The awards banquet was hosted at the Westin Galleria hotel in Houston, Texas for all the finalists and their respective companies. In addition, many industry suppliers and business partners were in attendance and commemorated as well.

The grand champions were honored with trophies on stage and were celebrated for the outstanding performance.

"This new national competition promotes healthy competition while increasing the level of photographic quality across the country in many of the areas of school photography," says [David Crandall](#), executive director, SPOA. "From preschool to high-school senior portraits, school photography is one of America's rich traditions and a strategic partner of all U.S. schools. Our images are a key component of school safety initiatives as well as a lifetime keepsake."

The Grand Champions are:

Preschool – Fall Portraits
• Schoolhouse Pictures



SPOA 2022 Fall Underclass Grand Champion - Inter-State Studio & Publishing Co.

Preschool – Graduation Portraits

- Chastity Mata - Photo Texas Photography

Underclass - Fall Portraits

- Sarah Ries - Inter-State Studio & Publishing Co.

Underclass - Spring Portraits

- Kym James – Focused School Photography

Classroom Groups - Traditional

- Isaac Ulrey – Strawbridge Studios

School Staff Groups

- Peter Kramer – GPI - Geskus Photography

School Sports - Individual Portraits

- Peter Muhly – Leonard’s

School Sports - Team - Traditional

- Jen Adamo – Strawbridge Studios (Two entries chosen)

School Sports - Team – Creative

- Peter Muhly – Leonard’s Photography

Large Group Panoramic

- Darrell Thomas - Cady Studios



I was so excited for each finalist and each grand champion. I am sure many of these schools and districts where the portraits were taken will be just as excited as the photographer that took them.”

David Crandall

Cap & Gown Portraits

- Eric Patrie - Upstate Images

Prom/Dance Portraits

- Chastity Mata - Photo Texas Photography

Seniors - Formal Portraits

- Jack Upton – Strawbridge Studios

Seniors – Casual Portraits

- Corey Cameron - Cady Studios

Seniors - Lifestyle/Environmental

- Peter Muhly – Leonard’s Photography



SPOA's 2022 Grand Champion -
Creative Open Category - Ali
Harmon - Leonard's

Seniors - Creative/Open

• Joy Horton- Cady Studios

School Buildings

• Peter Muhly - Leonard's

Photography

Photographer - Creative/Open

• Alissa Harmon - Leonard's,

Photography

The competition had two rounds of online judging, using the Launchpad6 photography contest website to facilitate the contest and judging.

Judges used a standard rubric to facilitate scoring. All identifying data was removed so judges could only see the image when inputting their score.

The first round was facilitated by the industry photography committee. The second and final round was represented by a retired school photographer with more than 30 years of judging experience who is also a Certified Master Photographer, as well as a Sony Artisan photographer, a school district leader and a state educational leader. This provides the most well-rounded and fair judging experience possible.

"Watching the expression on the photographers that won and came on stage made this competition so amazing," says Crandall. "I was so excited for each finalist and each grand champion. I am sure many of these schools and districts where the portraits were taken will be just as excited as the photographer that took them. I am so excited for all the winners and the students, staff and schools that allowed them the opportunity to facilitate their art in such amazing ways."

ABOUT SPOA

School Photographers of America (SPOA) was formed in 2020 on behalf of school portrait studios to advocate for and to protect their copyrights, as well as establish and govern healthy standards and best practices for the school photography industry. This will ensure school photography remains a rich tradition in schools across North America.

To learn more about SPOA, visit www.schoolphotographersofamerica.com or email David Crandall at DavidC@schoolphotographersofamerica.com.

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2022 Grand Champion - School Groups - Isaac Ulrey - Strawbridge Studios Inc.

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