

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

From blizzards to caucuses, YJI students bring readers the world

Wouldn't it be something to jump on a cable car to see an incredible view from Hong Kong's Victoria Peak? Or, for the politically minded, it could be fun to have a front row seat at Iowa's famous caucuses and the frantic campaigning that leads up to them.

Maybe you're more interested in the natural world, but might not be so keen to personally experience the blizzard this year that hit Washington, D.C. or witness the slow, drying death of Iran's once-mighty Lake Urmia?

In recent weeks, Youth Journalism International students around the world gave you and readers worldwide a chance to see and learn about all this and much more through the perspective of young reporters and photographers.

High school sophomore Garret Reich of Glenwood, Iowa got a taste for covering the wild ride that is caucus season in Iowa, writing and photographing campaign events of both Republican and Democratic candidates.

In Washington, where it seems that a few flakes can bring the city to a halt, YJI photographer Allison Hall – a Minnesotan now studying at American University – happily went out to visit some national



Selvaganeshamoorthi Balakrishnan's image of Hong Kong from Victoria Peak.

monuments with her camera. She emerged with snowy images of the monuments to soldiers who served in Korea and Vietnam that readers all over the world would find memorable.

But that's not all.

Roving YJI photographer Selvaganeshamoorthi Balakrishnan from Singapore found himself exploring Hong Kong – an experience he shared with YJI readers in a photo essay.

In Paris for a visit, Selva absorbed as much as he could, and his journalism training kicked in when he came upon a public ice sculpture outside the Place du Pantheon. He knew enough to grab some photos before the ice disappeared in the springlike air.

From Lahore, Pakistan, YJI student Amber Shakil shared her wor-

ries with after terrorists attacked yet another university in her country. Amber, who admitted she didn't want to believe it had happened when she first heard the news, wondered how young people are supposed to concentrate on studying and learning when they're stymied by fear.

There was more, of course, but these are a few recent highlights. To see any of these and more, go to

YJiblog.org, where all student work is published.



Allison Hall took this photo while walking among Washington, D.C. war memorials in the early hours of the January blizzard.

Student Spotlight: Garret Reich, Glenwood, Iowa

Where in the world are you when Ben and Jerry personally bring their ice cream to a nearby coffee shop, when presidential candidates take the stage in your high school auditorium and teen reporters get herded into same crowded space as the national press?

It's not heaven. It's Iowa.

Garret Reich is a sophomore at Glenwood High School who just turned 16 and loves to golf. She lives in a small town in western Iowa, only a few miles from the Nebraska state line. YJI accepted Garret as a stu-

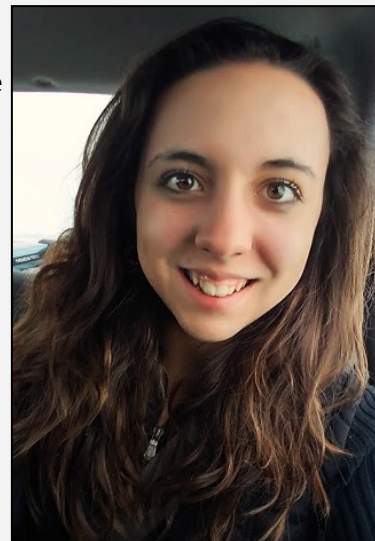


Garret Reich's photo of a sunrise at Glenwood Lake Park.

dent almost a year ago, which gave her time to learn some basics before the presidential campaign season really got going.

With help from her supportive parents, Garret made it to campaign events for candidates Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, Donald Trump, Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton. She took photos and wrote about each event, developing her reporting skills along the way. By the time the Iowa Caucuses arrived, Garret was ready to cover them live that night.

Besides providing YJI's political coverage from Iowa this year, Garret has written about her hometown and provided thoughtful commentary on the massacre in Charleston, South Carolina. Watch for more from our Iowa girl. She's just getting started.



Garret Reich

FUN FACT: In 2015, YJI published the work of students from 32 countries on six continents, including 19 U.S. states.



In NYC in February, YJI co-founders Steve Collins and Jackie Majerus met alum Cassie Lloyd Perrin of London. Cassie wrote for YJI as a young teen more than a decade ago.



Frida Zeinali, a YJI student in Tabriz, Iran, took this photo of a decaying tourist ship on Lake Urmia, which is rapidly drying out.