

PIA MIDAMERICA GRAPHEX AWARDS

# Circle of Excellence

GRAPHEX 2025



*Honoring  
Excellence  
in Graphic  
Communication*

Celebrating  
print, packaging,  
label, and sign  
professionals

APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>  
FIORELLA'S  
EVENT SPACE

OVERLAND  
PARK, KS



2025 PIA MIDAMERICA GRAPHEX AWARDS



PIA MidAmerica hosts the annual Graphic Excellence Awards (GraphEx) competition to recognize our industry’s outstanding technical achievements in innovation and print production. Hundreds of entries are submitted each year in an array of categories including brochures, magazines, calendars, campaigns, packaging and much more. Our independent judges select the extraordinary pieces in the competition to be recognized for Best of Show, Best of Division, Specialty, Best of Category awards and Awards of Recognition.

In addition, we want to recognize businesses and technical professionals who make up one of the industry’s largest regional trade associations in the United States. These professionals and award-winning companies demonstrate outstanding technical capabilities in print and finishing techniques. Distinguished industry leaders are recognized with Executive of the Year, Print Champion and Professional of the Year honors. Join me in congratulating all the winners on their outstanding contributions that have made a positive impact on our region.



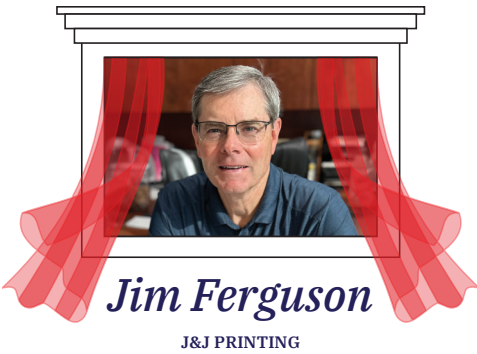
Best,

Teresa G. Campbell

Teresa Campbell, PIA MidAmerica President

2025 PROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR

EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR



Jim Ferguson, a Kansas State University graduate with a Marketing degree, began his career at Johnson & Johnson in Springfield, Missouri, before he and his wife, Jane, purchased a Kwik Kopy Printing franchise in 1985. Their Overland Park business quickly became a top sales center, earning them recognition as the system’s number one sales leader. During 25 years with Kwik Kopy, Jim served on the President’s Council, led training seminars, consulted franchise owners, chaired an Annual Conference, and was honored alongside Jane as Man and Woman of the Year. In 2005, they moved their business to Lenexa, and after their franchise contract ended in 2010, they rebranded as J&J Printing. In 2013, J&J Printing merged with Tangent Press, growing into an award-winning small commercial printer, earning accolades like the prestigious Benny Award. Throughout his career, Jim has exemplified dedication to family, a passion for learning, and a commitment to innovation, continuously embracing new programs and systems to drive success.

PRINT CHAMPION OF THE YEAR



With more than 25 years of expertise in print and graphic arts, Cara Windsor has built a career defined by creativity, problem-solving, and a deep commitment to her clients. As an Account Executive at Harvest Graphics, she goes beyond selling print—she acts as a trusted advisor, helping Marketing Directors, Art Directors, and business leaders navigate the complexities of print-focused marketing campaigns. Her expertise spans direct mail, commercial print, large-format printing, and cross-channel campaigns, ensuring her clients achieve impactful and results-driven communication strategies. A graduate of UMKC with a degree in Graphic Arts, Cara has remained a dedicated advocate for the industry, giving back through her involvement in professional organizations. She currently serves on PIA MidAmerica’s GraphEx Awards Gala and Golf Tournament committees and is a past board member of the KCDMA. Cara’s passion for print is matched only by her passion for people. She takes pride in building lasting relationships and uncovering innovative solutions to meet her clients’ unique challenges. Her ability to blend strategic thinking with hands-on industry knowledge makes her a true Print Champion.



BEST OF SHOW

PLATINUM\*

ColorMark

TX Gulf Coast By David H. Gibson

GOLD\*

Brodnax 21C Printers

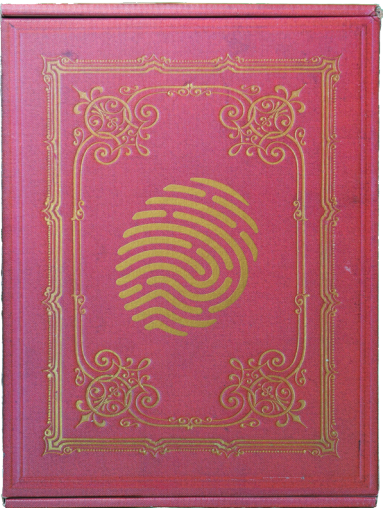
Zoo Ball Invites

SILVER

LARGEPRINTING.com

Encyclopedia Printanica Volume 1

Marketing box mailer showcasing large-format printing capabilities, substrates, and trade show products. Designed and printed in-house, the box features curated samples highlighting premium materials. Produced on an Agfa Jeti Tauro hybrid digital color printer with 6-color plus white UV ink, then digitally cut on a Kongsberg C-64 and Kern Optiflex Laser Cutter. Assembled with inserts and a substrate catalog for a comprehensive presentation.



BRONZE\*

MetroVCS

HKS Mandarin Hotel Items

\*awarded to an OK/TX entrant



PLATINUM  
Modern Litho

Magic Live 2024 Piece

Saddle-stitched booklet printed offset on Heidelberg XL106 & SM52 presses. Produced on 100 lb. Endurance Silk Cover with 4/4 printing and dull aqueous coating, and 100 lb. Endurance Silk Book for the interior. Die-cut on a Kluge die cutter, folded on an MBO folder, and finished with a Stahl stitcher.



PLATINUM  
Vahalla Studios

Sessanta Bonner Springs

24" x 36" screen-printed poster showcasing high-fidelity detail and precise registration. Printed using an M&R Saturn poster press in six colors on 100# Cougar Smooth White Cover. Special attention was given to aligning stroke-within-stroke borders and type for exceptional clarity and precision.



GOLD  
J&J Printing

Domtar/Cougar – Paper Trails Vol. 2 – Get the Feeling Right

Perfect-bound book featuring french fold signatures and a varnish touch plate of orange, showcasing the versatility of Cougar Papers. Printed on a Ryobi 750G LED UV press using 130# Cougar White Super Smooth Cover, 80# Cougar White Smooth Cover, 100# Cougar White Super Smooth Text, 80# Cougar White Vellum Text & 100# Cougar White Smooth Text. It is enhanced with embossing, spot gloss and spot grit UV by BrightMARKS. It incorporates an accordion-fold insert, gate-fold back cover, die-cut and PUR binding for seamless precision.



SILVER  
Varsity Yearbook

Hands of the Artist

Smyth-sewn hardcover book printed offset on a Heidelberg XL 106 press. Produced using 80# Anthem Gloss for text, 95# Sterling C1S for inserts, and 65# Lynx Opaque Ultra Cover.



GOLD\*  
The Boxman

Lancome Holiday Display

SILVER\*  
OptiGraphics

Rippaverse Comics Special 2024 Edition 10  
Card Oversized 3D Lenticular Set

BRONZE\*  
1to1printers LLC

TRASH BASH Brick Wall



BRONZE  
Trabon  
AIGA Gala Programs

80-page gala program printed digitally on an HP Indigo press. The cover is printed on 120# Endurance Silk Cover with soft-touch lamination, while the interior pages are on 80# Endurance Silk Text. Perfect bound and laminated by KBB for a refined and durable finish.

\*awarded to an OK/TX entrant



## DIVISION 2



### PLATINUM\*

## Simon Printing

UT - Our Tower - Over 100 Years

### SILVER

## LARGEPRINTING.com

### Conroy's Public House – Stained Glass Window Transformation

Stained-glass-style window graphics printed on ViziPrint using an Agfa Jeti Tauro hybrid digital color printer with 6-color plus white UV ink. The Tauro printer enhanced black density to mimic traditional lead seams. Cut with a Kongsberg C-64 digital cutter, the graphics provide a secure yet repositionable installation, blending heritage with modern design.

### GOLD\*

## ColorMark

Perennials Wallcoverings By David Sutherland Inc.



### BRONZE

## Kingston

### Time to Celebrate!

Welcome kit printed on Lynx cover and text using a Komori press with a 5-color process, including PMS 293. The kit includes a flag, stickers, and university information, strategically crafted to stand out in a competitive landscape.

*\*awarded to an OK/TX entrant*



## DIVISION 3

### PLATINUM\*

## Brodnax 21C Printers

75th Anniversary Picture Book

### PLATINUM\*

## Brodnax 21C Printers

Blair Horses Hunters & Jumpers

### GOLD

## NextPage

### KC Symphony Michael Stern Reversible Book

Casebound book printed on 100# gloss text using a Komori Lithrone G40P 40" press. Features soft-touch lamination applied on an Autobond high-speed laminator and digital gloss UV via an MGI JetVarnish 3D Evolution. Designed with Walz Tetrack using a unique reverse orientation highlighting key themes and conductor notes. Sewn binding with a sleek black silk ribbon, produced using Kolbus and Muller Martini equipment.



### SILVER\*

## Slate Group

Slate Group - The Printing Express

### BRONZE\*

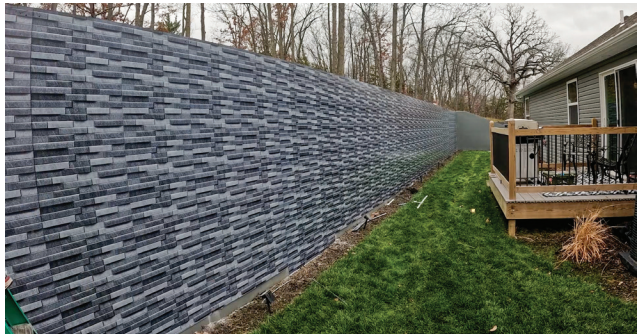
## ColorDynamics

Perennials - Luxury Performance Rugs Catalog 2024

*\*awarded to an OK/TX entrant*



BEST OF INNOVATION



PLATINUM  
C K Print & Design  
Max Metal Printed Faux Retaining Wall

Faux retaining wall created using 3mm MaxMetal panels printed on a Konica Minolta AccurioWide 200 with CMYK UV inks. High-resolution printing captures intricate details for a realistic stone-like appearance. Panels were securely installed with Liquid Nails adhesive for a seamless, durable finish, combining advanced printing technology with durable composite materials.

GOLD  
NextPage  
Hokusai Info Desk Graphics

Removable wall and desk graphics printed on GF 226 WALLMARK Removable 6 mil vinyl using a Canon Colorado 1650 UV Gel printer. Precision cut on a Zund 2500 cutter for a clean and professional finish. Designed for easy application and removal without damage.



SILVER  
Walsworth  
Arrived Guestbook – Arizona

Case-bound book produced using an offset printing process. The text block underwent CTP, press printing, folding, collating, sewing, binding, and casing-in. The cover was printed 4-color process, laminated, die-cut on a Brausse cutter, case-made, and embossed for a refined finish. Endsheets printed single-color for a seamless interior design.

BRONZE  
C K Print & Design  
Black Cat Mfg T-Shirt

Full-color custom T-shirt printed using a ColorDrop M5 Direct-to-Film (DTF) printer with CMYK and White ink on ColorDrop film. The design was transferred onto a Hanes T-shirt using a Kilo Heat Press, ensuring vibrant detail, smooth gradients, and excellent durability. The final product offers a soft feel, rich color saturation, and strong wash resistance.



SPECIALTY AWARDS



BEST USE OF PAPER  
Alpine Litho-Graphics  
UMKC “2024 Crescendo” Invitation suite

Invitation suite printed 4-color process on an HP Indigo 7800 press. Produced on Classic Crest Cover with a Petallics square envelope, supplied by Midland Paper. Designed for a premium presentation with high-quality digital printing.

BEST USE OF INK  
C K Print & Design  
Parade of Arts Sign

Dye sublimation sign printed on .032 white sublimation aluminum using CMYK ink on an Epson SureColor SC-F6330 printer. The sublimation process infuses ink directly into the aluminum, ensuring a scratch-resistant, fade-resistant, and weatherproof finish. Designed for vibrant color reproduction and durability, making it ideal for promotional displays and events.



BEST USE OF SUBSTRATE  
C K Print & Design  
Virgin Voyages x Ommegang Collaboration Label

Craft beer label printed on metallic BOPP with a PET liner using an HP Indigo 6900 digital press. A white base layer controls opacity, allowing selective metallic shine. CMYK inks create bold contrast, while matte lamination enhances durability and provides a refined finish. The result is a sleek, high-end label that captures the adventurous spirit of the brand.



SPECIALTY AWARDS

SPECIALTY AWARDS

BEST SPECIAL EFFECT  
Vahalla Studios

Foo Fighters, Hershey Park

18" x 24" screen-printed poster produced on glitter foil stock using an M&R Saturn poster press. Printed with seven colors of opaque inks to create spot color and gradient effects while showcasing the glitter pattern. Printed on Tango coated stock with holographic glitter from Exceptional Papers, representing Mainline Printing's specialty materials.

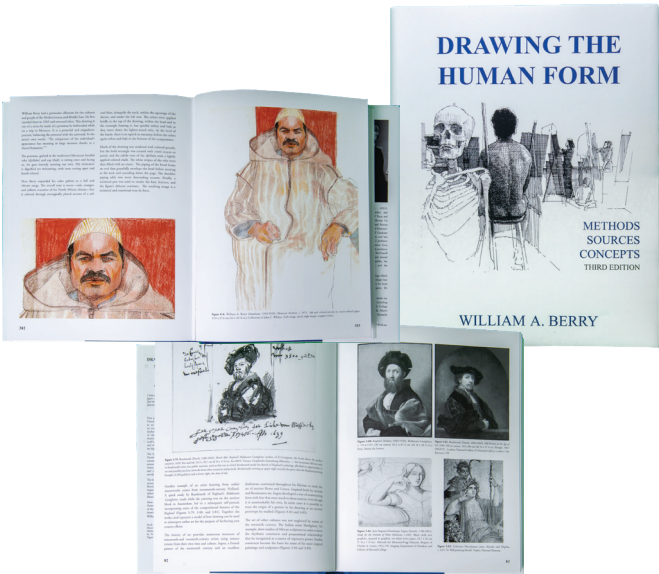
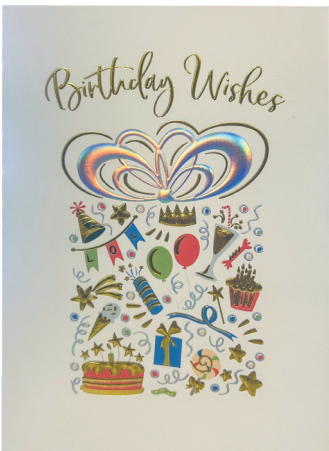


FINE DETAIL MULTI FOIL  
EXECUTION LAYERS

Posty Cards

A2900G Birthday Icons

Elegant birthday card printed 1/0 on a Ricoh Pro C9210 press. Produced on 100lb Cougar Natural Cover with Vanson VOC-free, soy-based ink. Features dual foil embossing on a Heidelberg Windmill press and precision scoring on a Duplo 646 for a refined finish.



BEST OF PREPRESS

AlphaGraphics  
Downtown KC

Drawing the Human Form, by William A. Berry

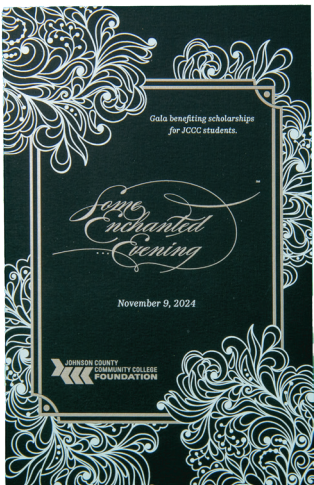
Book printed on a Ricoh 7500 press using 100# White Blazer Digital Satin Text with an 80# gloss text cover, finished with soft-touch lamination. Extensive color matching was performed to accurately reproduce original drawings and paintings. Smyth sewn and case bound with foil stamping by HF Group. Paper supplied by Clampitt.

BEST OF EMBELLISHMENT

Johnson County Print  
Shop

Some Enchanted Evening

Invitation printed on black Touche cover stock from Neenah using white and gold ink on the Arizona 1380 GT flatbed. Text pages printed 4/4 on 100# Cougar text using the Xerox Iridesse. Finishing includes production on the Plockmatic Pro 450. Project printed 2-up on cover and 8-up on text sheets, with a combination of digital toner and inkjet embellishment techniques for an elevated tactile and visual impact.



BEST OF PACKAGING  
Boelte-Hall

Mr. Printopoly Centerpiece

3D centerpiece created in collaboration with Boelte-Hall, In Store Design, and PIA MidAmerica. Produced using P/S vinyl over 1/4" and 1/8" PVC for a striking visual effect.



DIMENSIONAL PRINT & TACTILE  
EFFECTS

Gill Studios Inc.

Past Grand Officer

Screen-printed decal with six colors, cold embossing, and doming. Printed on chrome polyester with permanent adhesive using UV-cured screen ink. Produced with a Cylinder General Press, die-cut on a Zund and Heidelberg diecutter, and finished with doming via Demak equipment.



## SPECIALTY AWARDS

### FINISHING

## Modern Litho

### Lyric Invitation Package

Invitation package digitally printed on a Ricoh 9210 and Ijet envelope printer, with cylinder die-cutting. Printed on 80lb Royal Sundance Brilliant White Felt Text and Cover, including A7 and A10 envelopes on matching stock. Hand folded and packaged for delivery.

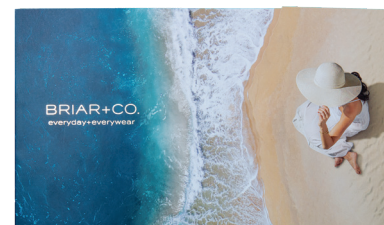


### JUDGES' CHOICE

## AlphaGraphics Downtown KC

### Superior Bowen Legacy Wall

Custom conference room wall installation showcasing a 75-year company history. The year-long project included digitizing images, researching documentation, and designing a display for memorabilia and branding. Produced using HP 5500 and Colex Sharp Cut, the installation features non-glare acrylic, black acrylic, PVC prints, cut vinyl, dimensional logos, and routed poly. Comprising over 100 individual components, the final installation was completed over two days.

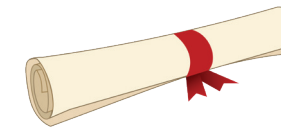


### BEST OF BINDING

## Modern Litho

### Briar & Co. Information Packet

Saddle-stitched booklet printed offset on a Heidelberg XL106 8-color perfecter. The cover is produced on 80lb Cougar Smooth Cover with 4/4 printing and soft-touch aqueous coating, while the interior is printed on 100lb Endurance Silk Cover 4/4. Finishing includes foil stamping, die-cutting on a Bobst die cutter, and stitching on a Bravo Stitcher.



## STUDENTS

### FIRST PLACE

## Pittsburg State University

### Joni Mitchell Promotional Concept by Annabella Beachner

Designed as a promotional concept around a chosen artist and song. Based on a "Vintage Album Form", it includes a wrapped cover, saddle stitched lyrics for the album, article on the artist and bonus mini fold out poster all bound by 1/8" posts. Designed, printed and bound as a student project in 330 Typography & Layout. Printed on a Savin Pro C5100. Trimmed on a Polar 66. Scored on a Duplo 645 and graphic Wizard. The album cover produced on Neenah 100# cover and the lyrics on Neenah 60# text. The article and mini poster use Neenah 80# cover.



### SECOND PLACE\*

## University of Houston

### Eid Greeting Card by Imaan Faisal



### THIRD PLACE

## Pittsburg State University

### Bubble Gums Toothpaste box by Shae Gilstrap

Outside toothpaste packaging box produced on a Roland VG3 540 using JetComp #8512 2mil Mirror Poly Label Film adhered to a Neenah 80 lb cover supplied by Clampitt Paper.

### BEST CLASS PROJECT\*

## Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

### Helping Hamilton

### WAYNE WELKNER STUDENT TECHNICAL AWARD

## Pittsburg State University

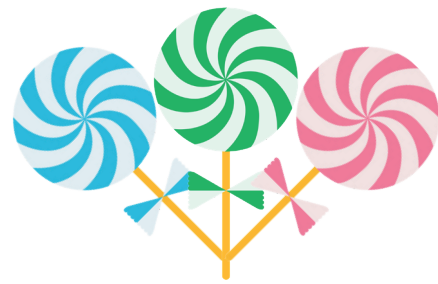
### Keb Mo Promotional Concept by Alli Casner

Designed as a promotional concept around a chosen artist and song. Based on a "Vintage Album Form", it includes a wrapped cover, saddle stitched lyrics for the album, article on the artist and bonus mini fold out poster all bound by 1/8" posts. Designed, printed and bound as a student project in 330 Typography & Layout. Printed on a Savin Pro C5100. Trimmed on a Polar 66. Scored on a Duplo 645 and graphic Wizard. The album cover produced on Neenah 100# cover and the lyrics on Neenah 60# text. The article and mini poster use Neenah 80# cover.



\*awarded to an OK/TX entrant





## 2025 PROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR



**CUSTOMER SERVICE  
PRINT PROFESSIONAL**  
Jessica Lynch  
Modern Litho



**EDUCATOR  
PROFESSIONAL**  
Brian Merriman  
MidAmerica Nazarene



**OUTSTANDING  
TEAM**  
Jeff Canterbury  
Mitchell Canseco  
Joe Casey  
Bryan Daniels  
Chuck Marksbury  
Jason Ohern  
Anthony Russo  
Brian Stocstill  
Shawn Wheeler  
Ken Whisler  
NextPage



**HUMAN RESOURCES  
PROFESSIONAL**  
Allison Schimelpfenig  
Walsworth



**PREPRESS  
PROFESSIONAL**  
Meagan Saye  
Sun Graphics



**PRODUCTION  
PROFESSIONAL**  
Lucretia Mason  
Summit Litho Inc.



**PROJECT MANAGER  
PROFESSIONAL**  
Amanda Catherell  
AlphaGraphics  
Downtown KC



**YOUNG SUPPLIER  
PROFESSIONAL**  
Carson Shaefer  
Clampitt Paper



**YOUNG PRINT  
PROFESSIONAL**  
Amanda Nelson  
Single Source Printing



## PREPARE FOR 2026

With this year's GraphEx wrapping up, it's never too early to start planning for next year!

Why not keep the excitement going? Begin gathering your entries now and submit them early! Consider setting up a collection box to gather your standout pieces, special stories, and a copy of the job ticket.

Our 2026 GraphEx submissions are open year-round. Submit anytime at [piamidam.org/entries](http://piamidam.org/entries).

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



## CELEBRATING OUR PRINT PARTNERS





# *Honoring Excellence in Graphic Communication*

Thank you for being part of this evening's special celebration of print and those who make printed communications come alive.

Stay connected throughout 2025. Ask us about getting involved as a Print Ambassador, supporting our region at the annual golf tournaments, and taking advantage of all that PIA MidAmerica offers to help you succeed. Consider us an extension of your staff.

Production Notes  
Paper: 100 lb. Hansol Explorer Gloss Cover  
Press: Canon varioPRINT iX sheetfed  
inkjet press

Email us at [info@piamidam.org](mailto:info@piamidam.org)  
Connect with us

