

**The Gordon Parks Center for Culture and Diversity
Fort Scott Community College
Fort Scott, KS**

News Release

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2011 Gordon Parks International Photo Contest Winners announced

FORT SCOTT, KS –The winners for the 23rd Annual Gordon Parks International Photography Competition have been announced. 80 entries were received this year from both amateur and professional photographers from all over the United States and several foreign countries. The finalists were judged by Toni Parks – daughter of Gordon Parks – along with Bobbi Baker Burrows, Director of Photography at *Life* magazine, and John Shearer, noted photographer.

Photographer **Billy Weeks**, Ringgold, Georgia, took first place honors and a cash prize of \$500 with his photograph, “Young Mother.” Weeks has worked as a journalist for over 27 years. His career started with the *Chattanooga Times* in 1984 as a staff photographer. In 1995, he became the Photo Team Leader, and in 1999 until 2010 he was the Director of Photography/Graphics at *The Chattanooga Times Free Press*.

As a photojournalist, Weeks has covered assignments that range from the World Series to small villages in Central America. Communication Arts selected his photographs of poverty in Honduras as an Award of Excellence for editorial photography. Additionally, he was a finalist for the Gordon Parks International Photography Award five times, published in B&W Magazine’s portfolio special issue four times, and has received many acknowledgments for journalism including the Freedom of Information award issued by the Associated Press. Weeks has also been an adjunct instructor in photojournalism at Southern Adventist University for the last 24 years. He also has taught photojournalism workshops for CNN online and the University of Georgia.



Photographer **GMB Akash, Bangladesh, won second place** and \$350 for his photo “Child Sex Worker in Bangladesh,” and additionally won an Honorable Mention award for his photo, “Born to Work.” **Roger Graetz, New Orleans, won third place** honors and \$200 for his photograph, “Jazz Funeral End of Line.” Another Honorable Mention Award was given to Lara Solt, Dallas, for her photograph, “Among the Wounded.”

All 15 finalists’ photographs are on display at the Gordon Parks Museum/Center for Culture & Diversity at Fort Scott Community College, 2108 S. Horton, Fort Scott, KS. The free exhibition is open to the public. In February the exhibit will go on tour starting at Redlands Community College in Oklahoma. For more information about the photography competition, contact the Gordon Parks Center at 620-223-2700 ext. 5850. To see all of the finalists photographs online visit the website at www.gordonparkscenter.org.

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See photos on next page.



