

The Louis Schmidt Award

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| 1948 – Leo C. Massopust, FBPA | 1978 – John P. Vetter, RBP, FBPA |
| 1949 – Anne Shiras, FBPA | 1979 – Donald H. Fritts, RBP, FBPA |
| 1950 – Stella Zimmer, FBPA | 1980 – Fritz Goro, RBP, FBPA |
| 1951 – Ralph P. Creer, FBPA | 1981 – I. Lloyd Matlovsky, RBP, FBPA |
| 1952 – Leonard A. Julin, RBP, FBPA | 1982 – Leslie Bowcock, MD, AIMBI |
| 1953 – Oscar W. Richards, PhD, FBPA | 1983 – H. Paul Newman, RBP, FBPA |
| 1954 – Ferdinand R. Harding, RBP, FBPA | 1984 – Percy Brooks, RBP, FBPA |
| 1955 – C. Graham Eddy, FBPA | 1985 – Leon J. LeBeau, FBPA |
| 1956 – Mervin W. LaRue, Sr., FBPA | 1986 – Nile Root, RBP, FBPA |
| 1957 – Lloyd E. Varden, RBP, FBPA | 1987 – Martin L. Scott, FBPA |
| 1958 – Albert Levin, RBP, FBPA | 1988 – Ralph J. Marshall, PhD |
| 1959 – Paul H. Holinger, MD, FBPA | 1989 – Thomas P. Hurtgen, FBPA |
| 1960 – H. Lou Gibson, RBP, FBPA | 1990 – Raymond E. Lund, RBP, FBPA |
| 1961 – Warren Sturgis, RBP, FBPA | 1991 – Robert F. Sisson, RBP, FBPA |
| 1962 – Stanley J. McComb, RBP, FBPA | 1992 – Nicholas M. Graver, RBP, FBPA |
| 1963 – Marie E. Ikenberg, RBP, FBPA | 1993 – A. Robin Williams, FBPA |
| 1964 – Peter Hansell, MD, RBP, FBPA | 1994 – Will E. Renner, RBP, FBPA |
| 1965 – Howard E. Tribe, RBP, FBPA | 1995 – Dan Patton, RBP, FBPA |
| 1966 – John V. Butterfield, FBPA | 1996 – Kenneth V. Michaels, FBPA |
| 1967 – not awarded | 1997 – Ronald F. Irvine, RBP, FBPA |
| 1968 – Chester F. Reather, RBP, FBPA | 1998 – Heather Angel, FRPS, FBIPP |
| 1969 – Laurence B. Brown, RBP, FBPA | 1999 – Richard M. Williams, FBPA |
| 1970 – Verlin Y. Yamamoto, RBP, FBPA | 2000 – Herbert R. Smith, Jr., FBPA |
| 1971 – Stephen P. Dittman, RBP, FBPA | 2001 – William J. Stenstrom, FBPA |
| 1972 – Clifford L. Freehe, RBP, FBPA | 2002 – W. David Tredinnick, FBPA |
| 1973 – Stanley Klosevych, RBP, FBPA | 2003 – Joseph Ogradnick, FBPA |
| 1974 – Roger P. Loveland, FBPA | 2004 – Robert C. Turner, RBP, FBPA |
| 1975 – E. Lynn Baldwin, RBP, FBPA | 2005 – Samuel Giannavola, RBP, FBPA |
| 1976 – Charles P. Hodge, RBP, FBPA | |
| 1977 – Lardner A. Coffey, RBP, FBPA | |

The 2005 Louis Schmidt Laureate



Samuel Giannavola, RBP, FBPA

The Louis Schmidt Award

This Award – the highest given in the BCA – is named for our second President. It is awarded annually for “outstanding contributions to the progress of biological communications.” The selection of the recipient each year is made by a committee composed of the nine most recent winners. This selection is subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.

Mr. Schmidt was in charge of photography at the Rockefeller Institute in New York City and was a founding member of the BPA in 1931. He had an abiding interest in sharing his photographic knowledge with his students and in promoting the highest technical standards in our association.

In 1943, on the occasion of his death, the BPA Journal commented, “In many ways, the BPA is a monument to Louis Schmidt.”

To give special distinction to the Award, those who receive it are known as “Louis Schmidt Laureates.”

The BioCommunications Association, Inc. is grateful to Mrs. Mary Lappan Vetter, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the generous gift of a 100-year-old, gold-headed cane. It was received August 4, 1990, in Phoenix, Arizona. The cane is part of the BCA Louis Schmidt Award and was presented the first time to Robert F. Sisson on August 3, 1991, in Tampa, Florida.

The gold head is composed of heavy inlaid gold on a copper base. The principal value of the cane is due to the goldsmith’s ability to create and fashion a design of elegant beauty. The cane’s original owner was Dr. Goebel who received it in a presentation of unknown designation in 1902. It came into Mrs. Mary Lappan Vetter’s possession upon the death of her uncle, Father Thomas T. Lappan.

Many universities, colleges and hospitals in Great Britain and America have adopted the practice of awarding a gold-headed cane as the highest honor that can be bestowed on one of their staff members. The BioCommunications Association, through the generous gift of Mary Vetter, is pleased to present this special cane as its highest honor.

The 2005 Louis Schmidt Laureate

Samuel Giannavola, RBP, FBPA

Sam Giannavola’s career in biocommunications began in 1976, when he entered the Rochester Institute of Technology’s Biomedical Photographic Communications program, having already completed an Associate degree at Monroe Community College. During college, he also completed an internship in veterinary biophotography at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Upon graduation with honors with a B.S. in Biomedical Communications from RIT, Sam signed on as Photolab Supervisor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in Little Rock, where he became active in BCA, then BPA. He also began work at once to become a Registered Biological Photographer, and accomplished that goal by August 1980. He later moved to the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and over the next several years served in various job titles including interim and acting director of the Biomedical Communications Center. He returned to UAMS in 1988 and has been there ever since, in positions of top leadership in an active, full-service department whose services range from printing to Web design and television production.

Sam Giannavola’s “second career” – that of educator – began less than a year after he completed college, with an oral presentation to the BPA Midsouth Chapter in New Orleans, and his first article in the Journal of Biological Photography, both in 1980. Since then, he’s given more than 60 oral presentations at local, regional and international professional meetings. At both UAMS and Illinois, he has conducted ongoing courses ranging from Basic Medical Photography for veterinary medical students to Computer Graphics literacy courses to university students, staff, and faculty. He’s served on the faculty of more than a dozen workshops, and has also published in several trade magazines. His most prolific contributions have been to our association’s journal; he has published more than 20 articles since 1980.

Sam was granted the honor of Fellow of the Biological Photographic Association in 1991, and has also earned the credentials of Arkansas Governmental Manager and Certified Public Manager. Sam and his wife Laura reside in Little Rock, Arkansas with their two children, Alex and Rosie.