

# SEPTEMBER, ISSUE 8 - 2011

## AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER NEWSLETTER

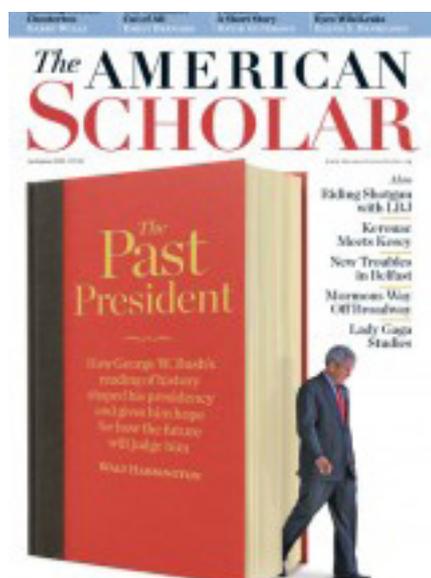
### U.S. EMBASSY HELSINKI

#### COMMEMORATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11



On Monday at the American Resource Center in Helsinki, Ambassador Oreck moderated a panel discussion commemorating the tenth anniversary of the terror attacks of September 11, 2001. Panelists Matti Apunen, Kristiina Helenius and Teemu Sinkkonen shared their personal and professional experiences of the day and the ten subsequent years with the audience, who joined the discussion with reflections of their own. By design, the program encouraged audience participation to give voice to the myriad of opinions and views of the day and the ten years since. The conversation touched on a variety of topics that mirrored the wide array of emotions evoked by 9/11.

#### PEEK INTO THE ARC'S MAGAZINE SHELF



The American Scholar is the literary quarterly of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, founded in 1932. The magazine has won fourteen National Magazine Awards from the American Society of Magazine Editors from 1999 to present

The magazine is named for an oration by Ralph Waldo Emerson given before the society in 1837. According to its website, "the magazine aspires to Emerson's ideals of independent thinking, self-knowledge, and a commitment to the affairs of the world as well as to books, history, and science." The Scholar began publishing fiction in 2006, and "essays, articles, criticism, and poetry have been mainstays of the magazine for 75 years."

Source: Wikipedia, American Scholar

#### ARC GRANT

The American Resource Center's annual scholarship provides a grant of 1,000 Euros to support Master's degree work on studies of the U.S. Applications are invited from students of Finnish nationality, enrolled at a Finnish university, and who are currently working on a Master's Thesis on a topic related to the United States.

Your thesis **does not** need to be written in English.

**Who can apply:** Any student of Finnish nationality enrolled at a Finnish university.

**How to apply:** Please download [the application form](#) (PDF, 24 KB) fill it in, print, and send to us with attachments.

**Timetable:** The deadline for the applications is **November 30, 2011**. The grant recipient will be announced at the end of January 2012.



*The 2010 ARC scholarship winner, Janniina Elo, received her award certificate from the U.S. Embassy representative, Counselor for Press and Cultural Affairs Marjut Robinson*

## WEB PICKS

*Disclaimer: The views expressed on these websites are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. Government policies. These links are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or approval by the ARC or the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki, nor can we bear any responsibility for the accuracy, legality, functionality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links.*

### American Life

**Can the Middle Class Be Saved** by Don Peck. The Atlantic, September 2011.

The Great Recession has accelerated the hollowing-out of the American middle class. And it has illuminated the widening divide between most of America and the super-rich. Both developments herald grave consequences. Here is how we can bridge the gap between us.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/09/can-the-middle-class-be-saved/8600/>

**Samuel Morse's Reversal of Fortune** by David McCullough. Smithsonian, September 2011.

It wasn't until after he failed as an artist that Morse revolutionized communications by inventing the telegraph .

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Samuel-Morses-Reversal-of-Fortune.html?c=y&page=3>

### Economy and Politics

**Charles Darwin, Economist** by Robert Frank. American Interest, September 28, 2011.

Why The Origin of Species is a better guide to our economy than The Wealth of Nations.

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=1049>

**How Colleges Punish Families Who Choose to Save** by Daniel Indiviglio. The Atlantic Monthly, September 29 2011.

Schools and the government should focus on income, not savings, when awarding financial aid assistance.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2011/09/how-colleges-punish-families-who-choose-to-save/245901/>

**Kindle Fire Doesn't Change Game, But Its Browser Could** by Brian Caulfield. Forbes, September 29, 2011.

Silk, which will come with every Amazon tablet, turns the Web itself into just another app. Will Amazon's new tablet computer hurt the iPad? Maybe. Apple employee No. 8 Chris Espinosa, writing on his personal blog, posed a more interesting question Wednesday: what does this mean for everybody else?

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/briancaulfield/2011/09/29/jeff-bezos-just-disintermediated-everybody-apple-employee-number-8-explains/>

### Global Challenges

**Climate Change Tourism in Greenland** by Joseph Stromberg. Smithsonian Magazine, October 2011.

With 80 percent of the ice that covers the island melting, Greenland has become a hot travel destination.

"When you're flying into Greenland, you almost feel like you're going into outer space," says Molly Schriber, a 22-year-old Houston native and Elon University graduate, who visited the island last year on a weeklong study tour. "You look at the ice sheet, and it's like nothing you've ever seen before."

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/Climate-Change-Tourism-in-Greenland.html#ixzz1ZPsWaa8p>

**An FP Special Report: The Future Is Now** by Various. Foreign Policy, September/October 2011.

What will the world look like in 2025? Much like today, only faster, driven by more complex diplomacy, high-risk economic density, a whole new kind of destructive proliferation -- and robot chauffeurs.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/the\\_future\\_issue](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/the_future_issue)

**Learning to Play Chess on Water:** by Jonathan D. Greenberg. Harvard International Review August 23, 2011.

The coming into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) launched a revolution in global political economy and the legal structure of international relations. In one fell swoop, the world's coastal states received perhaps the greatest economic windfall in the political history of the world: monopoly rights over vast portions of the world's oceans that had previously been regarded, from time immemorial, as global commons. At the same moment, they assumed unprecedented new obligations to sustainably govern these enormous maritime territories. For the first time in the history of political geography, coastal states are well-positioned to delimit and effectively manage huge offshore zones under a well-formed regime of legal procedures, protections, rules and rights.

<http://hir.harvard.edu/learning-to-play-chess-on-water>

**Did Facebook Just Change Social Networking Forever?** by Harry McCracken. Time Magazine, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011.

Jesse Eisenberg may have played Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg as a Vulcan-like cypher in The Social Network, but the real Zuck is anything but emotionally distant. When he's talking about Facebook, in fact, he's generally downright ebullient. And I've never seen him more exuberantly cheerful than he was during his keynote address at his company's f8 conference in San Francisco last week.

<http://www.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,2095516,00.html>

**Moving the Planet Forward** by Brita Belli. E Magazine, September 26, 2011.

The grassroots environmental group 350.org marked a successful day of worldwide activism on Saturday, September 24, with its “Moving Planet” clean energy campaign. The day featured more than 2,000 demonstrations in 175 countries collectively speaking out against continued dependence on dirty fossil fuels like coal and oil and demanding a more serious, systematic global effort to promote clean energy.

<http://www.emagazine.com/daily-news/moving-the-planet-forward>

**Our New Relationship with Energy—leading by example** by Bruce J. Oreck. Kauppapolitiikka, 27.9.2011.

The global economy, some one hundred trillion dollars per year, has been built upon a relationship with fossil fuels that assumed it would always be cheap, easily available and environmentally and politically neutral. But the economic, environmental and political realities of the past will not continue to hold true in this century. Without question, fossil fuel is no longer cheap nor is it easily available. Similarly, we know today that there are major adverse political and environmental consequences associated with our bond with fossil fuels.

<http://www.kauppapolitiikka.fi/public/default.aspx?contentid=230204&nodeid=41403&contentlan=1&culture=fi-FI>

**The Pentagon’s Cyberstrategy, One Year Later: Defending Against the Next Cyberattack** by William J Lynn III. Foreign Affairs, September 28, 2011.

More destructive cyberweapons are being created every day, and an increasingly sophisticated technology black market virtually guarantees that they will eventually land in the hands of the United States’ enemies. Robust defenses are no longer a luxury, they are a necessity.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/68305/william-j-lynn-iii/the-pentagons-cyberstrategy-one-year-later>

## International Relations

**Do the Post-Communist Transitions Offer Lessons for the Arab World?** by Adrian A. Basora. Foreign Policy Research Institute, E-Notes, August 2011.

When the Arab uprisings were just beginning in Tunisia and Egypt in early 2011, few “experts” on the Middle East predicted the speed and extent of their spread. Still fewer analysts made analogies to the post-communist revolutions of 1989-91. More recently, however, as tremors have shaken most of the region, that comparison has come into vogue. President Obama pointed up the analogy during his May 28 visit to Warsaw, and numerous policy analysts and commentators have echoed a similar theme.

<http://www.fpri.org/enotes/2011/201108.basora.postcommunisttransition.pdf>

**Leaving Afghanistan to the Afghans** by David M. Rodriguez. Foreign Affairs, September / October, 2011.

The Afghans will indeed be ready to take over their own security by 2014, writes the former commander of the ISAF Joint Command. The size and quality of Afghanistan’s armed services have increased drastically over the last few years, and the United States’ decision to focus on good local governance, especially in key areas, has pacified the most important parts of the country.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/68203/david-m-rodriguez/leaving-afghanistan-to-the-afghans>

**Partners in Preventive Action: The United States and International Institutions** by Paul B. Stares

The unipolar moment, to the extent it ever existed, has now truly passed. The United States is part of a globalized world, in which the flows of goods, finance, people, and much more connect us to other countries as never before. But for all the myriad benefits globalization brings, it also means that the challenges of the coming decades—be they generated by resource competition, climate change, cybercrime, terrorism, or classic competition and rivalry—cannot be solved or even mitigated by one country alone. Countries will need to cooperate on policies that extend across borders to address issues that affect them all.

<http://www.cfr.org/international-organizations/partners-preventive-action/p25938>

**The Revolution Will Not Be Tweeted: Refocusing on Egypt** by Jon B. Alterman. The Washington Quarterly, Autumn 2011, Vol. 34, Number 4.

Judging by the popular press, in January 2011 Twitter and Facebook went from being simply engaging social diversions to become engines of political change that upended decades of Arab authoritarianism. It is tempting to be swept away by this narrative, which suggests that social media prompted hundreds of thousands, and then millions, of Tunisians and Egyptians to pour into the streets and peacefully demand change. Brittle authoritarian regimes had little choice but to comply, and in this way, social media irrevocably changed the future of the Middle East. Following the logic to its conclusion, it would suggest that the Middle East is on the brink of a period of democratic consolidation, as the ideals and tools of revolutionaries lead the region forward into a period of anti-sectarianism, liberalism, and hope.

<http://www.twq.com/11autumn/index.cfm?id=456>

**September 11 in Retrospect** by Melbyn P. Leffler. Foreign Affairs, September/October 2011.

It’s tempting to see the 9/11 attacks as having fundamentally changed U.S. foreign policy. It’s also wrong. The Bush administration may have gone over the top in responding, but its course was less novel than generally believed. A quest for primacy and military supremacy, a readiness to act proactively and unilaterally, and a focus on democracy and free markets -- all are long-standing features of U.S. policy.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/68201/melvyn-p-leffler/september-11-in-retrospect>

## NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de

la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period.

Hispanic Heritage Month also celebrates the long and important presence of Hispanic Americans in North America. A map of late 18th century North America shows this presence, from the small outpost of San Francisco founded in the desolate wilderness of Alta California in 1776, through the Spanish province of Texas with its vaqueros (cowboys), to the fortress of St. Augustine, Florida – the first continuous European settlement in North America, founded in 1565, decades before Jamestown, Virginia.

### This Year's Theme:

“Many Backgrounds, Many Stories...One American Spirit”

Sources: Wikipedia, National Hispanic Heritage Month home.



Miguel Covarrubias (1904–1957) “Young tehunas carrying flowers”

## POHJOIS-AMERIKAN INTIAANIT LOKAKUUN LUENNOT

11.10.2011

St. Clairin tappio 1791:  
Taistelu, jonka Amerikka on  
halunnut unohtaa  
Juha Hiltunen, Oulun yliopisto



18.10.2011

Hevoskansan historia:  
Comanche-intiaanien ekspansio  
1700-luvulla  
Simo Hankaniemi, Turku



25.10.2011

Kilpiä, karhuja ja sulkakimp-  
puja:  
Tasankointiaanien sotarohdot  
Riku Hämäläinen, Helsingin yliopisto



Luennot pidetään tiistaisin Amerikka-  
Kirjastossa, Kansalliskirjaston audito-  
riossa alkaen kello 18.00.

[Lisätietoja luentojuulistesta](#)

## The American Resource Center

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9-20, Sat 9-16; Reference service: Mon-Fri 9-17

Address: P.O. Box 15 (Unioninkatu 36), 00014 University of Helsinki

Tel. (09) 191 24048 Fax: (09) 652 940

E-mail: [arc@usembassy.fi](mailto:arc@usembassy.fi)

<http://finland.usembassy.gov/arc.html>

<http://www.facebook.com/AmericanResourceCenter>

<http://twitter.com/ARCHelsinki>

