

BCE 111 perspectives: Born into brothels

By Michael Stein/Hannah Crain with
prof. Laura McDowell
Contributors

BCE 111 is a stepping stone for students entering college and it throws you into Brevard College learning—fast. BCE 111 has many different subject areas and we are in prof. McDowell's "Born into Brothels" section.

Our particular class explores the world of children born into extreme poverty and dangerous environments. Unfortunately, the world has many areas full of child labor and prostitution.

Over the past five years, photos have become a lot easier to develop and share with others around the world. Many different media outlets are in use today, which allow us to share our stories publically, in books and over the internet. For example, Facebook is one of the most popular social networking sites nationwide. Many are attracted to Facebook because they are able to view thousands of pictures that reflect a person's character and tell a story.

Our BCE 111 Perspectives class has recently

studied the film documentary "Born into Brothels." The documentary tells story of a young photographer, Zana Briski, who traveled to the brothels in Calcutta, India. Briski was very interested in the children who lived in the brothels. In order for Briski get a perspective of what the children's daily lives were like, she introduced photography to a group of children there. Each child was given a film camera and assigned to take photos of Calcutta in whichever way they wanted.

Behind each camera was an amazing child with a unique and fun individual personality. What Briski proves to the world is that photography has the ability to allow anyone to share a story through the multiple perspectives of a photograph.

Today there are many untold stories out in the world that are waiting to be heard. Briski's group of children, who faced everyday being abused by their parents, were forced to earn money for their families through chores. Some received a poor education or none at all.

The prostitution industry in Calcutta was normalized for the children. Photography was

not only introduced to the children so that their photos could give perspective to outsiders, but also to instill optimism in the children for what they could accomplish outside of their community.

After the documentary was finished, the Kids with Cameras organization was created. Photography is now taught to children around the world who are living in terrible conditions. The organization raises money from the photos that the children take and uses the money to help them out of their environments.

After the best photos were selected, they were sold in many art exhibits around the nation. All of the profits were used to fund the children's education at boarding schools to enable them to leave the brothels.

Over the past several years BC students have made generous contributions to the Kids with Cameras Foundation and bought 11 photos from the Calcutta workshop. These works of art are on display in Dunham until the end of this semester, to give students and visitors an idea of how effectively photography can not only tell a person's story, but can also change lives.

Profile: Stanley F. Jacobsen, Director of Safety

By Caleb Welborn
Staff Writer

Stanley F. Jacobsen has led troops into combat in Vietnam, worked as a special agent in the FBI, owned a Private Investigation firm, and worked as security director for a Fortune 100 company all before coming to work at Brevard College as the Director of Safety and Risk Management for the past nine years.

"Life's a hoot," says Jacobsen. "You just have to make it happen."

Jacobsen was born Oct. 4, 1941 in Paterson, N.J. In high school he was a trumpet player in the all-state band for all four years. Wanting to further his study of music, he went to Easton School of Music where he studied alongside greats such as Chuck Mangione. However, he soon realized that he was "a technician, not a musician" and switched his major to English.

"As a disillusioned musician with no French Foreign Legion to join, I decided to become an officer in the Marines after graduation," he says. "One and a half years out of college I was leading troops into combat in Vietnam."

After three and a half years of military service, Jacobsen left the Marines and joined the FBI as a special agent where he stayed for more than 25 years.

Jacobsen worked in Atlanta, Ga. for one year working fugitive cases, civil rights cases, and kidnapping cases.

He then moved to St. Louis, Mo. where he worked security cases which included groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, the Communist Party, the Black Panther Party, and the Weather Underground before being transferred to the organized crime division where he worked on cases which included illegal gambling operations and racketeering.

After getting a taste of working against organized crime, Jacobsen decided that he wanted to work organized crime in the big time, so he transferred to New York City where he worked cases involving the Colombo and the Genovese crime families, who were involved in illegal gambling, loan sharking, racketeering, and "murder for hire stuff." While in NYC he put two of the five mafia bosses in jail.

During his time in New York, he got a master's degree in professional studies with an emphasis in criminal justice from Long Island University.

After working in NYC, Jacobsen transferred to Tampa, Fla. to work on an operation against the Santo Trafficante crime family who were involved in drug trafficking. The operation, known as "Coldwater," was later the basis of the movie "Donnie Brasco."

Jacobsen later worked a case on professional baseball player Denny McLain, the last major league pitcher to win 30 or more games during a season, 31-6 in 1968 (when he also won the World Series with the Detroit Tigers), a feat

accomplished by only 13 players in the 20th century. McLain was convicted for trafficking cocaine, embezzlement, and racketeering.

After the McLain case, Jacobsen became the senior agent in the investigation of dictator Manuel Noriega of Panama, who was involved in international narcotics trafficking. During this case, Jacobsen worked undercover in the Cayman Islands, and he made the second largest maritime marijuana seizure in the history of the U.S. He seized 165,000 pounds of high-THC marijuana off the coast of North Carolina.

After Noriega was convicted, Jacobsen became the senior agent in a case involving cocaine distribution and the NASCAR industry. Pit crew members were receiving shipments of cocaine during races. The cocaine would be hidden in racecar parts, flown into the local airport, and be given a police escort to the track. This was discovered by an undercover agent who actually drove a car in the Daytona 500 in order to get inside information.

In order to get the evidence they needed to make their case, the agents threw a party on a big fishing boat and invited many of the people who were involved who bragged about their exploits to undercover agents. The agents were then able to piece everything together and get them

see 'Jacobsen' page 8