

Just for friends of Youth Journalism International, the *YJI Insider* aims to provide a behind-the-scenes look at this New England-based educational charity and its talented students around the globe.

Keeping ties to Connecticut while making a new home in Maine

Youth Journalism International had an exciting and busy 2017 that saw the organization make its first major geographic move.

After spending its first 23 years in Connecticut, YJI moved this year to Maine. While the state is beautiful, that's not what drove the decision. You might remember that our co-founder, Steve Collins, left his reporting job at *The Bristol Press* for ethical reasons on Christmas Eve, 2015.

With the great support of many friends, Steve and his co-founder Jackie Majerus – and YJI itself – had a better year than we ever could have expected. Thank you for giving us courage in that challenging time.

Late last year, Steve started a job as the statehouse reporter for the *Sun Journal*, one of the largest papers in Maine, run by good people with integrity. Since YJI operates out of Steve and Jackie's family home, the organization also went northward. The family's new house has great office space for YJI. We're steadily getting our bearings.

YJI remains forever tied to its Connecticut roots and committed



Taking a pizza break in Bristol, Conn. are, clockwise from left: Dawit Leake of Ethiopia, Luke Ashworth of Bristol, Beth Criado-Band of Scotland, Alan Burkholder of Bristol and Mugdha Gurram of West Hartford, Conn.

to keeping our strong connections there. After living with so much uncertainty, we're grateful to still be able to call New England home.

Most students won't notice any change from the move, since so much of YJI's work is online, but some have already made the pilgrimage to the new place in Maine. YJI alum Gilbert Bwette of Uganda and students Beth Criado-Band of Scotland and Dawit Leake of Ethiopia all spent time in Maine and Connecticut in the spring and summer.

All of them represented YJI at special events at libraries in both

states and at the Rotary club in Bristol. The visiting students joined Connecticut youth on a reporting activity, building friendships that will carry them far beyond borders.

Now that the heavy lifting is mostly over, YJI is ready, with your help, to meet 2018 with high energy and a passion for helping young people all over the world tell important stories.

YJI's new address:
30 Taylor St.
Auburn, ME 04210

The other big news: a new website

To give students an even better platform for their work – and to give you a better experience as a reader – YJI took the plunge and invested in a new website. The American website design company Cornershop Creative worked quickly this fall to move all the stories, photos and videos from YJI’s outdated website and blog to the new site: www.youthjournalism.org.

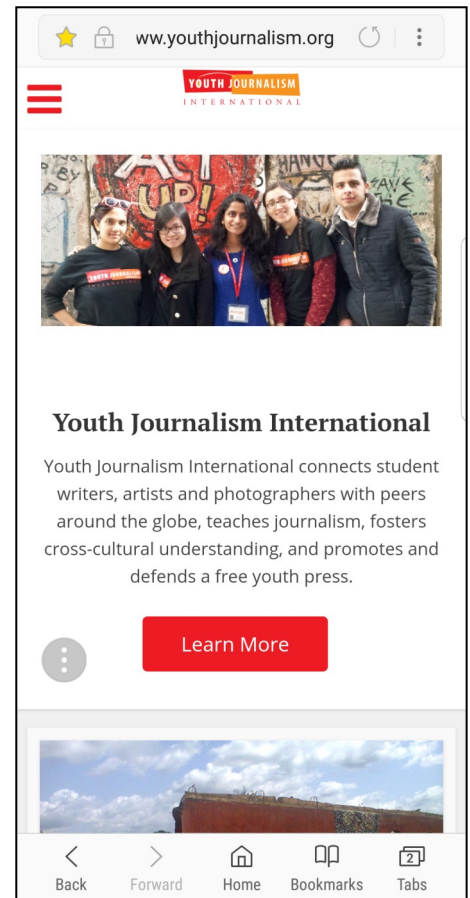
The change gave YJI a fresh look online – for desktop, tablet and mobile. From now on, this website will showcase all student work and keep you up to date on news about YJI, its annual Excellence in Journalism contest and much more.

Included in the move will be all the material published on the organization’s earliest website, *The Tattoo* teen newspaper. There’s great work from those years, so expect to see some of it popping up in the “Featured” section on the new website, which displays links to stellar work from across the years.

Among other improvements, each student will have an “author” page with links to all their work. The process of updating is still going on, but there’s plenty to see right now, so if you haven’t checked it out yet, please do, and let us know what you think.

We hope you’ll love it.

A screenshot of the new site on a mobile phone



YJI founders spread message of youth journalism, press freedom



The University of Iowa Center for Human Rights invited YJI co-founder Jackie Majerus as the keynote speaker at “Making all children matter: Recording, Reporting and Responding to Violence and Terrorism on children.” At the October forum, Majerus shared YJI students’ stories with the Iowa City audience. She also spoke at the Iowa High School Press Association’s annual conference, to high school journalism classes and introduced YJI to Iowa Rotarians.

In March, Majerus and YJI co-founder Steve Collins were part of a journalist panel discussion, “People for Free Press ... A First Amendment Right” at the Women’s Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, N.Y.



Superintendent Noemi “Ami” Ghazala of the Women’s Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, N.Y., at the podium on the left, introduces the panel discussion that included YJI co-founders Jackie Majerus and Steve Collins (third and fourth from right) and Pulitzer Prize-winning editor David Connelly, second from right.