

ANSWERING ADVERSITY

IMAGES FROM THE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS ALLIANCE MENTORING PROGRAM

In spring 2010, the Young Photographers Alliance (YPA) announced the launch of an international mentoring initiative, offering emerging photographers the ability to work with successful professionals to fine-tune their craft, create images for their portfolios, develop business skills and explore markets for their work.

Mentoring teams in 11 cities—spanning North America from Toronto to Los Angeles and reaching across the pond to London—focused on the common social theme of “Answering Adversity” to shed light on the positive and capture stories of strength and endurance.

The 41 participants—two to six per city—produced photo essays under the tutelage of a mentoring photographer, including ASMP members George C. Anderson, Don Cochran, Stewart Cohen, Richard Kelly, Dan Lamont, Stephen Mallon and Nevada Wier.

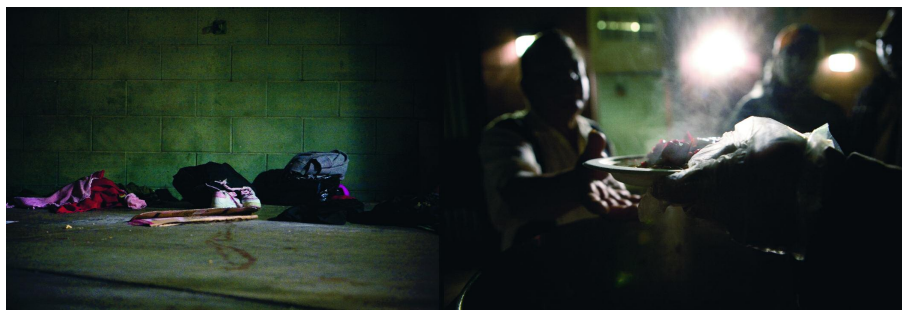
Our portfolio features selected images and excerpts of project essays from each of the 11 teams. For further details about YPA’s mentoring program, visit <www.youngphotographersalliance.org>. For more from these featured participants, visit our expanded portfolio section on the ASMP Web site at <www.asmp.org/go/YPA>. —JW



© Stacy Swiderski



© Bonnie Rae Mills



© Yasmin Alishav



© Mickey Nielsen



© Ashley Conde



© Michael Conti



Opposite, top left: Bonnie Rae Mills, Team San Francisco. Image: Debi LaBell (mom). “One thing I’ve learned from photographing families,” says Mills, “is the intangible connection between people who grow together, make mistakes together and love together.”

Opposite, top right: Stacy Swiderski, Team New York. Image: An empty net on the bridge, Grand Isle, Louisiana. “Fishing here, despite the oil and despite the dispersants, was a way of life,” notes Swiderski from her visit.

Opposite, bottom left: Yasmin Alishav, Team Los Angeles. Image: The Los Angeles chapter of Food Not Bombs, at the Union Rescue Mission women’s shelter. “Maybe I had a preconceived notion about who the hungry would be,” admits Alishav in her project essay.

Opposite, bottom right: Mickey Nielsen, Team Toronto. Image: Breakfast at the Massey Centre for

Women, “a time when the women and children residing at the centre come together and socialize over a meal.”

Above, top: Ashley Conde, Team Dallas. Image: “I think perseverance comes from within,” says the subject Eric Oliver Jr. Adds Conde, “I wanted to find someone who felt similar to how I was feeling at this point in my life.”

At left: Allaire Bartel, Team Pittsburgh. Image: Give and take. “Finding a job is not as simple as it used to be; it pays off to be enthusiastic and optimistic,” Bartel writes.

Above: Michael Conti, Team Rochester. Image: At five in the morning, Michael Bailey gets ready for his shift on the strike line. He gets up early to berate the “scabs” who have replaced his labor. “At 28 years of age, Bailey is the face of young labor in America,” Conti’s project essay points out.



© Olmo Reverter



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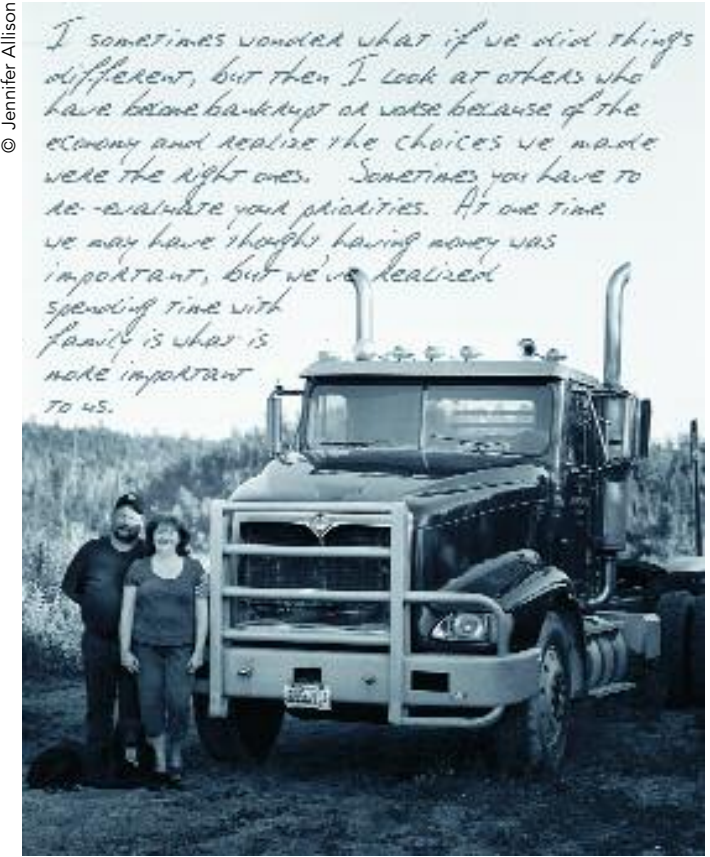
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© Sabra Roybal



© Christos Spentzos



© Jennifer Allison



© Emily Pummill

Top left: Olmo Reverter, Team London. Image: Nobu Restaurant, London, England. "It is those who are least to blame for economic disaster who first feel its effects," Reverter explains. "Amid the challenges, life goes on. Money may not buy happiness, but it can purchase a better class of distraction."

Top right: Christopher Daniel, Team Seattle. Image: Working Hands. "Boma Cho has always had an answer to adversity," Daniel writes. "He doesn't have regrets about the things that didn't turn out. This is just his path of life and Boma just keeps on living."

Bottom left: Emily Pummill, Team Columbus. Image: Jessica is a single working mother dedicated to school and her community. Her girls give her hope and motivation to have strength each day. "Adversity can be found in a moment or a lifetime," Pummill notes. "For Jessica and her two daughters, trials are a part of life. She feels if at least one person becomes inspired to overcome adversity after learning her story, then the journey will have purpose."

Middle right: Tilly Harris, Team London. Image: Campsite owners throughout Britain have had a successful financial year due to the recession and people's decision to stay in England and camp. "All [my project subjects] traded trips abroad for a holiday at home," Harris says, "and all agreed that time in a tent with family and friends created a sense of camaraderie that is truly priceless."

Bottom right: Sabra Roybal, Team Santa Fe. Image: Religious Bonding: Saying Grace Before Dinner. "Having had a dream to open a business, four years ago John Griego quit his job to build a better life for his family," explains Roybal's project essay. "Once the crisis began, this family lost everything."

Opposite, top left: Christos Spentzos, Team Toronto. Image: A local man sits in front of a truck to try to save Canada's last prison farm. "The organization Save Our Prison Farms forms human roadblocks to stand up against livestock trucks carrying purebred cattle and chickens off to auction," Spentzos notes.

Opposite, top right: Jennifer Allison, Team Toronto. Image: Tom and Jo-Anne Armstrong. "During the course of this project, Tom was in a serious logging truck accident and Jo-Anne's mother survived a heart attack. The strong family bond was ever-present during these unfortunate events," Allison explains.

Opposite, bottom left: Jared Rube, Team Rochester. Image: Jim and Heather with freshly picked vegetables at the South Wedge Community Gardens. "Community gardens are the new watering holes for neighborhoods—a place where people gather and form relationships in this tough time," says Rube.

Opposite, bottom right: Renee Peck, Team San Francisco. Image: Marin Headlands Trail. "In the midst of what has been a dark and challenging time in my life, I continue to see great opportunities on my horizon," writes Peck.



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© Renee Peck