

# STANLEY LEARY

People & Location Photographer

Surprise Me!

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

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Give Stanley a call for your next project at 770.998.3504 or email him at [stanley@stanleyleary.com](mailto:stanley@stanleyleary.com).

## Client List

Agnes Scott College  
Allsouth Renovations  
American Die Technology  
American Power Conversion  
AmeriGlo  
Annie E Casey Foundation  
Associated Builders Contractors of Georgia  
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  
Clayton State University  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
Corporate Legal Times  
Country Magazine  
Creative Publishing International  
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Design Directions Inc.  
Discovery Channel  
Drug Store News  
East Carolina University  
Enzymatic Deinking Technologies  
ESPN.COM  
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Florida State University  
Fordham University  
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Fulcrum Construction  
Galloway School  
Georgia Council of Chiropractic  
Georgia Southern University

## Surprise Me



Dr. Mohan Srivinarasao is professor of Polymer, Textile & Fiber Engineering at Georgia Tech.

*Finding Forrester* is one of my favorite movies. In the movie William Forrester (Sean Connery) is a reclusive Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist who never gave the world a second novel. Forrester befriends a young 16-year-old inner city basketball player (Jamal). Forrester helps to develop the writing skills of Jamal who happens to be a young writing protégé himself.

Jamal comes over to Forrester's apartment and shares his writing and gets some incredible advice from the famous writer. There is a particular scene where Forrester talks about the rules of writing. The characters have a lively discussion about rules like "You shouldn't start a sentence with and," as well as a long list of other commonly misunderstood rules of writing. They talk about how breaking the so called rules can create impact. If over done they can also have a devastating impact.



Georgia Tech players tackle Wake Forest player in 2005.

There comes a point in your photographic journey that you begin to find your own voice. In the movie *Forrester* had Jamal to just copy using a typewriter his work. This first happened because when he set down a typewriter in front of Jamal he just sat there waiting for something to come into his head. When he wasn't typing he asked Jamal, "What are you doing?" "I am thinking," said Jamal. Forrester said, "No thinking; that comes later."

To get the juices flowing Forrester gave him some of his work to copy. It was through punching the keys and going through the actions that Jamal was loosened up and slowly after copying the work he started to write his own work.

Georgia State University  
 Georgia Tech  
 Georgia Trial Lawyers Association  
 GTP Enterprises Inc  
 Hoffman York  
 Hollywood Reporter  
 Home Channel News  
 Impact 360  
 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  
 Merial Ltd.  
 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  
 North Georgia College & State Univ.  
 Old Dominion University  
 Ohio State University  
 Presbyterian Today  
 Princeton University  
 Pure Fashion  
 Raintree  
 Reinhardt College  
 Robert Rytter & Associates  
 Roni Hicks & Associates  
 Russell Athletic  
 Sears & Roebuck  
 St. John & Partners  
 St. Joseph Catholic School  
 Southern Catholic College  
 Southern Methodist University  
 Southern Seminary  
 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
 Southern Polytechnic State University  
 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  
 USC Upstate Spartans  
 Vindigo  
 Virginia Commonwealth University  
 Volleyball Magazine



**Pastors in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti enjoy talking while little boy is fascinated by the photographer.**

This is so true in photography. Photographers must study and know the rules of good visual composition like writers study and learn the rules of good writing composition. Once you understand the rules your ability to break them help you have greater impact with your photos.



While this is understood by many writers and photographers just breaking the rules isn't enough. Tom Kennedy was the director of photography for *National Geographic Magazine* when I showed him my portfolio many moons ago. While at the time my work was professional and excellent quality, Kennedy's comment was he wanted more surprises.

Kennedy had seen just about everything by being the director of photography of *National Geographic Magazine*. But to get his interest in hiring me for a project he wanted more than seeing me shoot from my standing height or sitting height for example. One of the things this had me doing right away was looking for the extreme.



**David and Tami Wood stop on the edge of the village of Konadougou to talk with the boys of the village and to verify we are just outside the village.**

Photographers do the same thing. We copy other people's work to learn first how they did it and learn how to put this skill into our long term memory to use this later as our own skill. Most of the arts take certain skills to master before you can create your own pieces. This typically takes about 5 years. You can see this as musicians learn to play an instrument like a piano.

After copying the concepts of other photographers you soon learn that your work is no better or worse than many others. This is when you realize for you to have work that stands out from others you must do something unique—your surprise.

Forrester had a great quote which made me think, "Why is it the words we write for ourselves are always so much better than the words we write for others?" Most of the great photographers I know have a secret to their work—the personal project. They have learned what people hire them to shoot is often not challenging and as simple as photographing a check presentation for example.



**Dr. Dan Suiter, entomologist, specializing in the research which helps the pest control industry. His specialty is ants in the industry.**

The key to surprising others is to first surprise yourself and take some risks

Wake Forest University  
Whitfield Academy  
WireImage  
Woodward Academy  
World Council Of Churches  
World Journalism Institute  
Yamacraw



**The children are singing in a service at the Kamsi Baptist church just of Koudougou, Burkina Faso.**

I was shooting with my camera on the ground looking up and finding ways to get up high. I also started to realize shooting extreme close-ups also was a change in what I was doing.

and look through your camera in a different way. Stretch your way of looking and see if there is a better perspective than you normally take when making photos. Who know what surprises you might discover.

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