

ShoppTalk

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Post Photos and Web Content Earn Top Spots in WHNPA Awards

Post nabbed first place in 10 of the 22 possible “Still Photo” and “New Media” categories in the annual White House



PHOTO - ANDREA BRUCE

FIRST PLACE: Picture Story/News, Portfolio – Coal miners duck through the drift mines of Pioneer Coal in Vansant, Va.

Andrea Bruce: *I spent a better part of a year—between 2007 and 2008—taking photos of coal mining communities. This mining photo is one of the first images I took. That’s how I learned of the addiction problem. In the mine, they talked about going to “the clinic” after work—the local methadone clinic. They told me horror stories about the “devil drug”—painkillers—that so many of them rely on. Going inside the mine was fun, but spooky. It is only about 3-foot tall, so you have to crawl or squat to make your way around. You lie down on these low-rider carts to drive deep into the mountain.*

News Photographers Association 2009 “The Eyes of History” contest on Feb. 22. Photojournalist **Andrea Bruce** was named Photographer of the Year—her fourth time getting the distinction. The Post Web site nearly swept the “New Media” category by earning three of the four top spots and actually swept the “Photography and Audio” subcategory. Photojournalist **Linda Davidson** won first place in the “Political Portfolio” subcategory under “Still Photo.”

Bruce, while on assignment in Iraq, graciously took the time to discuss some of her award-winning work, as did Davidson, news designer **Kat Downs**, photojournalist **Carol Guzy**, Assistant Managing Editor/Local **Jonathan Krim** and video journalist **Whitney Shefte**.



PHOTO - ANDREA BRUCE

FIRST PLACE: Domestic News, Picture Story/News, Portfolio – A body bag marks the scene of a murder/suicide in a coal mining community in Buchanan County, Va., on Jan. 6, 2008. The man was allegedly high on painkillers when he shot his wife and then turned the gun on himself.

Andrea Bruce: *I took this photo on the last day that I was working on the story, while following a county sheriff’s department—most of it is a result of prescription drug misuse. This image wasn’t the worst photo I took at the scene. I photographed the murder scene before it was cleaned up, but those images were too intrusive to publish. I hesitated on using this photo, but showing how extreme the crime and addiction problem in the region is, outweighed other concerns. This photo is intimate, but not sensational. I needed it, to make people understand the seriousness of the issue. But without a doubt, this photo haunted me.*



FIRST PLACE: Best Multimedia Single – “A Guide to Nationals Park” online interactive graphic allowed readers to get panoramic views from various vantage points at the new stadium. The Post also earned second place and three awards of excellence in this category. Project creators: **Whitney Shefte**, Nelson Hsu (now at NPR) and **Kat Downs**; Graphic designer: **Todd Lindemann**; Reporter: **Dan LeDuc**; Editors: **Jonathan Krim** and **Jon DeNunzio**; Producer: **Laura Cochran**.

Whitney Shefte: After discussions with Sports and Metro folks, and Nalson and Kat, we decided that panos [panos is short for panoramas—180 to 360-degree unbroken views of a surrounding area] and video would be the best way to show off the new ballpark. My greatest challenge was shooting video. I had only experimented with it, so it was a great learning experience. I had to adapt to a new medium while working with panos—something I already knew. I knew the videos would be most digestible in small snippets. My editor agreed, so the videos are short and not in the traditional narrative style. The project took a couple of weeks. Editing took the longest, especially when different types of software were used

to make everything come together. I was happy with the project, but was a little surprised it won first place, especially since my video shooting and editing skills are about 100 times better now.

Kat Downs: Nelson and I worked on the design and development. It was my first major assignment. The goal was to help people really get to know the new ballpark. We wanted them to get a basic overview, but also some of the park’s unique features and inside access to places they might never see. We started with an animated overview for orientation. People could then explore by clicking an area of interest. The main challenge was scope. We had so much information to share, like Whitney’s panos and videos, the animated stadium rendering from HOK Sport and several 3-D detail graphics from Todd. But we wanted to keep it simple and not overwhelming, so that people could easily navigate through it. The project went smoothly, but we were up against deadline. We stayed at the office until midnight on the evening of the launch. But it was worth it! We were very happy with how it turned out.



FIRST PLACE: Best Multimedia Package – “Young Lives at Risk: Our Overweight Children” online story added audio, video, photo galleries and other resources to the five-part paper series on child obesity. The Post also earned second place and two awards of excellence in this category. Project creators: **Nancy Donaldson**, **Nelson Hsu**, **Sarah Sampsel** and **Carol Guzy**; Editors: **Ashley Halsey**, **Jonathan Krim**, **Lynn Medford** and **Stacey Palosky**.

Carol Guzy: For the childhood obesity series, as much time went into obtaining parental permission slips as into photographing. Nancy Donaldson traveled with me to Boston to gather audio. There was an acute awareness on the part of editors to be sensitive to the children we were portraying, especially since obesity can lead to taunting. Attention was given to every detail of their stories and to the parents’ concerns. We are still following **Jahcobie Cosom**, who has struggled with issues of morbid obesity and last year resorted to gastric bypass surgery at the age of 18. He speaks of hope and I learn lessons.

Jonathan Krim: This was a joint paper-Web project. The interactive story was conceived and executed at Washington Post Digital, but with help from lots of folks on both sides of the river.



FIRST PLACE: Best Use of Photography and Audio – “A Mother’s Risk” online multimedia story highlighted the disturbing statistic that one in eight mothers in Sierra Leone die during childbirth. The Post swept this category, earning second and third place also. Project creator: **Megan Rossman**; Reporter: **Kevin Sullivan**; Photographer: **Carol Guzy**.

Carol Guzy: In this story, a portrait emerges of the pain and desperation of families losing a young mother or child or both. **Kevin Sullivan** set up our contacts. The hospital staff and patients understood the enormity of the problem and had the courage to open their doors to us. We spent approximately two weeks there. We slept on insect-infested mattresses, smelled the stench of urine and death. Tiny stillborns wrapped in their mothers’ clothes awaited burial on grimy countertops in plain view of women in labor in rooms nearby. We may have experienced discomfort, but

residents there couldn’t simply get on a plane and leave. Documenting the light as it leaves someone’s eyes is haunting. One of the last things **Jemelleh Saccob** and **Adama Sannoh** saw was a camera recording their final moments. With this, comes a profound responsibility to tell their stories. One photo of a tiny bloody stillborn in a silver bucket incurred much discussion. While it had impact, it could also turn readers away in horror instead of evoking sympathy. We didn’t publish it.

Gathering audio while photographing is difficult. You can miss photos while fumbling with audio equipment and vice versa. But audio adds another vital dimension. No matter how well we write or take pictures, it’s not the same as hearing their voices. The Web is a great vehicle for photojournalism, with unlimited space and a world audience. Audio and video allow viewers to immerse themselves in a story. **Tom Kennedy**, **Megan Rossman** and I worked closely on the Web galleries. Usually **Dee Swann** harmonizes the efforts and **Whitney Shefte** and **Anne Marley** have been terrific in pulling audio for various stories.

Working as a photojournalist for 28 years, I’m still humbled by the privilege of documenting these intimate moments. The plight of Sierra Leone will remain in my heart and the voices of women silenced by maternal mortality eloquently challenge all of humanity to listen.

PHOTO - LINDA DAVIDSON



FIRST PLACE: Political Portfolio – Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama and wife Michelle hold an “Early Vote for Change” rally in Miami and wave goodbye to the crowds after their speeches.

Linda Davidson: I traveled on and off with the campaign. Apart from trying to keep costs at bay, the hectic schedule was enough to burn out an old fart like me within a week or two. I’m in awe of all the campaign folks who traveled like this for nearly two years. It takes incredible stamina and drive to live out of a suitcase for that long. In this photo, Michelle joined Barack Obama for a rally in Miami just a couple of weeks before the election. It was so easy to get nice photos of them because they were always themselves. Many candidate couples interact awkwardly on stage or force kisses or hugs. The Obamas are not like that. They move and flow naturally together—whether on camera or not. It’s the same with the children. They seem to love being together as a family.

PHOTO - LINDA DAVIDSON



FIRST PLACE: Political Portfolio –

Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama holds a rally at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte.

Linda Davidson: The biggest challenge during the campaign was taking different and out-of-the-ordinary photos. Each day was like “Groundhog Day.” It started around 6 or 7 a.m. and ended at midnight—usually after three to four rallies in different cities. This photo was taken at a rally in North Carolina on the night before the election. The crowd

was going wild as usual. Barack Obama delivered his speech. And then the rally took a different tone and the crowd hushed a bit. He talked about his grandmother and said that she had passed away earlier in the day. None of us in the press corps knew that his grandmother had died earlier in the day. He had known the entire day and never showed any emotion. A tear started to roll down his right cheek, then his left. We all moved to the front to try to capture that because it’s so hard to photograph tears unless you get just the right angle and light reflecting off the tear. I got lucky.

PHOTO -MELINA MARA



SECOND PLACE: On Capitol Hill, Political Portfolio

Former Illinois Attorney General Roland Burris, the Illinois Democrat appointee to replace President-elect Obama, arrives on Capitol Hill and waits in the rain for a car to rescue him from a throng of media after he was denied a meeting with Senate leadership to assert his claim as Illinois’ junior senator.

PHOTO - JONATHAN NEWTON



THIRD PLACE: Picture Story/Sports – The fireworks close out the Beijing Olympics Sunday night.

PHOTO - ANDREA BRUCE



FIRST PLACE: Feature, Portfolio –

Qasim Ali waits for his ride on al-Mawal Street near Baghdad’s Sadr City district on March 10, 2008. A minibus will take him and other government workers to the Ministry of Trade, where he has worked for 30 years. This is his Monday morning commute. The air reeks with trash odors and car exhaust. Street dogs own the sidewalks, schoolchildren jump puddles of sewage and a donkey brays at his driver’s whip.

Andrea Bruce: I’ve been in Iraq for a year now, but have been covering it on and off since the 2003 invasion. I feel relatively comfortable now that the violence has subsided. For the first time in years, we can travel all over the country by car and really report. We can be true journalists again. My parents used to freak a bit, but they’re used to it now—and love following the story. This image was for my photo column/blog “Unseen Iraq” (<http://blog.washingtonpost.com/unseen-iraq/>). It’s a subtle photo, but it best sums up Iraq in 2008. Iraq is much safer today. Iraqis are trying to return to normal, but still face destroyed infrastructure even in the best areas of Baghdad. Qasim was heart broken and frustrated at what his city has become, but was happy to share his story. My plan is to stay another month or so, and end my tour here—at least for now.

PHOTO - JOE ELBERT



THIRD PLACE: Sports Action –

The Chiefs practice before one of their pickup games on May 31, 2008, in Washington, on a hard and dusty field. The players don’t have medical care, don’t get paid and usually change into their uniforms in the parking lot.

2009 WHNPA "Eye of History" Winners

Still Photography Results

Portrait/Personality

Awards of Excellence: Andrea Bruce,
Carol Guzy

Feature

First Place: Andrea Bruce
Award of Excellence: Linda Davidson

Sports Action

Second Place: Jonathan Newton
Third Place: Joe Elbert

Sports Feature/Reaction

Award of Excellence: Jonathan Newton

On Capitol Hill

Second Place: Melina Mara

Domestic News

First Place: Andrea Bruce
Second Place: Andrea Bruce

International News

First Place: Andrea Bruce
Third Place: Carol Guzy
Awards of Excellence: Andrea Bruce,
Carol Guzy

Picture Story/Politics

Award of Excellence: Linda Davidson

Picture Story/Feature

First Place: Andrea Bruce
Second Place: Carol Guzy
Award of Excellence: Andrea Bruce

Picture Story/News

First Place: Andrea Bruce
Third Place: Carol Guzy

Picture Story/Sports

Third Place: Jonathan Newton

Political Portfolio

First Place: Linda Davidson
Second Place: Melina Mara

Portfolio

First Place: Andrea Bruce
Second Place: Carol Guzy

New Media Results

Photography and Audio

First Place: Megan Rossman
Second Place: Preston Keres
Third Place: Whitney Shefte, Nelson Hsu,
Carol Guzy

Multimedia Single

First Place: Whitney Shefte, Nelson Hsu,
Kat Downs
Second Place: Ben De La Cruz
Awards of Excellence: Alexandra Garcia,
Kat Downs, Ben De La Cruz,

Multimedia Package

First Place: Nancy Donaldson, Nelson Hsu,
Sarah Sampsel, Carol Guzy
Second Place: Whitney Shefte, Sarah
Sampsel, Nelson Hsu, Bill O'Leary
Awards of Excellence: Whitney Shefte,
Katherine Frey, Marvin Joseph, Kat
Downs, Sarah Sampsel, Ben De La Cruz

To view all the winning photographs and
online content, visit: <http://www.whnpa.org/contest/eyes2009/>.

In the Green Corner

FACT: The Post Web site has an entire section dedicated to "green" issues: washingtonpost.com/green.

GREEN TIP:

Dailygreen.com reports that by lowering your heating system a few degrees you can save "a sizable amount of energy." For every degree, you'll save between one and three percent of your heating bill. A light sweater adds about two degrees of warmth.



Free Identity Theft Seminar

Commonwealth One Federal Credit Union will be hosting a one-hour identity theft seminar on April 8 at noon. At the seminar, Post employees will learn how people make themselves vulnerable to identity theft, valuable tips on how to protect their Social Security number, how to spot phony fishing attacks in their inboxes, how to shop safely online and what to do if they're a victim of fraud.

Marketplace

FOR SALE: Large, cherry-colored desk in great condition with removable legs. Very spacious. Width back of desk is 63 in., depth on right is 46.5 in., width front right is 23.5 in. J-shaped cutout for chair is on left. With computer at back right corner, there is large working space on either side of desk. Valued at around \$250. Asking \$75. Contact Leslie at 703-965-2138 or blairla@washpost.com or leslieblr@gmail.com.

FOR RENT: Very nice, clean townhouse in Kingstowne, Alexandria. 3BR, 3.5 BA, inside laundry, plenty of storage, 2 parking spaces. One mile from Springfield/Franconia Metro station (steps to bus). Walk to shops, restaurants and movies. Access to pool in summer. Asking \$1800 a month, plus one month deposit. Call Clover at 4-7930 or 571-251-2364.

FOR SALE: Socks! But not just any socks. These are Breast Cancer Awareness socks being sold for a young ladies' soccer team's community service fundraiser "Wildcats for the Cure." All proceeds are donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Eleven styles to choose: one pair for \$6, two for \$10, three for \$15. Contact John Crispino at 4-5438.

MARKETPLACE DEADLINE:

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