

Jamie Choate – College Success

Art captures the imagination, offers a creative outlet and often serves as an escape from the difficulties of daily life, allowing artists to release tension and stress as they focus on creating. Few know this better than Jamie Choate, who has been taking pictures for more than 23 years.

“I’ve done photography all my life,” Jamie said. “My dad did photography as a hobby, and I got interested in it in junior high school when I participated in yearbook.”



Jamie sustained a traumatic brain injury in a car accident in 1989. It was through his interest in art that Jamie was able to overcome the challenges he faced from his TBI. After his accident, he worked in graphic design in high school and did black and white photography for friends’ weddings.

Jamie described, “I’ve had a lot of heartache and a lot of downfalls, but I kept focused on my dreams and kept at it. A career in art and photography has always been my goal and I keep at it.”

In May 2008, Jamie was able to make those dreams a reality when he received his associate degree in applied science and photography technology from Washtenaw Community College. He hopes to continue to develop his lifelong love of photography and art by attending Eastern Michigan University (EMU) late this year.

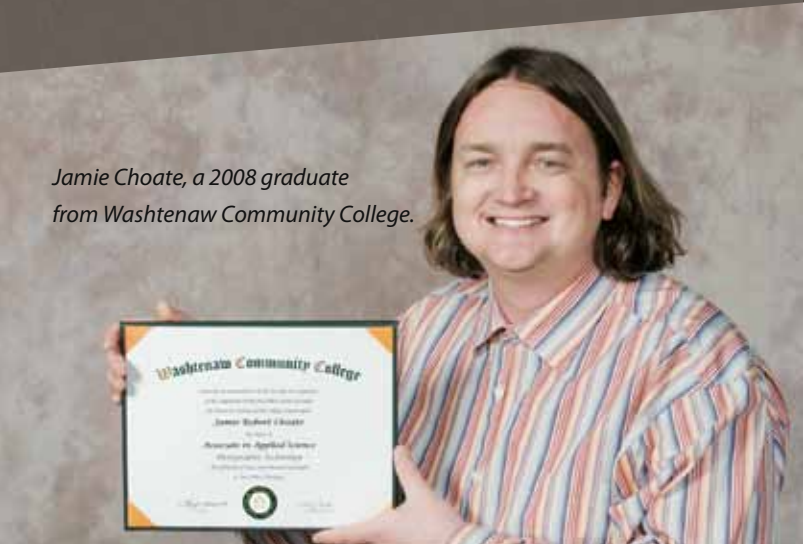
“I plan on going back to school. EMU accepted me and I’m going to get a Bachelor of Fine Arts in photography. Then, I hope to go to the University of Michigan and get a master’s degree in photography,” Jamie explained.

Jamie enjoys all fields of art and creative outlets. Painting, creating plaster molds, impressions and photography allow him to express himself. After Jamie started at Washtenaw Community College, he took a photography studio class and learned more about studio lighting. “I started to really enjoy taking portraits. I hope to open a studio some day to do portrait work,” Jamie said.

Jamie’s case manager, Jenny D’Angela, said: “No matter how hard things are in other parts of Jamie’s life, this is a constant. He



Jamie Choate, a 2008 graduate from Washtenaw Community College.



Jamie Choate *continued*

always has his art, his photography. If other things aren't going so well, it gives him something to focus on to bring him back to his goals."

Jamie added, "I've struggled to go to school and get my education. Just don't ever let go of your goals. You can get down on life, but keep at it and stay focused." ❖

Written by Nicole Bonomini, RainbowVisions Staff Writer;
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Pictured above in matte frames are a selection of photographs from his portfolio.