

# STANLEY LEARY

People & Location Photographer

**Making Photos POP!**

[www.StanleyLeary.com](http://www.StanleyLeary.com)

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**Client List**

Associated Builders Contractors of Georgia  
 American Die Technology  
 American Power Conversion  
 AmeriGlo  
 Athlon Sports  
 Atlanta Regional Commission  
 Baptist Press  
 Bank of America  
 British Broadcasting Company  
 Black Star Publishing  
 Blessed Trinity High School  
 Burke County Public Library, Inc.  
 Burmeister Group  
 Calvin Center  
 Catholic News Service  
 Celebrate Life International, Inc  
 Chiropractic Economics  
 Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
 Corporate Legal Times  
 Country Magazine  
 Creative Publishing International  
 Defenderworx LLC  
 Delta Airlines  
 Discovery Channel  
 Drug Store News  
 East Carolina University  
 Enzymatic Deinking Technologies  
 ESPN.COM  
 Faith And The City  
 Florida State University  
 Fordham University  
 Fulcrum Construction  
 Galloway School  
 Georgia Council of Chiropractic  
 Georgia Southern University  
 Georgia State University  
 Georgia Tech  
 Georgia Trial Lawyers Association  
 GTP Enterprises Inc  
 Hollywood Reporter  
 Home Channel News  
 International Mission Board, SBC  
 It's for Vets  
 Journal of Accountancy  
 J. M. Huber Corporation  
 Kennesaw State University  
 Kenyon College  
 Ladder to the Moon  
 Landmark Christian School  
 Lifeway Christian Resources  
 Lind-Bergeron  
 Marist Catholic School  
 Media2K  
 Medical Association of Atlanta  
 Medical Economics Magazine  
 Merchandise Mart  
 Mississippi State University  
 Molloy Communications  
 Morning Glory Farms  
 MSI International  
 National Education Association  
 National Basketball Association  
 North American Mission Board  
 North Carolina State University  
 Old Dominion University  
 Ohio State University  
 Presbyterian Today  
 Princeton University  
 Reinhardt College

**Making Photos POP!**



Aperture  $f/2.8$ , Actress in Atlanta

People pop out of photos, backgrounds recede in a blur and you made it happen. You select what pops, what blurs and what's or who fuzzes over.

It's called *selective focus* because what is in or out of focus is selected by you. Where the attention of the viewer is drawn is your choice.



Aperture  $f/2.8$ , West Africa

Changing apertures on



Aperture  $f/11$ , Travel Agent in Atlanta

Here's the creative part: the smaller the opening ( $f$ -stop) in the lens, less light allowed in, the greater the area in focus from the foreground to the background. A deeper area will be in focus, front to back, with the lens set at  $f/16$  than at  $f/11$  or  $f/8$ .

If you want to throw most of the background out of focus use  $f/5.6$  rather than  $f/22$ .

With today's digital cameras you now can easily vary your aperture, look at the back of the camera and see what works best for what you want the photograph to say.

Robert Rytter & Associates  
 Roni Hicks & Associates  
 Sears & Roebuck  
 St. John & Partners  
 St. Joseph Catholic School  
 Southern Catholic College  
 Southern Seminary  
 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
 SouthTrust Bank  
 Sports Illustrated  
 Stetson University  
 Summit National Bank  
 Sunny Crest Publishing  
 SYNC Magazine  
 The Community Institute, Inc.  
 The Foundation Center  
 The Georgia Bulletin  
 The Saint Joseph's Mercy Foundation  
 Thione International, Inc  
 Travel Weekly Magazine  
 Union University  
 United Methodist News Service  
 University Of Alabama Birmingham  
 University of Maryland  
 University Of Michigan  
 University of Nations, Kona, Hawaii  
 University Of Tennessee At Martin  
 University of Virginia  
 Upper Deck  
 Vindigo  
 Virginia Commonwealth University  
 Volleyball Magazine  
 Wake Forest University  
 WireImage  
 Woodward Academy  
 World Council Of Churches  
 World Journalism Institute  
 Yamacraw

your camera lens changes which part of the photograph is in focus between the foreground to the background. Where do you want the viewer to focus their attention in your photo - the hedge in the foreground, the man in the middle or the trees in the distant background? With selective focus you can control where the viewer's attention is drawn.



Aperture  $f/22$ , CEO in Atlanta

If you want your subject to “pop” use the larger lens openings like  $f/4$  or  $f/5.6$ . Like a simple sentence, you have one subject which is easily distinguishable. A smaller aperture like  $f/16$  or  $f/22$  brings the foreground and background, as well as everything else in the photograph, into sharper focus. You now must use other composition techniques to direct the viewer to the main subject of your photo.

Setting your cameras ISO, shutter speed and aperture does more than give you a properly exposed photograph. These are tools you can use to compose your photos and say what you want to say in your photographs.



Camera's Aperture set at  $f/5.6$

The apertures, called  $f$ -stops, are actually fractions. The  $f$ -stop  $f/4$ , for example, is really  $\frac{1}{4}$  (one fourth). Now what it is a fourth of is a little complicated and beyond the scope of this little article, so just remember that an  $f$ -stop is a fraction, ok? ( $f/4 = \frac{1}{4}$ th,  $f/8 = \frac{1}{8}$ th)

What you see on most camera is only part of the formula,  $f/16$  is shown, not  $1/16$ .

Typically you will have these numbers on your camera 2.8, 4, 5.6, 8, 11, 16, 22 and so on.

Remember these are actually fractions:  $1/2.8$ ,  $1/4$ ,  $1/5.6$ ,  $1/8$ ,  $1/11$ ,  $1/16$  and  $1/22$ . This gives you a comparison of how much light each number lets through the lens. Therefore  $1/5.6$  lets a great deal more light through the lens than say  $1/22$ .



Aperture  $f/2.8$

Experiment using different  $f$ -stops. Try setting your camera to the aperture preferred setting. Explore the creative tools available on your camera. Always leaving the camera set on automatic turns it into a very expensive box camera.

*Give Stanley a call about your next project at 404-786-4914 or email him at [Stanley@stanleyleary.com](mailto:Stanley@stanleyleary.com).*