EDUCATION: Selection/Mask and Montages Part II
     Dennis demonstrated how to take a photo and substitute the background with another photo using Photo Shop. This last lesson on making montages is a step by step summary of the procedure I use, plus a couple of new tips. You should have a look at the following videos to get up to speed.   Dennis Holden

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DA8TgyTruV8&feature=related

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMyaHFxe9Hg&feature=related

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQuMY_cy9Pk

Below is step-by-step how Dennis demonstrated the procedure:

1. Open the picture of the background first. Duplicate this layer.

2. Open the picture of the subject next.

3. Select lasso tool and make a quick selection as close as possible outlining the subject.

4. Cut the subject out by clicking on the move tool and drag the subject over to the new background. Dispose of the rest of the subject's image.

5. Size the subject by selecting edit>free transform or by hitting Ctrl and T, grab the corner of the subject and move it down or up to get it the right size.

6. You should have two layers now; go to image, then hue and saturation and play with saturation and contrast. Brighten up the subject so it has some punch.

7. Now, play with the background. Try to get it in agreement with the subject.   Go to image, adjustments and then color, contrast.

8. It's now time to clean up the rough edges on the subject by adding a mask, choose the black square and a small brush size to do the work. Use the magnifying glass to enlarge the image so you can 'paint' over the part of the subject image that you want to disappear. If you slip too far on to the subject and want to erase that, click on the white square at the bottom of the tools and 'paint' over the mistake. As you are painting with the black square selected, the background will show through, and as you correct with the white square selected, the subject will show through again. To move the image, hold down the spacebar and grab the photo and move it over from side to side or up and down.

9. Activate the background layer by clicking on it and apply some Gaussian blur to it so it isn't so sharp.

10. If you want to initial your work, go to the top layer, choose a brush size, blow up the picture and add initials where you like. After, if you go back to the brushes, way down near the bottom, you'll notice brushes that will do stars, grasses, and a few other things. Choose a color and choose your pen then print on the background layer (which should be layer #1) - not the subject layer.

11. If you're happy with the end result, go to Layer, Flatten image. Now is the time to crop to the size you plan to print the finished image and then 'save as'. Don't just 'save' as the changes will be made on the original file. You want to change a copy of the original file. (If you decide you've made a mistake before you 'save as', this can be reversed by going into 'history' and picking the layer that needs some correction. Then 'save as'). No more changes should be made to this file or it will greatly affect the resolution.