

# Student wins photography award

**ANGIE ROYER**

DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTER

Stephen Chalmers was in disbelief when he found out last month that he won one of the top three awards in an international competition of the Photo Imaging Education Association.

At first, Chalmers, a graduate student in photography from Louisville, Ky., thought he did not make it into the competition.

"I was pretty surprised because I didn't think I was in the show when they called me," Chalmers said. "I thought they were joking with me."

There were 3,000 images from six countries entered in the international competition. One hundred and two images were chosen, and 15 of those images were from SIUC photography students.

Chalmers won a computer, software, digital camera, scanner, color printer and 100 rolls of film.

The print that won showed a little boy wearing a suit and a little girl wearing a white dress standing among California Redwoods. The images of



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the children were from a 19th century photograph. He digitally combined the two images to make the winning print.

Chalmers said the print was to portray "childhood as a very scary place." He got the idea from doing four years of volunteer work with emotionally disturbed children, finding the children more interesting than normal children.

"They are children who are not in control of their

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— AMY REATHAFORD  
PHOTOGRAPHY MAJOR

emotions," Chalmers said. "They can go from calm to violent in a blink of an eye. I would use photography as a way of reaching them."

Amy Reathaford, a senior in photography from Galesburg, is a friend of Chalmers.

Reathaford said in the three years she has known Chalmers, she found that Chalmers would go out of his way in helping others when they had questions about any area of photography.

"He would go that extra mile for you and help you out from the beginning to presenting your work," she said.

Reathaford said Chalmers is one of the hardest working graduate students in the photography department. She describes him as dedicated, professional and knowledgeable.

"It's a really nice icing on the cake for him to win the competition since this is his last semester," she said.

Jean Stawarz, professor of cinema and photography,



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worked with Chalmers while he was a webmaster for the cinema and photography website.

Stawarz said Chalmers took the website over from another graduate student and worked long hours to redesign the entire website.

"He was very diligent," Stawarz said. "I never had to get after him because he was a self starter and a self motivator."

Stawarz said she believes Chalmers has the qualities to be successful.

"He has the combination of being a hard worker, intelligent and creative," Stawarz said. "And I think that's what you need to make it in this world."