

C L O S E U P

# SCHOOL PROFILE

## Corcoran College of Art and Design

Samples of students' work from Corcoran's Focus on Photojournalism symposium draw on everyday life in the nation's capital.

**T**he Corcoran School of Art has changed its name to the Corcoran College of Art and Design, but the difference is more than a turn of phrase. A bastion of fine-art photography—its campus is part of the venerable Corcoran Museum—the college will offer a BFA in photography with a concentration in photojournalism starting this fall. It's a natural fit for an art school in Washington, D.C., the center of the political world. In fact, the Corcoran is right across the street from the White House—and its photojournalism faculty draws heavily from the prestigious White House News Photographers' Association (WHNPA), including *Time* mag-

azine's Diana Walker, Pulitzer Prize-winning Associated Press photographer Susan Walsh, and WHNPA President Kevin T. Gilbert, former chief photographer for the *Washington Times*. These working professionals not only know their way intimately around the Washington political scene, but they also have years of experience with reporters and photo editors to share with students.

The Corcoran's planned photojournalism curriculum is a reflection of its real-world teachers. In addition to courses in art history, humanities, and basic photo technique, advanced classes include Script and News Story Writing, Editorial Pictures, and Business Practices, and will be



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TOM HOKE

# Fujifilm Time2000 Awards

Time is the theme of this year's Fujifilm/Professional Photographers of America student awards competition—and you don't have much of it, because the deadline for submissions is May 31, 2000. Photographs can be entered in three categories: advertising, editorial, and social. The following prizes will be awarded in each: a grand prize of a Maine Photographic Workshop scholarship, plus \$500 worth of Fujifilm professional products; a first prize of a Professional Photographers of America International School Workshop scholarship, plus \$375 worth of Fujifilm professional products; and a runner-up prize of an L.L. Bean Outdoor Adventure Photography School scholarship, plus \$250 worth of Fujifilm professional products. There are also merit prizes, and schools with the greatest number of awards are eligible for a variety of special prizes.

Judges for the Fujifilm Time2000 awards, which are sponsored by Fuji Photo Film U.S.A., will include distinguished members of the Professional Photographers of America. For more information, and to download an entry form, visit [www.fujifilm.com/time2000/time.html](http://www.fujifilm.com/time2000/time.html). If you have questions, call (800) 736-3600 x8340 or e-mail [djohn\\_mccarthy@fujifilm.com](mailto:djohn_mccarthy@fujifilm.com). We suggest that you pool your talent, because colleges with a minimum of three entries are entitled to \$150 worth of Fuji film and \$150 worth of Fuji paper!

## Contest: win Nachtwey's new book

James Nachtwey's important new book, *Inferno* (Phaidon Press), is almost certain to become a classic of photojournalism. It looks back at the darker side of history during the last decade of the 20th century—from famine in Africa to war in Kosovo. (See a selection of the images on page 16.) The book should be in any photographer's library, and you can win a copy by sending a postcard or letter with your name, address, phone number, and school affiliation to Nachtwey Book, *American Photo On Campus*, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. Entries must be received by July 1, 2000.

## INFERNO JAMES NACHTWEY

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tied into magazine or newspaper internships whenever possible. Photojournalism students will also get important background from courses such as 20th Century Politics and Culture, and Communications and Society. Yet the Corcoran's fine-art orientation will drive this practical, humanistic approach, with photojournalism students required to take classes in fine-art photography. "I think the Corcoran's idea is to encourage a different kind of documentary photography—storytelling instead of just one picture on the front page of a newspaper," says Kevin

Gilbert. "They're trying to combine journalistic values with a very high visual standard."

Gilbert has been working directly with the Corcoran on curriculum planning, and the nature of WHNPA's involvement in the new program is still being determined. But the association is already the backbone of the Corcoran's unique Focus on Photojournalism program, a new series of weeklong symposiums that offer participants "an intensive look at what it's like to cover news in Washington," according to Gilbert. Coordinated by Gilbert and Corcoran Senior Fellow in Photography Ben Fernandez, a renowned photojournalist, the first session was held this January and was taught by the *Washington Times's* Cliff Owen and A.P.'s Susan Walsh. "Since Cliff and Susie and I have spent years in the Oval Office, we were able to create a mock Oval Office situation, with all the furniture and plants in the right places," says Gilbert. "Then Ben Fernandez and I sat in as the president and a visiting prime minister. We let the students into the room and gave them 15 or 20 seconds to make a picture, just the situation a White House press photographer would be in. Then they all put their film in A.P. envelopes

and captioned them, and we sent it all down to the A.P. for processing." Gilbert and company also simulated a White House Rose Garden press conference in which he and Fernandez used body language they had rehearsed. "We created a sort of angry trade-negotiation scenario," says Gilbert. "Ben would turn his back toward me when I was speaking, for example. We tried to give students those little moments that somehow explain what the event is about." The symposium also included nightly lectures, Photoshop sessions, and critiques.

The next Focus on Photojournalism symposium is scheduled for the week of June 4 through June 9. You can call for an application or print one out from the program's Website (see "At A Glance"). A hundred slots are available, the cost is \$700, and you need your own camera and a knowledge of Photoshop. You can either receive course credit toward Corcoran degrees or arrange for credit from your own school. Plans for the session include tours of the offices of the *Washington Post* and *U.S. News & World Report*, as well as photo shoots inside the Capitol and other federal buildings. "Lots of members of the White House News Photographers Association are asking me if they can participate," says Gilbert, who expects to have as many as ten taking part in the June session. "It's certainly a nice change from flying to foreign countries on Air Force One!" ■

### AT A GLANCE: CORCORAN COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

- Founded: 1890 • Enrollment: approximately 300; about 50 photography majors • Typical class size: 12 • Programs: BFA in Fine Arts, Graphic Design, and Photography (with concentration in fine-art photography or photojournalism); associate's degrees in fine art and photography also available
- Tuition: \$14,110 • For more information: Call (202) 639-1814 or (888) CORCORAN; e-mail [admofc@corcoran.org](mailto:admofc@corcoran.org); or visit [www.corcoran.edu](http://www.corcoran.edu) on the Web. • For additional details about Focus on Photojournalism: Call (202) 639-1801; e-mail [NLeBel@corcoran.org](mailto:NLeBel@corcoran.org); or visit [www.focusonphoto.org](http://www.focusonphoto.org). •

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