

Michael Strong

CV/Resumé, ePortfolio Guide

Michael Strong

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Primary Web Sites

Resume and Gallery web site: <http://www.mikestrongphoto.com/>
Dance Site: <http://www.kcdance.com/>

Bullet Lists By Category

My career has been varied and unexpected. That makes the use of an eportfolio more useful to show what I've produced, especially because I have a lot of work and a four-year degree, interrupted on the way to completion. So I need a way to show experience.

I consider my work around four major threads:

- 1 – Imaging in photography and videography.
- 2 – Computer coding mostly for databases, the web and for a commercial application.
- 3 – Education, both the online technology and face-to-face.
- 4 – Journalism, partly as career, partly on the side and largely as an approach to imaging and to teaching in terms of the transfer of, and retention of information.

Getting information across forms the crossover for all threads, a fusion.

I have a set of documents listing experience. You can find them linked on the disk, if you have one, or on this linked page, which will present any late changes.

http://www.mikestrongphoto.com/CV_Galleries/Default.htm

Here is a quick list followed by topical lists

- Programmer - starting in 1966
- Photographer - starting in 1967
- Reporter/writer - starting in 1967
- Air Force from November 1968 to 1972 - Staff Sergeant.
- Geodetic/Astronomic computer and surveyor - 1969-1972 (Air Force)
- Videographer - starting in the mid 1990's
- Technical writer - starting in the mid 1980's
- AutoScript

- Software manual for AutoScript - AutoCAD to PostScript program
- Beta-tester downloader web site for AutoScript
- Programmer for Windows version of AutoScript
- And a few others along the way: bartender, waiter, massage therapist, bartending school director
- Computer teacher starting in 1985 with AT&T classes in desktop publishing and database
- Taught dance automation from choreography at the conservatory (5 years, program based on dance notation) with Nicole English
- Online course development
 - Created online courseware for BIT (Bachelor of Information Technology) program (two year grant)
 - Created online courses and taught them from 1999 (fifteen years)
- AA degree from Auburn CC in Auburn, NY in 1993 (Now Cayuga County CC)
- BS in journalism 1991 at University of Kansas, Lawrence
- Website journalist for dance in the Kansas City area since 1996

Current projects and work:

- Documentary: Ballets of Antony Tudor (for the Tudor Foundation) as part of a Tudor curriculum for university dance depts.
- Documentary: Labanotation for the work of jazz dance pioneer Luigi in the 50's and 60's with the notator, Billie Mahoney, utilizing the notation system of Rudolf Laban
- Weekly 1/2-hour Interview program from the Kansas City Ballet's Bolender Center with Billie Mahoney on TV interviewing dancers, choreographers and others in the field of dance. I do the cameras and editing and followup and set the studio. This is Billie's program. She started it in 1981 in New York City and we re-started it in April 2011 at KCB location. The work is also then archived at the New York Library of the Arts in NYC's Lincoln Center. View an sampler here: http://www.mikestrongphoto.com/CV_Galleries/VideoEmbed_DanceOn.htm
- Teach online at UMKC's PACE since 2003.
- Photographer and videographer for various dance companies: (Kansas City Ballet, American Youth Ballet, City in Motion, KC Friends of Alvin Ailey and the Ailey visiting companies, Traditional Music Society, Wyllyams/Henry, UMKC Conservatory ...)
- Ten years of Modern Night at the Folly and 2 years before, view the full 238-page book online at <http://www.blurb.com/b/4076762-a-modern-night-at-the-folly>
- Online website for dance in the Kansas City area started in February 1997: <http://www.kcdance.com>

I have a work "under construction" detailing imaging and journalism threads which you can get to if you want. It may fill in some details at:

http://www.mikestrongphoto.com/CV_Galleries/Mike%20Strong%20and%20Imaging.pdf

NOTE: the items below are copied and pasted from support documents prepared for UMKC certification. They are probably more than you might wish for a brief run down but can all be seen in longer form at my CV/gallery default page http://www.mikestrongphoto.com/CV_Galleries/Default.htm (repeated link from above)

Photography – a very brief hash list

Although this may be the largest part of my life I will cover it here in a few broad strokes. I started with 4x5 Crown Graphics / Speed Graphics, chemical darkrooms, and digital, first from film scanners and by 1999 with my first digital cameras. I've worked with Photoshop since 1992 when it was first available on PC though I use Lightroom almost all the time now.

I am used to a wide range of shooting conditions though most of what I do these days is either in dance studios or on stage with rapidly changing light color, intensity, direction, and more all with rapidly moving subjects. You will seldom get such a technically challenging set of shooting conditions.

I shoot and edit video, mostly dance concerts and events, working with Vegas Pro since 1999. Check my ePortfolio site's video links page for a look at some of the videos. It includes an hour-long sampler from a half-hour video interview program I've done with Billie Mahoney starting in April 2011, a revival of her "Dance On" program (she started this in 1982 in NYC). It airs on the local cable channel here several times a week. http://www.mikestrongphoto.com/CV_Galleries/Video_Links_online.htm

I generally think of my photography starting with a class in the summer of 1967 at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. That led to a job with the university as a photo lab assistant for the 67-68 academic year. After that while looking for photo jobs and advancing my photography I wound up with other jobs in this I either brought along the camera or used the camera in addition such as my reporting jobs on both radio and newspaper. The newspapers, as you might guess, were my best use of photography to accompany my writing.

After that, again looking for photography work I encountered a color lab in Kansas City needing a B&W section, so I became the B&W portion of that lab. Later we split and I continued the color lab services on my own until mid-1983. One of my main sources of income was from Macy's advertising which used me to turn the color transparencies from a catalog shoot into 4&5 B&W panchromatic internegatives and from there to B&W prints which they used in newspaper ads across seven states from their Kansas City store (closed at the end of 1983, all operations moved to Atlanta).

Along with the lab work I took freelance shooting jobs of various sorts from meetings to kids' team shots (such as groups and singles in little league, etcetera) to model composites. Some of it was for ads or ad articles in local publications, such as The Squire, and some of it was in a studio shooting senior pictures for a local outfit, long since bought out.

In the meantime I developed an interest in ballroom dance and took my camera with me. So when I started my website for dancers it was to show pictures and give descriptions of places we could go out to dance in other than studio parties. This eventually led to a few performance pictures and from there to a lot of performance pictures and dance concert video coverage.

Most of my style is journalistic, for what that means. But I also have a commercial eye though I seldom use it. And, while there are some folks who have no idea that I shoot anything other than dance, I do. I just find dance more compelling and far, far more demanding. Which is certainly part of what makes it so compelling. The perfect picture is always around the corner, no matter how good each day's take is.

You can see a full range of my work on my ePortfolio site: <http://www.MikeStrongPhoto.com> which has a slide show at the top and tons of links, by category, of pictures in those categories. (You may be reading this from there now.) This is the same site I noted earlier for the video sampler page. Please note that the site is all my own hand coding. I wrote every line of code including the javascript slide shows and controls. You can also review other information on me.

1999 - research assistant, lecturer UMKC

UMKC for BIT (Bachelor of Information Technology) program in the former CSTP (Computer Science and Telecommunications Program).

The job, along with Nicole English, was the creation, web design and maintenance of the new online program, very new at the time. We were the "web monkeys." We put that site together.

While there we (Nicole and myself) created the IT-222 Multimedia course which is still going. It was started as a combination classroom (from primary development) and web course, always with an eye toward online usage.

This lasted through 2000 when the program ran out. I understood it was a grant but on looking into it now, for this document, I'm not sure, only that it was some sort of special allocation. I was hired into the program which was ongoing when I came in.

2003 – UMKC PACE program instructor and Dance Division Animation class

In early 2003 I was asked by PACE whether I would be willing to take a database course. I was already working in a database web capacity in Kansas City's west bottoms area at American Crane and Tractor Supply, a third party wholesaler for heavy equipment, mostly Caterpillar.

So, I put together a number of items I'd been holding onto from the BIT program, meaning to implement. And threw together a course in Microsoft Access assuming nothing about the students. A beginning course. You can see an archived example here (<http://www.mikestrongphoto.com/lessons/>) by clicking on the button in front of "Database Introduction for Office Workers" to see how the class worked.

As that class became popular and "sold" well we added a block of classes, eventually a number of classes all also shown in the archived link above.

The Dance Division of the Conservatory at UMKC needed to fulfill a technical requirement for their dancers and Mary Pat Henry, then in charge of the division asked me to teach a course in 3D dance animation to the students to create and animate their choreographies. You can see this by clicking the button the the left of "Dance Tech, Animation." We kept this class going for five years until the curriculum requirements changed. This was a so-called blended class, a result of a face-to-face class on Friday afternoons for students in performance studies, which meant they were often gone in a performance or in rehearsals for performances or on the road. So, we ran the direct connection in a live classroom but

made all the materials available on the web so the dancers could get to this at any time. And, there were extra lab times for them. They were among the most focused of our students.

I am still working classes with PACE, two computer classes, one a practical class in MS Office (example link here: http://www.mikestrongphoto.com/CV_Galleries/CIT105_example/NavMenu_CIT105.htm), and one a conceptual class on the social impact of computers.

At this time I've just been asked to put together two more classes, one on web design (coding for) and one on multimedia design and production.

AutoScript - commercial software

AutoCAD to PostScript conversion program

- 1989 - contracted to clean up their sale database (in SmartWare II, a local company later bought by Informix who were in turn bought out by IBM)
- 1989 - contracted to write the software manual for version 2 of AutoScript by Preco Industries which was then being written by a company in College Station, Texas in Borland C and named AutoScript 5.
- 1992 - full time with Preco, as software maintenance technician for the new program, debugger and phone support for customers.
- Wrote a program to convert their previous production program in COBOL into a FoxBase format. I did the full file conversion program. This included, later, a BOM (bill of materials) program to generate a list of materials in AutoCAD drawings of their machines (die cut presses).
- 1993 - began a beta test download web site for our selected AutoScript testers. This was in ASP and led to later web programming. At this point the web was new and our modems were just reaching 14.4 kbps over the phone line.
- Wrote a network printer distribution program for our AutoCAD files. This was before the days of easy network printer access. This program watched for output files in a network folder then fed those files to the printer. The picture below shows three of the dialogs and has a short explanation in text.

- 1995 - Started work on Windows GUI version of AutoScript as the programmer using Visual Basic. We called it AutoScript 6.
- Details below
- When the program was everything asked for by our beta testers but 10 times slower than the previous version I wrote an assembler program for direct file access which gave the program a processing speed 10-20% faster than the old program written in C.
- My rule from this was to make sure I was NOT using the fastest, coolest machine for development. Instead I've always since made a point of having a machine no faster than I can expect of most of my customers. If this was to be painful for anyone I wanted it to be painful for me first. That way I had a better idea of how our customers experienced it.
- AutoScript was discontinued in September 1998.

- Autoscript programming gave me a list of items I had to know about and use (I'm listing these off the cuff so far and may think of more later)
 - C (language)
 - Batch files and installation programs/disks
 - DOS BASIC
 - Networks
 - Visual Basic (language)
 - Assembler
 - AutoCAD
 - AutoLISP (language)
 - Installation programs
 - Copy protection (always a bit of a pain)
 - Embedding serial numbers (wrote a program to embed SN's in programs to customers)
 - Fonts (one of our advantages were PostScript fonts, not stick fonts)
 - more information that I recall about fonts such as foundries, Italic versus oblique, serifs, decorations, matching PS to on screen preview for size and position, etcetera)
 - bounding boxes
 - insertion points
 - cap heights - flattened and rounded
 - line heights compared to AutoCAD heights and line separations
 - descenders
 - strings in PostScript versus separated characters in Windows
 - point measuring systems, PostScript (72 ppi) versus typesetters, US, England, etc. (72.272 ppi), 12 points per Pica. Points have varied a good deal in size from the 1700's through the late 1800's after which they became more standard.
 - Scaling sizes and stroke width changes (thicker for smaller, thinner for larger) and shape hints
 - device resolutions
 - PostScript (language) our code converted AutoCAD DXF files to Postscript code
 - EPS and PS - Encapsulate PostScript and PostScript
 - had a 3.5 kb PostScript header file (Windows PS header was > 100Kb)
 - screen printing – Preco developed and still sells automated screen printers
 - dye sublimation printing – early attempt at printing, changed to screen printing

Preco also developed a laser cutter which I programmed using a movement language with a DXF reader derived from the AutoScript AutoCAD parser I wrote.

- laser cutting using an AutoCAD derived driver file
- motion control with varying velocities depending on straightline or curves

Clinic Masters - 1983 – database

From Commodore 64 to PC Network - From 1983 - Database, programming

Created a sales, mailing database for use in a 20th anniversary meeting with Clinic Masters / Mind Dynamics. Had more than 13,000 names on 84 floppies all running with SuperBase 64 program. Superbase 64 had 3,500 kb of memory to run in using a BASIC language to program in.

I had been hired to be the meeting coordinator for this, held at the Hyatt Regency, and we were looking for, and got, 1,000 attendees. Out of this some were current clients, some were former clients and some of those former clients signed up yet again.

There were a number of other tasks such as support for a phone dialer to market the chiropractors (sample pages from the manual are below). Under the name of MetaMarketing they sold this device for several thousand dollars.

American Crane & Tractor Parts Inc.

2200 State Line Road
Kansas City, KS 66103
913-371-8585
www.actparts.com (ACT)

From June 2001 through March 14, 2003

Web and E-Commerce programming and documentation.

Extensive work on e-commerce at the international warehouse level running IIS with ASP and Sql Server running together to generate daily orders from resellers anywhere from several line items to several thousand line items per order, rather than the more typical shopping-cart applications.

When I was brought on board consultants were about to sign-off on a large revision of their warehouse system based on Microsoft's Site Server (long ago replaced by MS Commerce Server). This includes consideration for alternate part numbers, different warehouses, shipping consolidation to minimize costs and international shipping documents.

- The system generated web pages which with too much code, therefore too slow for their customers across the world (such as Johannesburg in SA and Bangladesh).
- I reduced the page weight to eight and a half percent of the size. This helped but more was needed.
- I then designed a light front end expanding at the client side (using Javascript) which again dramatically reduced traffic loading.

In addition

- I re-did the front-end general company web site for both external use and internal use,
- including a simple company-wide help documentation system. The company system includes administrative maintenance tools for many of the database and text-based changeable items.
- The last task I left before finishing the assignment was to re-design the company's front-end web site complete
- with multi-lingual capabilities and with an administrative interface.

- The admin interface allows the web-master to add help files, to catalog the flyer archive for use on the web, and to keep track of the current status of all translations on the site.
- Along with this was an email generator which allowed their marketing person to create and send HTML email flyers to a list and to keep a record of responses and then add those flyers to the archive.