



U.S. Society and Values

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THE GROUP: AN INTREPID STATE DEPARTMENT CADRE HELPS PRESERVE EMBASSIES ABROAD

By Charles Trueheart

The State Department's Cultural Resources Committee leads restoration projects at U.S.-owned properties around the world — including embassies and ambassadors' residences -- to preserve the architectural and cultural legacies of these historic buildings. Such projects are a crucial part of U.S. representation abroad, says author Charles Trueheart, director of the American Library in Paris, because they demonstrate America's respect for local histories and cultures. The Cultural Resources Committee acts as advisor to the Department's Overseas Building Operations. One of the committee's founders, Vivien Woolfer, a former White House interior designer during the Nixon administration, helped set up the Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant



Property. She travels extensively to monitor the progress of various restoration projects and has spearheaded efforts to train curators worldwide. Trueheart highlights the restoration of the Villa Petschek mansion in Prague, a nine-bedroom Beaux-Arts masterpiece, which witnessed both Nazi occupation and the unraveling of communism. He also describes conservation efforts at the Palazzo Margherita (to the left, AP Photo) and Villa Taverna in Rome, and the Hotel Pontalba and Tallyrand (top right) building in Paris.

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Remarks on the Human Rights Agenda for the 21st Century
Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State
Georgetown University's Gaston Hall
Washington, DC
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(...) a commitment to human rights starts with universal standards and with holding everyone accountable to those standards, including ourselves. On his second full day in office, President Obama issued an executive order prohibiting the use of torture or official cruelty by any U.S. official and ordered the closure of Guantanamo Bay. Next year, we will report on human trafficking, as we do every year, but this time, not only just on other countries, but also on our own. And we will participate through the United Nations in the Universal Periodic Review of our own human rights record, just as we encourage other nations to do.

By holding ourselves accountable, we reinforce our moral authority to demand that all governments adhere to obligations under international law; among them, not to torture, arbitrarily detain and persecute dissenters, or engage in political killings. Our government and the international community must counter the pretensions of those who deny or abdicate their responsibilities and hold violators to account.

Sometimes, we will have the most impact by publicly denouncing a government action, like the coup in Honduras or violence in Guinea. Other times, we will be more likely to help the oppressed by engaging in tough negotiations behind closed doors, like pressing China and Russia as part of our broader agenda. In every instance, our aim will be to make a difference, not to prove a point.

Calling for accountability doesn't start or stop, however, at naming offenders. Our goal is to encourage – even demand – that governments must also take responsibility by putting human rights into law and embedding them in government institutions; by building strong, independent courts, competent and disciplined police and law enforcement. And once rights are established, governments should be expected to resist the temptation to restrict freedom of expression when criticism arises, and to be vigilant in preventing law from becoming an instrument of oppression, as bills like the one under consideration in Uganda would do to criminalize homosexuality.

We know that all governments and all leaders sometimes fall short. So there have to be internal mechanisms of accountability when rights are violated. Often the toughest test for governments, which is essential to the protection of human rights, is absorbing and accepting criticism. And here too, we should lead by example. In the last six decades we have done this – imperfectly at times but with significant outcomes – from making amends for the internment of our own Japanese American citizens in World War II, to establishing legal recourse for victims of discrimination in the Jim Crow South, to passing hate crimes legislation to include attacks against gays and lesbians. When injustice anywhere is ignored, justice everywhere is denied. Acknowledging and remedying mistakes does not make us weaker, it reaffirms the strength of our principles and institutions.

Second, we must be pragmatic and agile in pursuit of our human rights agenda – not compromising on our principles, but doing what is most likely to make them real. And we will use all the tools at our disposal, and when we run up against a wall, we will not retreat with resignation or recriminations, or repeatedly run up against the same wall, but respond with strategic resolve to find another way to effect change and improve people's lives.

We acknowledge that one size does not fit all. And when old approaches aren't working, we won't be afraid to attempt new ones, as we have this year by ending the stalemate of isolation and instead pursuing measured engagement with Burma. In Iran, we have offered to negotiate directly with the government on nuclear issues, but have at the same time expressed **solidarity with those inside Iran** struggling for democratic change. As President Obama said in his Nobel speech, "They have us on their side."

Full Text: <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/12/133544.htm>

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GOVERNMENT

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF BABY BOOMERS 42 TO 60 YEARS OLD IN 2006. [U.S. Census Bureau]. November 2009.

The Census Bureau provides its first profile of baby boomers in 13 years. The presentation provides a look at a variety of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the baby boom generation, such as geographic distribution, marital status, educational attainment and income, and compares them with adults in younger and older age groups. The analysis uses data from a variety of sources, including the 2006 American Community Survey, 2006 population estimates, population projections and Census 2000. [PDF format, 46 pages]. <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/age/2006%20Baby%20Boomers.pdf>



AMERICA'S FAMILIES AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS: 2007. U.S. Bureau of Census. September 2009.

Some highlights of the report are: sixty-eight percent of households in 2007 were family households, compared with 81 percent in 1970, the proportion of one-person households increased by 10 percentage points between 1970 and 2007, from 17 percent to 27 percent, between 1970 and 2007, the average number of people per household declined from 3.1 to 2.6, and most family groups with children under 18 (67 percent) were maintained by married couples.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2009pubs/p20-561.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages].

AVAILABILITY OF LESS NUTRITIOUS SNACK FOODS AND BEVERAGES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS – SELECTED STATES, 2002-2008. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. October 5, 2009.

Foods and beverages offered or sold in schools outside of U.S. Department of Agriculture school meal programs are not subject to federal nutrition standards and generally are of lower nutritional quality than foods and beverages served in the meal programs. To estimate changes in the percentage of schools in which students could not purchase less nutritious foods and beverages, CDC analyzed 2002–2008 survey data from its School Health Profiles for public secondary schools. [HTML format, various paging].

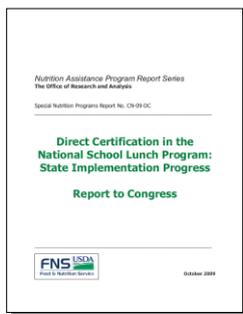
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm58e1005a1.htm>



HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY IN THE UNITED STATES, 2008. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mark Nord et al. November 16, 2009.

Eighty-five percent of American households were food secure throughout the entire year in 2008, meaning that they had access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members. The remaining households (14.6 percent) were food insecure at least some time during the year, including 5.7 percent with very low food security—meaning that the food intake of one or more household members was reduced and their eating patterns were disrupted at times during the year because the household lacked money and other resources for food. [PDF format, 66 pages].

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR83/ERR83.pdf>

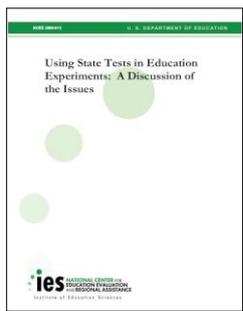


DIRECT TO CERTIFICATION IN THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM: STATE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS: REPORT TO CONGRESS. U.S. Department of Agriculture. November 3, 2009.

"Ensuring that all eligible children receive nutritious meals through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs is a top priority for the Obama Administration and a key step towards ending childhood hunger," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Direct certification is a critical tool in ensuring that low-income children are automatically

enrolled in school meals programs. We are working with States to expand its use and effectiveness, and will seek ways to strengthen the program in the Child Nutrition Reauthorization." [PDF format, 63 pages].

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/ORA/menu/Published/CNP/FILES/NSLPDirectCertification2009.pdf>



USING STATE TESTS IN EDUCATION EXPERIMENTS: A DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES. U.S. Department of Education. December 2009.

Securing data on students' academic achievement is typically one of the most important and costly aspects of conducting education experiments. As state assessment programs have become practically universal and more uniform in terms of grades and subjects tested, the relative appeal of using state tests as a source of study outcome measures has grown.

However, the variation in state assessments, in both content and proficiency standards, complicates decisions about whether a particular state test is suitable for research purposes and poses difficulties when planning to combine results across multiple states or grades.

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pdf/2009013.pdf> [PDF format, 109 pages].



CHANGES IN POSTSECONDARY AWARDS BELOW THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE: 1997 TO 2007. National Center for Education Statistics. Laura Horn and Xiaojie Li. Web posted December 2, 2009.

The brief describes changes in the number and types of postsecondary awards below the bachelor's degree, certificates and associate's degrees, conferred over the decade between 1997 and 2007. It reports on changes overall and within fields of study; it also analyzes changes in the types of institutions that confer sub-baccalaureate awards and differences in

awards by gender and race/ethnicity.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010167.pdf> [PDF format, 22 pages].

STUDENTS' USE OF TUTORING SERVICES, BY ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS STATUS OF SCHOOL. National Center for Education Statistics. Siri Warkentien and Sarah Grady. November 25, 2009.

The brief reports on the use of tutoring services among public school students enrolled in grades K-12 in 2007. It compares tutoring of students in schools that had not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 3 or more years and would be required to provide such services with that of students who attended other public schools. [PDF format, 20 pages].

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010023.pdf>

TEACHER STRATEGIES TO HELP FOURTH-GRADERS HAVING DIFFICULTY IN READING: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE. National Center for Education Statistics. September 29, 2009.

The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) assesses the reading achievement of fourth-graders and collects data on their teachers' reading instruction practices and strategies. Presenting data from the United States and the 44 other jurisdictions that participated in PIRLS 2006, this Statistics in Brief describes international patterns in the strategies reported by teachers to help fourth-graders falling behind in reading.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009013.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT AND COMPLETION RATES IN THE UNITED STATES: 2007 COMPENDIUM REPORT. U.S. Department of Education. Emily Forrest et al. September 23, 2009.

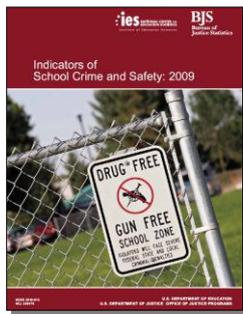
The report includes discussions of many rates used to study how students complete or fail to complete high school. It presents estimates of rates for 2007 and provides data about trends in dropout and completion rates over the last three and a half decades (1972-2007) along with more recent estimates of on-time graduation.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009064.pdf> [PDF format, 84 pages].

NUMBERS AND TYPES OF PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS FROM THE COMMON CORE OF DATA: SCHOOL YEAR 2007-08. U.S. Department of Education. October 2009.

The report presents findings on the numbers and types of public elementary and secondary schools in the United States and the territories in the 2007-08 school year, using data from the Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey of the Common Core of Data (CCD) survey system. [PDF format, 32 pages].

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010305.pdf>



INDICATORS OF SCHOOL CRIME AND SAFETY: 2009. U.S. Department of Justice. December 10, 2009.

The annual report examines crime occurring in school as well as on the way to and from school. It provides the most current detailed statistical information to inform the Nation on the nature of crime in schools. The report presents data on crime at school from the perspectives of students, teachers, principals, and the general population from an array of sources. [PDF format, 176 pages].

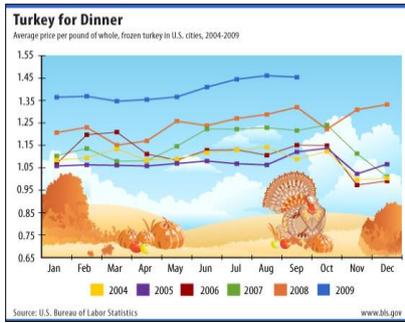
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010012.pdf>



CHILDREN'S EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE: A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL SURVEY. U.S. Department of Justice. David Finkelhor et al. October 2009.

The report presents findings from the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence. The survey was conducted between January and May 2008, and surveyed more than 4,500 children or their parents or adult caregivers regarding their past-year and lifetime exposure to violence. It discusses the survey's findings regard children's direct and indirect exposure to specific categories of violence, how exposure to violence changes as children grow up, and the prevalence and incidence of multiple and cumulative exposures to violence.

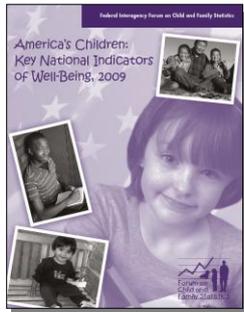
<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/227744.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].



THANKSGIVING. Bureau of Labor Statistics. November 2009.

What activities do you have planned for this Thanksgiving? Perhaps cooking and enjoying a meal with family or friends, playing sports or watching sports on television, doing volunteer work, or shopping? Bureau of Labor Statistics presents some data behind Thanksgiving scenes. [PDF format, 6 pages].

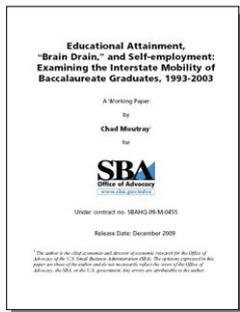
http://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2009/thanksgiving/pdf/thanksgiving_bls_spotlight.pdf



AMERICA'S CHILDREN: KEY NATIONAL INDICATORS OF WELL-BEING, 2009. Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. October 28, 2009.

The report is a compendium of indicators illustrating both the promises and the difficulties confronting young people. It presents 40 key indicators on important aspects of children's lives. These indicators are drawn from our most reliable statistics, easily understood by broad audiences, objectively based on substantial research, balanced so that no single area of children's lives dominates the report, measured regularly so that they can be updated to show trends over time, and representative of large segments of the population rather than one particular group.

http://www.childstats.gov/pdf/ac2009/ac_09.pdf [PDF format, 216 pages].

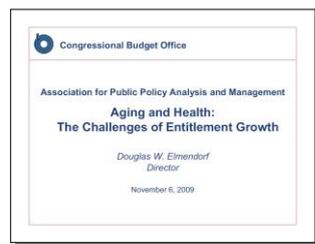


EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, "BRAIN DRAIN," AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT: EXAMINING THE INTERSTATE MOBILITY OF BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES, 1993-2003. U.S. Small Business Administration. Chad Moutray. December 8, 2009.

It's a story that comes with its own truism: "nothing succeeds like success." States with higher gross state product growth are more likely to attract highly mobile and high-achieving college graduates, both self-employed and wage-and-salary workers, according to Office of Advocacy research based on the U.S. Department of Education's 2003 Baccalaureate and Beyond (B&B) data base.

<http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/rs355tot.pdf> [PDF format, 54 pages].

CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS



AGING AND HEALTH: THE CHALLENGES OF ENTITLEMENT. Congressional Budget Office. Douglas W. Elmendorf. November 6, 2009.

Entitlement spending is often viewed as a long-term budget challenge, but in fact such spending contributes significantly to the budget challenge facing the country during the next 10 years as well as the more distant future. Congressional Budget Office estimates that, if current laws remained in place, the federal deficit would shrink sharply during the next few years but would remain a little more than 3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) between 2013 and 2019. [PDF format, 16 pages].

http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/107xx/doc10707/11-06-09-CBO_Presentation-AgingAndHealth-TheChallengesOfEntitlementGrowth.pdf



LOBBYING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH: CURRENT PRACTICES AND OPTIONS FOR CHANGE. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jacob R. Straus. December 1, 2009.

The report outlines the development of registration requirements for lobbyists engaging executive branch officials since 1995. It also summarizes steps taken by the Obama Administration to limit and monitor lobbying of the executive branch; discusses the development and implementation of restrictions placed on lobbying for Recovery Act and EESA funds; examines the Obama Administration's decision to stop appointing lobbyists to federal advisory bodies and committees; considers third-party criticism of current executive branch lobbying policies; and provides options for possible modifications in current lobbying laws and practices.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40947_20091201.pdf [PDF format, 18 pages].

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NONPROFIT AND CHARITABLE SECTOR. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Molly F. Sherlock and Jane G. Gravelle. November 2009.

The report examines a number of policy options, including (1) increasing government grants and subsidies to charitable organizations; (2) creating an oversight agency within the federal government to gather data, conduct research, and advocate for the charitable sector; (3) implementing policies designed to help charities and foundations in economic downturns; (4) changing the itemized deduction for charitable contributions by limiting, converting to a credit, or making the deduction more widely available; and (5) a variety of other tax issues.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40919_20091117.pdf [PDF format, 65 pages].

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECTRUM RESOURCES: POLICY ISSUES FOR CONGRESS. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Linda K. Moore. November 10, 2009.

Effective emergency response is dependent on wireless communications. To minimize communications failures during and after a crisis requires ongoing improvements in emergency communications capacity and capability. The availability of radio frequency spectrum is considered essential to developing a modern, interoperable communications network for public safety. Equally critical is building the radio network to use this spectrum. Opinions diverge, however, on such issues as how much spectrum should be made available for the network, who should own it, who should build it, who should operate it, who should be allowed to use it, and how it might be paid for.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40859_20091110.pdf [PDF format, 40 pages].

CONGRESSIONAL PRINTING: BACKGROUND AND ISSUES FOR CONGRESS. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. R. Eric Petersen. Nov. 2009.

Periodically, concerns have been raised about the number and variety of products created to document congressional activity. Other concerns focus on the process for authorizing and distributing printed government documents to Members of Congress, committees, and other officials in the House and Senate. The report provides an overview and analysis of issues related to the processing and distribution of congressional information by the Government Printing Office. Subsequent sections address several issues, including funding congressional printing, printing authorizations, current printing practices, and options for Congress. Finally, the report provides congressional printing appropriations, production, and distribution data in a number of tables.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40897_20091105.pdf [PDF format, 37 pages].

INCOME OF AMERICANS AGED 65 AND OLDER, 1968 TO 2008. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Patrick Purcell. November 4, 2009.

The report presents data collected by the Census Bureau in the Current Population Survey from 1969 through 2009 about the employment status and the sources and amounts of income received by people aged 65 and older. The report focuses on the sources and amounts of income received by individuals aged 65 and older and by households in which either the household head or the household head's spouse (if present) was 65 or older in the year of the survey. [PDF format, 40 pages].

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL33387_20091104.pdf

PRESIDENTIAL TERMS AND TENURE: PERSPECTIVES AND PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Thomas H. Neale. October 19, 2009.

Although the length of the presidential term was decided after spirited debate at the 1787 Constitutional Convention, and the 22nd Amendment provides term limits for the President, proposed constitutional amendments that would alter these provisions are occasionally introduced in Congress. The report discusses various proposed amendments.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R40864.pdf> [PDF format, 30 pages].

COMPETITION IN FEDERAL CONTRACTING: AN OVERVIEW OF THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Kate M. Manuel. August 20, 2009.

The report describes the legal requirements pertaining to competition that presently apply to federal procurement contracts.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40516_20090820.pdf [PDF format, 39 pages].

THE WHITE HOUSE



FACT SHEET: THE RACE TO THE TOP. The White House. November 4, 2009.

President Obama recently presented states with an unprecedented challenge and the opportunity to compete in a “Race to the Top” designed to spur systemic reform and embrace innovative approaches to teaching and learning in America’s schools. Backed by a historic \$4.35 billion investment, the reforms contained in the Race to the Top will help prepare America’s students to graduate ready for college and career, and enable them to out-compete any worker, anywhere in the world.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/fact-sheet-race-top>

THINK TANK PUBLICATIONS

ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

TEACHING FOR A NEW WORLD: PREPARING HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATORS TO DELIVER COLLEGE AND CAREER READY INSTRUCTION. Alliance for Excellent Education. M. Miller. November 4, 2009.

The brief offers a new vision for secondary teacher preparation that ensures teacher candidates possess the critical skills necessary to make certain that all students graduate from high school ready for college and careers. It also outlines how federal policy can support stronger teacher preparation.

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/TeachingForANewWorld.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages].

AMERICA SPEAKS



WE THE PEOPLE, 21ST CENTURY TOWN MEETING. America Speaks,

We the People engaged citizens in developing and implementing solutions for the toughest questions facing their community. Owensboro-Daviess (KY) County's civic renewal was ignited by an AmericaSpeaks' 21st Century Town Meeting® and sustained by citizen working groups. Years later, We the People boasts an impressive array of citizen-led action on key issues, and continues to develop community support for leaders working on change.

http://www.americaspeaks.org/_data/n_0001/resources/live/Web_WeThePeople.pdf

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE



ARE ATTITUDES CHANGING ABOUT THE PROPER ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT? By Karlyn Bowman. AEI Papers & Studies, December 2009

In June of 2008, AEI released a Public Opinion Study on Attitudes Toward Government. The subject has received significant attention in recent months as government's involvement in the economy has grown. How are Americans reacting to that new involvement? Fortunately, many pollsters have updated trend questions on the subject recently. We excerpt here a small section of the larger Public

Opinion Study to examine attitudes about government, and we also look separately at questions about the government's role in the provision of health care.

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/RoleOfGovernment.pdf>

CONSERVATISM AND THE QUEST FOR COMMUNITY. William Schambra. AEI Online, December 8, 2009

Conservatism, then, must learn to address the yearning for community not only for the sake of the inner city poor, but also to meet a wide range of spiritual, economic, and even foreign policy goals of relevance to all Americans.

<http://www.aei.org/speech/100114>



REWRITING THE JOB DESCRIPTION: THE TEACHING PROFESSION IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY. By Frederick M. Hess. AEI Education Outlook, November 2009

"Human capital" is quickly becoming the new site-based management, a popular strategy from the 1980s and 1990s that sought to increase autonomy in schools and spread decision making more widely. While few are sure what human capital means, everyone craves it, has a model to deliver it, and is quick to tout its restorative powers. It is trendy and impressive sounding, but too often it means recycling familiar nostrums

or half-baked ideas with new jargon. What is needed instead is a serious effort to rethink what the teaching profession should look like in the twenty-first century.

<http://www.aei.org/outlook/100091>

MATH IN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOLS: THE DELUSION OF RIGOR. Mark Schneider. AEI Outlook, October 2009

The evidence on the failure of American high schools to educate and graduate their students is widespread. The release of the latest National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) long-term trends (LTT) assessment data in April adds another data point to this sad compendium.[1] In this Outlook, I focus on trends in high school math, an area of critical national need, and one that has been a focus of national policy for decades. I present data that show a disconnect between the rigor of the math education that high schools claim to be delivering and the quality of the math education that students are actually receiving as measured by assessment data.

<http://www.aei.org/outlook/100074>

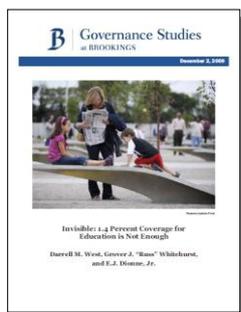
ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES

INFORMATION LITERACY. Association of College & Research Libraries. October 2009.

The Association of College & Research Libraries under the American Library Association website provides the overview of information literacy and links to resources and ideas. [HTML format with links].

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/infolit/index.cfm>

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION



INVISIBLE: 1.4 PERCENT COVERAGE FOR EDUCATION IS NOT ENOUGH. Brookings Institution. Darrell M. West et al. December 2, 2009.

The report concludes that there is virtually no national coverage of education. And of the education news that is reported, little relates to education policy or practice. There was hardly any coverage of school reform, teacher quality, or other matters thought to be crucial for education progress. Instead, most stories this year dealt with school finances, budget problems, crime, scandals, the H1N1 flu, and other

episodic topics.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/1202_education_news_west/1202_education_news_west.pdf



BREAKING THE IMMIGRATION STALEMATE. Brookings Institution. William Galston. October 2009.

The Obama administration has committed itself to immigration reform. Yet despite all the shortcomings of current policy, threats to the rule of law, exploitation of vulnerable newcomers, real and perceived competition with Americans for jobs and public resources, reasonable compromise on immigration will be exceedingly difficult. The divide between elite and public opinion on this issue remains deep and wide. It is a critical factor in the lack of trust that pervades today's political culture, says the report. [PDF format, 36 pages].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/1006_immigration_roundtable/1006_immigration_roundtable.pdf

CATO INSTITUTE



ATTACK OF THE UTILITY MONSTERS: THE NEW THREATS TO FREE SPEECH. Cato Institute. Jason Kuznicki. November 16, 2009.

Freedom of expression is looking less and less like a settled issue. Challenges to it have lately arisen from the right, from the left, from Muslim perspectives, and even in the name of protecting children online. These challenges seem to share an underlying concern, namely that we must balance free expression against the psychic hurt that some expressions will provoke. Often these critiques are couched in language

that draws or appears to draw, on the law and economics movement. Yet the cost-benefit analyses advanced to support restrictions on expression are incomplete, subjective, and self-contradictory, according to the report.

<http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa652.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

FAIRNESS 2.0: MEDIA CONTENT REGULATION IN THE 21st CENTURY. Cato Institute. Robert Corn-Revere. November 10, 2009.

Civil libertarians feared that a change of administrations would herald a revived Fairness Doctrine, a policy that previously permitted the government to oversee broadcast news coverage for "balanced views." A return to the Fairness Doctrine, however, now seems unlikely. It is very likely, however, that politicians from both the left and the right will try to extend government control over the media beyond current policies, according to the report.

<http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa651.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

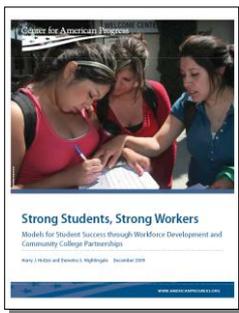
CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

REVITALIZING DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE: THE CHALLENGES OF USAID. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Thomas Carothers. October 2009.

Democracy is largely stagnant in the world and a growing number of governments exhibit hostility toward international democracy aid. Tackling longstanding problems with the basic structures of U.S. democracy aid would boost the effort. As the largest source of such assistance, USAID is an obvious starting point for deep-reaching reforms, according to the report. [PDF format, 66 pages].

http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/revitalizing_democracy_assistance.pdf

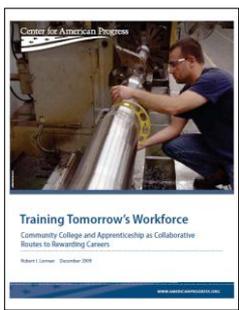
CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS



STRONG STUDENTS, STRONG WORKERS. Center for American Progress. Harry J. Holzer and Demetra S. Nightingale. December 9, 2009.

Community colleges can provide the postsecondary credentials needed by low-income youth and working adults to increase their labor market earnings, and the overall skills needed to keep the American workforce productive and competitive, write Harry Holzer and Demetra Nightingale. [PDF format, 48 pages].

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/12/pdf/strong_students.pdf

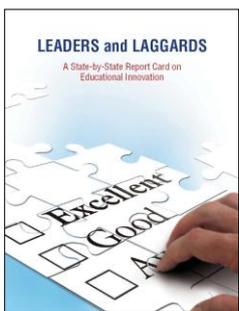


TRAINING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE: COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND APPRENTICESHIP AS COLLABORATIVE ROUTES TO REWARDING CAREERS. Robert Lerman | Center for American Progress, December 9, 2009

With nearly 15 million workers unemployed and another 9 million working part time involuntarily, the time is right to invest in upgrading the skills of many in the U.S workforce. Sound investments in skills today are likely to yield high returns in the form of added earnings and improved productivity tomorrow and well into the future. If directed at

improving qualifications for middle-skill jobs, enhanced training can reduce inequality while promoting economic growth.

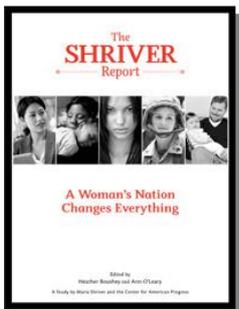
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/12/pdf/comm_colleges_apprenticeships.pdf



LEADERS AND LAGGARDS: A STATE-BY-STATE REPORT CARD ON EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION. Center for American Progress, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and American Enterprise Institute. November 9, 2009.

According to the report, the authors find much to applaud when grading the states on school performance. However, they also feel that the education system needs to be reinvented. After decades of political inaction and ineffective reforms, our schools consistently produce students unready for the rigors of the modern workplace. The report finds the lack of preparedness is staggering. [PDF format, 113 pages].

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/Leaders%20and%20Laggards%20Report.pdf>



THE SHRIVER REPORT: A WOMAN'S NATION CHANGES EVERYTHING. Center for American Progress. Maria Shriver. October 2009.

The report describes how a woman's nation changes everything about how we live and work today. Now for the first time in the U.S. history, women are half of all U.S. workers and mothers are the primary breadwinners or co-breadwinners in nearly two-thirds of American families. This is a dramatic shift from just a generation ago. It changes how women spend their days and has a ripple effect that reverberates throughout our nation. It fundamentally changes how we all work and live, not just women but also their families, their co-workers, their bosses, their faith institutions, and their communities. [PDF format, 454 pages].

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/10/pdf/awn/a_womans_nation.pdf

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND POLICY RESEARCH

INEQUALITY AS POLICY: THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1979. Center for Economic and Policy Research. John Schmitt. October 2009.

Since the end of the 1970s, the United States has seen a dramatic increase in economic inequality. While the U.S. has long been among the most unequal of the world's rich economies, the economic and social upheaval that began in the 1970s was a striking departure from the movement toward greater equality that began in the Great Depression, continued through World War II, and was a central feature of the first 30 years of the postwar period. This is not due to chance circumstances but is the direct result of a set of policies designed first and foremost to increase inequality, says the author. [PDF format, 10 pages]. <http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/inequality-policy-2009-10.pdf>

CENTER ON EDUCATION POLICY

HAS PROGRESS BEEN MADE IN RAISING ACHIEVEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES? Center on Education Policy. Naomi Chudowsky et al. November 16, 2009.

Using data from state reading and mathematics tests, the report takes an in-depth look at the performance of students with disabilities and highlights the problems with the testing data for these students. [HTML format with a link to 24 page PDF file].

http://www.cep-dc.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=document_ext.showDocumentByID&nodeID=1&DocumentID=298

CENTER FOR RETIREMENT RESEARCH AT BOSTON COLLEGE

401(k) PLANS AND RACE. Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. Alicia H. Munnell and Christopher Sullivan. November 2009.

Many data sources show a disparity among racial and ethnic groups regarding participation in and contributions to 401(k) plans. White workers participate at a higher rate and contribute a higher percentage than African American and Hispanic workers. However, few studies have explored whether these differences persist once other factors expected to impact these decisions are taken into consideration. [PDF format, 11 pages].

http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib_9-24.pdf

CENTURY FOUNDATION



TURNAROUND SCHOOLS THAT WORK: MOVING BEYOND SEPARATE BUT EQUAL. Richard D. Kahlenberg, The Century Foundation, 11/12/2009

Education Secretary Arne Duncan's far-reaching efforts to transform the country's lowest performing schools into successful ones, don't reach far enough according to a new report from The Century Foundation. In "Turnaround Schools That Work: Moving Beyond Separate but Equal," TCF Senior Fellow Richard Kahlenberg details why "turnaround" approaches that focus on changing principals and teachers but fail to

address issues related to parents and students, have fallen short of expectations.

<http://www.tcf.org/publications/education/turnaround.pdf>

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY INSTITUTE

A CHILD'S RIGHT TO COUNSEL. Children's Advocacy Institute and First Star. October 14, 2009.

Approximately 900,000 children are determined to have been abused and neglected each year. Most of them will go through court proceedings that will determine their lives and futures. Yet while the state and the allegedly abusive or neglectful parent stands in court with an attorney by their side, the child often stands alone and silent, or is excluded entirely from these critical hearings. The report aims to help present a snapshot of where we are as a nation in the fight to provide counsel to these most vulnerable of our citizens at one of the most frightening and threatening moments in their lives. [PDF format, 157 pages].

http://www.caichildlaw.org/Misc/Final_RTC_2nd_Edition_lr.pdf

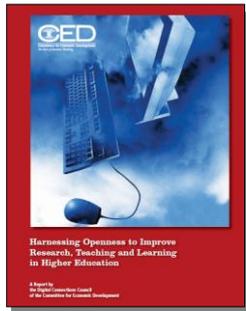
COLLEGE BOARD

TRENDS IN COLLEGE PRICING 2009. College Board. October 2009.

Published tuition and fees at public four-year colleges and universities rose at an average annual rate of 4.9% per year beyond general inflation from 1999-2000 to 2009-10, more rapidly than in either of the previous two decades. The rate of growth of published prices at both private not-for-profit four-year and public two-year institutions was lower from 1999-2000 to 2009-10 than in either of the previous two decades. [PDF format, 20 pages].

http://www.trends-collegeboard.com/college_pricing/pdf/2009_Trends_College_Pricing.pdf

COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



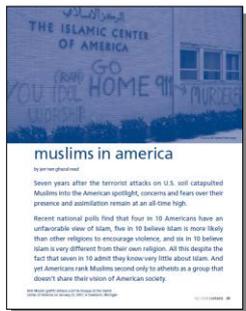
HARNESSING OPENNESS TO IMPROVE RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION. Committee for Economic Development. November 6, 2009.

The Internet and the digitization of information are increasing the potential for information, processes and organizations to become more "open." Information is more open when there are fewer restrictions on access, use, and the ability to modify or repurpose it. The report examines higher education through the lens of openness, to understand the potential impact of greater openness on colleges and universities.

[PDF format, 100 pages].

http://www.ced.org/images/library/reports/digital_economy/dcc_opennessedu09.pdf

CONTEXTS



MUSLIMS IN AMERICA. Contexts and American Sociological Association. Jen'nan Ghazal Read. Web posted November 12, 2008.

Seven years after the terrorist attacks on U.S. soil catapulted Muslims into the American spotlight, concerns and fears over their presence and assimilation remain at an all-time high. Recent national polls find that four in 10 Americans have an unfavorable view of Islam, five in 10 believe Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence, and six in 10 believe Islam is very different from their own religion. All this despite the fact that seven in 10 admit they know very little about Islam.

According to the author, many Americans are convinced Muslim Americans pose some kind of threat to American society. [PDF format, 5 pages].

<http://contexts.org/articles/files/2008/10/contexts-fall08-muslims-in-america.pdf>

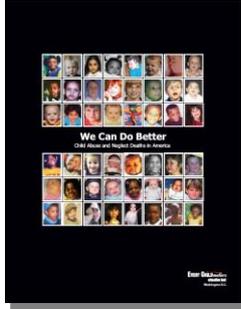
EDUCATION SECTOR

GROWING PAINS: SCALING UP THE NATION'S BEST CHARTER SCHOOLS. Education Sector. November 24, 2009.

The report takes an objective look at how prepared the nation's best charter schools are to meet the challenge of rapid expansion. [PDF format, 25 pages].

http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/Growing_Pains.pdf

EVERY CHILD MATTERS EDUCATION FUND



WE CAN DO BETTER: CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT DEATHS IN AMERICA. Every Child Matters Education Fund, October 2009.

The current systems of child protection are stretched too thin to protect children at grave risk, and now a harsh economy combined with a steadily weakened safety net in many states threaten to place ever more children at risk. Children at grave risk of being killed require protection from their national government. Because of the heavy toll child abuse and neglect exacts from the nation, a national strategy and initiative are needed to protect children.

http://www.everychildmatters.org/images/stories/pdf/wcdb_report.pdf

FOUNDATION CENTER

FOUNDATIONS' YEAR-END OUTLOOK FOR GIVING AND THE SECTOR.

Foundation Center. Steven Lawrence. November 2009.

Foundation giving will likely decline by more than 10 percent in 2009, closer to the higher end of the 8 to 13 percent range estimated by the Foundation Center earlier this year. Despite reduced resources, more than three-quarters of the close to 600 respondents to the new survey expect that the field of philanthropy will become more strategic as a result of having weathered the crisis. The focus of long-term changes range from governance to grantee relations to investments, according to the report. [PDF format, 5 pages].

http://www.foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/researchadvisory_economy_200911.pdf

GALLUP

U.S. SUPPORT FOR LEGALIZING MARIJUANA REACHES NEW HIGH. Gallup. October 19, 2009.

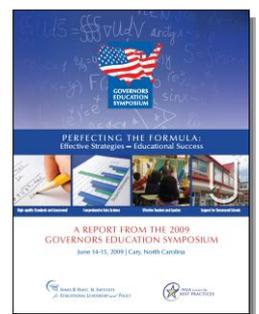
Gallup's October Crime poll finds 44% of Americans in favor of making marijuana legal and 54% opposed. U.S. public support for legalizing marijuana was fixed in the 25% range from the late 1970s to the mid-1990s, but acceptance jumped to 31% in 2000 and has continued to grow throughout this decade. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/123728/U.S.-Support-Legalizing-Marijuana-Reaches-New-High.aspx>

GOVERNORS EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

PERFECTING THE FORMULA: EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES= EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS. Governors Educational Symposium. Web posted October 5, 2009.

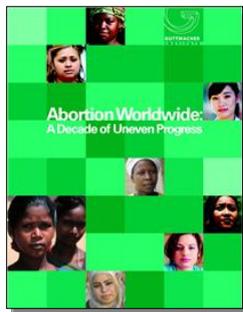
The report is the summary of the 2009 Governors Education Symposium, which brought together teams of governors, legislators and state education



commissioners from around the country. The report centers on how governors can maximize the funds available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to improve education in their states. Specific areas of focus include the four assurances of ARRA: high-quality standards and assessment; comprehensive data systems; effective teachers and leaders; and support for turnaround schools. [PDF format, 16 pages].

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0910GESREPORT.PDF>

GUTTMACHER INSTITUTE



ABORTION WORLDWIDE: A DECADE OF UNEVEN PROGRESS. Guttmacher Institute. October 13, 2009.

Increases in global contraceptive use have contributed to a decrease in the number of unintended pregnancies and, in turn, a decline in the number of abortions, which fell from an estimated 45.5 million procedures in 1995 to 41.6 million in 2003. While both the developed and the developing world experienced these positive trends, developed regions saw the greatest progress. Within the developing world, improvement varied widely, with Africa lagging behind other regions,

according to the report.

<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/AWWfullreport.pdf> [PDF format, 68 pages].

HARRIS INTERACTIVE

THREE IN FIVE ADULTS ARE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THERE IS A GOD; Men, people under 40, college graduates and Jews are less likely to be certain. Harris Poll, New York, N.Y., December 16, 2009

A recent Harris Poll found that 82% of American adults believe in God. However, when asked how certain they were, only 59% are “absolutely certain” that there is a God, and another 15% say they are somewhat certain. This Harris Poll finds that the groups that are most likely to be absolutely certain there is a God are born-again Christians (87%), Protestants generally (76%), Republicans (72%), people in the South (69%), blacks (67%), and women (66%).

Those who are most likely to be either absolutely or somewhat certain there is no God, or to be unsure, are Jews (34%), people aged 25-29 (43%) and 30-39 (35%), college graduates (36%), post-graduates (34%), men (33%), and people on the coasts – 33% in the East, and 34% in the West .

http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris_poll/pubs/Harris_Poll_2009_12_16.pdf

WHAT PEOPLE DO AND DO NOT BELIEVE IN: Many more people believe in miracles, angels, hell and the devil than in Darwin’s theory of evolution; almost a quarter of adults believe in witches. Harris Poll, New York, N.Y., December 15, 2009

The new Harris Poll finds that the great majority (82%) of American adults believe in God, exactly the same number as in two earlier Harris Polls in 2005 and 2007. Large majorities also believe in miracles (76%), heaven (75%), that Jesus is God or the Son of God (73%), in angels (72%), the survival of the soul after death (71%), and in the resurrection of Jesus (70%). Less than half (45%) of adults believe in Darwin’s theory of evolution but this is more than the 40% who believe in creationism.

http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris_poll/pubs/Harris_Poll_2009_12_15.pdf

HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL

FEELING GOOD ABOUT GIVING: THE BENEFITS (AND COSTS) OF SELF-INTERESTED CHARITABLE BEHAVIOR. Harvard Business School. Lalin Anik et al. September 2009.

While lay intuitions and pop psychology suggest that helping others leads to higher levels of happiness, the existing evidence only weakly supports this causal claim: Research in psychology, economics, and neuroscience exploring the benefits of charitable giving has been largely correlational, leaving open the question of whether giving causes greater happiness. The study analyzes the correlations. [PDF format, 23 pages].
<http://www.hbs.edu/research/pdf/10-012.pdf>

HERITAGE FOUNDATION

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY 2.0: WHERE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MEETS “NEW MEDIA.” The Heritage Foundation. Helle C. Dale. December 8, 2009.

Can Facebook and Twitter change the world? Can all the nifty new social-networking sites promote democracy and a better understanding of American values around the world? The potential is certainly there, as was seen in the invaluable Twitter updates during the post-election protests in Iran. The U.S. government is embracing Web 2.0 for an ambitious strategy of reaching previously untapped populations around the world, call it Public Diplomacy 2.0. While the potential progress is undeniable, so is the potential danger. Public diplomacy expert Helle Dale explains the recent developments, strategies, benefits, and risks of cyber diplomacy.
http://s3.amazonaws.com/thf_media/2009/pdf/bg2346.pdf [PDF format, 11 pages].



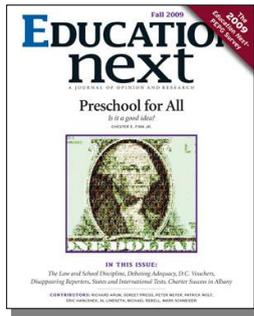
SCHOOL CHOICE IN AMERICA 2009: WHAT IT MEANS FOR CHILDREN'S FUTURES. Heritage Foundation. Lindsey Burke. November 4, 2009.

School choice means that more and more parents are able to send their children to safer, better schools, according to the study. It means that low-income and special-needs children across the country are attending a public or private school of their parents' choice. It means that students need not remain trapped in failing and dangerous schools, though too many students still are. The study recommends that the Congress, as well as state and local policymakers, enact policies that give all American children the opportunity to learn and achieve. [PDF format, 22 pages].
http://www.heritage.org/Research/Education/upload/bg_2332.pdf

THE EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE FUND: INCREASED FEDERAL ROLE IN EARLY EDUCATION. Heritage Foundation. Lindsey Burke. October 6, 2009.

In September, the U.S. House of Representative passed H.R. 3221, the "Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009" (SAFRA). It includes an \$8 billion Early Learning Challenge Fund (ELCF), which provides grants to states to reform and increase their early education and care programs. If enacted, SAFRA would significantly increase the federal government's role in preschool education. The report discusses the possible results.
<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Education/wm2643.cfm> [HTML format, various paging].

HOOVER INSTITUTION, STANFORD UNIVERSITY



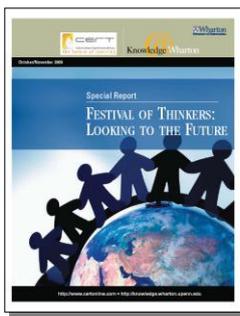
EDUCATION NEXT. Hoover Institution. Fall 2009 (vol. 9, no. 4)

This quarterly journal presents the facts as best they can be determined on issues related to K-12 education reform in the United States.

- Florida's Online Option by Bill Tucker
- Breaking Down School Budgets by Marguerite Roza
- Educating the Public by William Howell, Martin West

<http://educationnext.org/journal/fall09>

KNOWLEDGE@WHARTON



FESTIVAL OF THINKERS: LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE. Knowledge@Wharton. November 2009.

The third Festival of Thinkers brought together an array of Nobel laureates, well-known intellectuals and students from the UAE and neighboring countries to celebrate what Shiekh Nahayan Mabararak Al Nahayan calls “the power and importance of thinking.” The event which took place November 1-4, 2009, in Abu Dhabi, focused on nine themes that are keys to shaping the future of the Middle East and the rest of the global community. [PDF format, 11 pages].

http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/papers/download/20091028_MiddleEastSpecialReport.pdf

MANHATTAN INSTITUTE

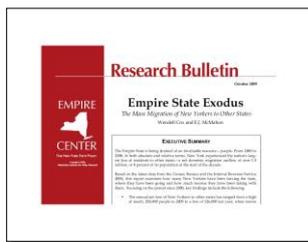


MEASURING IMMIGRANT ASSIMILATION IN THE UNITED STATES. Manhattan Institute. Jacob L. Vigdor. October 2009.

The year 2007 marked an economic turning point in the United States. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the nation's economic output peaked late in the year and then began to contract. This development affected immigration in two important ways: immigrants began arriving in fewer numbers than they have since the 1960s; and those immigrants who not only arrived but stayed fell further behind the native-born population economically. Economic assimilation declined

even among immigrants who arrived more than a decade ago, indicating that differences between that cohort and the native-born population widened. [PDF format, 52 pages].

http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/cr_59.pdf



EMPIRE STATE EXODUS: THE MASS MIGRATION OF NEW YORKERS TO OTHER STATES. Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. Wendell Cox and E.J. McMahon. October 27, 2009.

The Empire State is being drained of an invaluable resource, the people. From 2000 to 2008, in both absolute and relative terms, New York experienced the nation's largest loss of residents to

other states, a net domestic migration outflow of over 1.5 million, or 8 percent of its population at the start of the decade. [PDF format, 16 pages].

<http://www.empirecenter.org/Documents/PDF/RBTemptResearch-Bulletin-Migration-2009-3.pdf>

MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

THE BINATIONAL OPTION: MEETING THE INSTRUCTIONAL NEEDS OF LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT STUDENTS. Migration Policy Institute. Aaron Terrazas and Michael Fix. November 2009.

With 1 in 10 children in U.S. schools having limited English proficiency, school districts across the country face challenges in meeting the students' educational needs and finding enough qualified bilingual and English as a Second Language educators. The report identifies international teacher exchanges as an innovative strategy for school administrators to respond to immediate teaching needs, particularly in subject areas where knowledge of a foreign language is necessary. [PDF format, 55 pages].

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/TeacherExchange-Nov09.pdf>

IMMIGRANTS AND HEALTH CARE REFORM: WHAT'S REALLY AT STATE? Migration Policy Institute. Randy Capps et al. October 5, 2009.

Health care reform proposals under consideration in Congress that would exclude many legal immigrants from core benefits and impose new verification requirements would have important spillover consequences for taxpayers and other health care consumers, according to the analysis in the report. [PDF format, 38 pages].

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/healthcare-Oct09.pdf>

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH

THE IMPACT OF NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT. National Bureau of Economic Research. Thomas Dee and Brian Jacob. November 23, 2009.

The *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act* compelled states to design school-accountability systems based on annual student assessments. The effect of this Federal legislation on the distribution of student achievement is a highly controversial but centrally important question. The study discusses whether NCLB has influenced student achievement based on an analysis of state-level panel data on student test scores from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

http://papers.nber.org/papers/w15531.pdf?new_window=1 [PDF format, 76 pages].

IMMIGRATION, WAGES, AND COMPOSITIONAL AMENITIES. National Bureau of Economic Research. David Card et al. November 16, 2009.

Economists are often puzzled by the stronger public opposition to immigration than trade, since the two policies have similar effects on wages. Unlike trade, however, immigration can alter the composition of the local population, imposing potential externalities on natives. The paper presents a new method for quantifying the relative importance of these amenities in shaping attitudes toward immigration.

<http://papers.nber.org/papers/w15521.pdf> [PDF format, 58 pages].

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING AND MEDIA COVERAGE OF CORRUPTION SCANDALS. National Bureau of Economic Research. Rafael Di Tella and Ignacio Franceschelli. October 2009.

The report measures the extent to which the 4 main newspapers in Argentina report government corruption in their front page during the period 1998-2007 and correlates them with the extent to which each newspaper is a recipient of government advertising. The correlation is negative, according to the report.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w15402.pdf> [PDF format, 41 pages].

NATIONAL CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND HIGHER EDUCATION

STATES, SCHOOLS, AND COLLEGES: POLICIES TO IMPROVE STUDENT READINESS FOR COLLEGE AND STRENGTHEN COORDINATION BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES. National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. November 2009.

The authors examine what has been tried and learned about state policy leadership in bridging the divide between K-12 schools and postsecondary education.

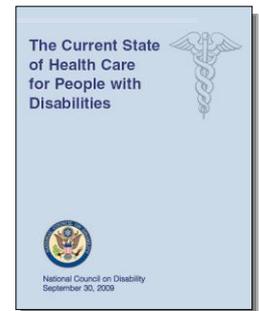
http://www.highereducation.org/reports/ssc/ssc_k16.pdf [PDF format, 156 pages].

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY (NCD)

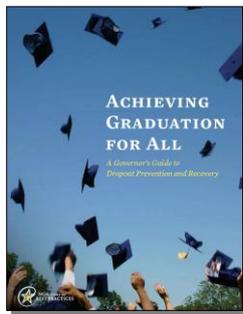
THE CURRENT STATE OF HEALTH CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. National Council on Disability, September 30, 2009

NCD undertook this study in 2007 to focus the nation's attention on the health care disparities experienced by people with disabilities, and to provide information and recommendations that can help to eliminate health care inequities for people with disabilities.

<http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2009/pdf/HealthCare.pdf>



NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION



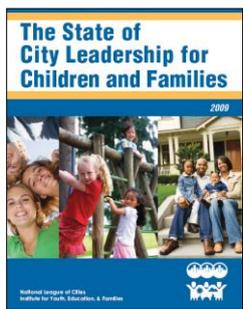
ACHIEVING GRADUATION FOR ALL: A GOVERNOR'S GUIDE TO DROPOUT PREVENTION AND RECOVERY. National Governors Association. October 22, 2009.

The report addresses the alarming rate at which students in the United States drop out of high school. The report identifies the root causes of the high school dropout problem and offers a comprehensive action plan for states to curb dropouts, help youth succeed and strengthen state economies. Currently, one in five students drop out of high school, and dropouts cost the United States more than \$300 billion each year in lost

wages and increased public sector expenses. [PDF format, 48 pages].

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0910ACHIEVINGGRADUATION.PDF>

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES



THE STATE OF CITY LEADERSHIP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. National League of Cities and Institute for Youth, Education, & Families. Julie Bosland and Michael Karpman. October 2009.

America's children and families, and the cities and towns in which they live, are under intense pressure as the decade draws to a close. Even before the current recession began, new solutions were urgently needed to address a host of pressing challenges: deepening financial insecurity; violence-plagued neighborhoods; a childhood obesity epidemic; an

enduring educational achievement gap; high dropout rates; and low youth employment rates. Fortunately, mayors and other city leaders throughout the country are making important progress, pursuing promising ideas and developing bold, breakthrough solutions. [PDF format, 146 pages].

http://www.nlc.org/ASSETS/E263FE71C1534FFA8CE583D83B386F65/IYEF_State_of_City_Leadership_9-09.pdf

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

MATHEMATICS LEARNING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD: PATHS TOWARD EXCELLENCE IN EQUITY. National Research Council. Christopher T. Cross et al. November 17, 2009.

Early childhood mathematics is vitally important for young children's present and future educational success. Research has demonstrated that virtually all young children have the capability to learn and become competent in mathematics. Furthermore, young children enjoy their early informal experiences with mathematics. Unfortunately, many children's potential in mathematics is not fully realized, especially those children who are economically disadvantaged. This is due, in part, to a lack of opportunities to learn mathematics in early childhood settings or through everyday experiences in the home and in their communities. Improvements in early childhood mathematics education can provide young children with the foundation for school success. [HTML format with links].

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12519

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

DOCTORATE RECIPIENTS FROM U.S. UNIVERSITIES: SUMMARY REPORT 2007-08. National Science Foundation. December 2009.

The data shows the trends in the numbers of new research doctorate recipients.

<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf10309/pdf/nsf10309.pdf>

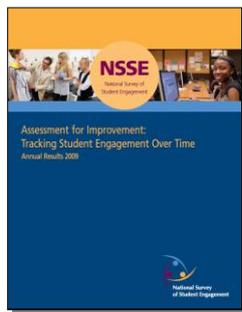
[PDF format, 322 pages].

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING DEGREES, BY RACE/ETHNICITY: 1997-2006. National Science Foundation. Mark K. Fiegener. November 2009.

The report shows an increase in the number of academic degrees awarded to minority students since 2004. It shows that more degrees were awarded to minorities in nearly all categories. Among U.S. citizens and permanent residents who earned bachelor's degrees from fiscal year 2004 to 2006, Asians showed the largest rate of increase—10.5 percent. American Indian/Alaska Natives showed the smallest at 1.3 percent.

<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf10300/pdf/nsf10300.pdf> [PDF format, 129 pages].

NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



ASSESSMENT FOR IMPROVEMENT: TRACKING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT OVER TIME. National Survey of Student Engagement. November 10, 2009.

A national survey shows that a variety of colleges and universities have shown steady improvement in the quality of undergraduate education, as measured by students' exposure to and involvement in effective educational practices. The report details results from a 2009 survey of 360,000 students attending 617 U.S. colleges and universities, and it includes a special look at trends in student engagement at more than 200

of those schools that had four to six year's worth of data going back to 2004.

http://nsse.iub.edu/NSSE_2009_Results/pdf/NSSE_AR_2009.pdf

NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION

CHILDREN'S SAVINGS ACCOUNTS. New America Foundation. Reid Cramer and David Neville. December 7, 2009.

Many believe that a prosperous future for our country will depend on the creation of a save-and-invest economy that will enable all Americans to accumulate savings and assets. While in the short-term, public investment should be expanded in order to stabilize the economy, any long-term plan for sustainable economic growth will have to involve increased household savings over an extended time horizon. One promising approach to that goal is children's savings accounts (CSAs), which would be established at birth for every American. The paper makes the case for establishing a universal system of children's savings accounts (CSAs) in the United States. [PDF format, 17 pages].

http://assets.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/CSAPolicyRationale_0.pdf

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

GOVERNMENT AT A GLANCE 2009. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. October 22, 2009.

Government policies and actions matter. The current global financial, social and environmental challenges highlight the unique role of government in serving the public interest. The quality, flexibility and effectiveness of public governance systems are central to countries' capabilities to provide these services effectively and efficiently, and to address future challenges. The report provides over 30 indicators describing key elements underlying government performance. [HTML format with links].

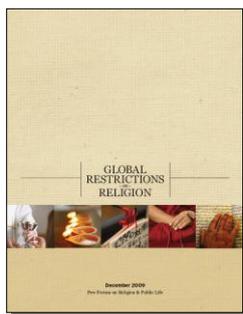
http://www.oecd.org/document/33/0,3343,en_2649_33735_43714657_1_1_1_1,00.html

TOWARDS BETTER SCHOOLS AND MORE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING IN ITALY. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Romina Boarini. Web posted October 15, 2009.

Compulsory school education in Italy produces poor results in terms of 15 year olds' performance on PISA tests, compared with other OECD countries, despite a relatively high level of expenditure. While the influence of social background is smaller than in many OECD countries, it is largely transmitted through a kind of self segregation resulting from family choices among the different types of upper secondary school. [PDF format, 64 pages].

[http://www.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT0000698A/\\$FILE/JT03271587.PDF](http://www.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT0000698A/$FILE/JT03271587.PDF)

PEW



GLOBAL RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGION. Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, December 2009

For more than half a century, the United Nations and numerous international organizations have affirmed the principle of religious freedom. For just as many decades, journalists and human rights groups have reported on persecution of minority faiths, outbreaks of sectarian violence and other pressures on religious individuals and communities in many countries. But until now, there has been no quantitative study that reviews an extensive number of sources to measure how governments and private actors infringe on religious beliefs and practices around the world.

The new study finds that 64 nations - about one-third of the countries in the world - have high or very high restrictions on religion. But because some of the most restrictive countries are very

populous, nearly 70 percent of the world's 6.8 billion people live in countries with high restrictions on religion, the brunt of which often falls on religious minorities.
<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1443/global-restrictions-on-religion>

AMERICA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD 2009: AN INVESTIGATION OF PUBLIC AND LEADERSHIP OPINION ABOUT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. December 3, 2009.

The general public and members of the Council on Foreign Relations are apprehensive and uncertain about America's place in the world. Growing numbers in both groups see the United States playing a less important role globally, while acknowledging the increasing stature of China. And the general public, which is in a decidedly inward-looking frame of mind when it comes to global affairs, is less supportive of increasing the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan than are CFR members, according to the survey.
<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/569.pdf> [PDF format, 122 pages].

SURGE IN AFGHANISTAN COVERAGE. Pew Project for Excellence in Journalism. Mark Jurkowitz. December 8, 2009.

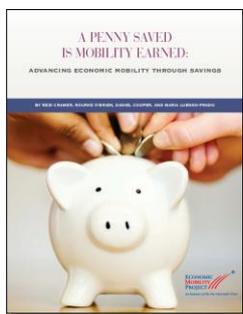
The war in Afghanistan, as was the case with coverage of Iraq, is a bigger story when it is more a domestic political story than one about combat. Also, morning shows propel Woods and the Salahis to the top of the news agenda, but well below the war.
<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1433/news-coverage-afghanistan-surge-tiger-woods-salahi>

OBAMA SEEN AS MORE FRIENDLY THAN HIS PARTY: GOP SEEN AS FRIENDLIER TO RELIGION THAN DEMOCRATS. The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. December 1, 2009.

More Americans continue to view the Republican Party as friendly toward religion (48%) than rate the Democratic Party that way (29%). President Barack Obama's administration, however, is seen as friendly toward religion by more people (37%) than the Democratic Party as a whole. And all three get higher ratings for friendliness toward religion than the news media (14%), scientists (12%) or Hollywood (11%).
<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/568.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages].

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS... AND EVERY OTHER DAY: RECESSION BRINGS MANY YOUNG ADULTS BACK TO THE NEST. Pew Research Center. Wendy Wang and Rich Morin. November 24, 2009.

The journey home for Thanksgiving won't be quite so far this year for many young adults. Instead of traveling across country or across town, many grown sons and daughters will be coming to dinner from their old bedroom down the hall, which now doubles as their recession-era refuge. A recent survey by the Pew Research Center finds that 13% of parents with grown children say one of their adult sons or daughters has moved back home in the past year. Social scientists call them "boomerangers" -- young adults who move in with parents after living away from home.
<http://pewsocialtrends.org/pubs/748/recession-brings-many-young-adults-back-to-the-nest#prc-jump>



A PENNY SAVED IS MOBILITY EARNED: ADVANCING ECONOMIC MOBILITY THROUGH SAVINGS. The Pew Charitable Trusts. Reid Cramer et al. November 24, 2009.

Movement up the income ladder is fairly limited for children of low-income parents; 42 percent of children born to parents on the bottom rung of the income ladder remain on the bottom rung a generation later. The paper demonstrates the relationship between savings and economic mobility.
http://www.newamerica.net/files/EMP_Savings_Report.pdf

WHERE THE PUBLIC STANDS ON IMMIGRATION REFORM. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Scott Keeter. November 23, 2009.

Recently the Obama administration announced that it will push for legislation next year to overhaul the nation's immigration system. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said that the administration will argue for what she called a "three-legged stool" including stricter enforcement, a "tough and fair pathway to earned legal status" for undocumented immigrants already in the U.S., and a more efficient process for legal immigration. How is the public likely to react to this new push? Pew Research polling has found significant public support for both tougher enforcement and the so-called "path to citizenship," but several factors suggest that the debate could be a difficult one. [HTML format, various paging].
<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1421/where-the-public-stands-on-immigration-reform>

FAITH-BASED PROGRAMS STILL POPULAR. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. November 16, 2009.

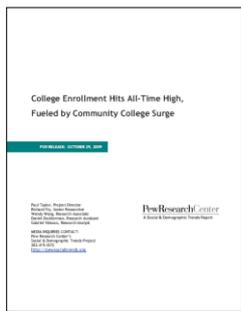
More than eight years after former President George W. Bush unveiled his faith-based initiative to make it easier for religious groups to receive government funding to provide social services, the policy continues to draw broad public support. But as was the case when Bush first announced the initiative, many Americans express concerns about blurring the lines between church and state. Currently, 69% of Americans say they favor allowing churches and other houses of worship, along with other organizations, to apply for government funding to provide social services such as job training or drug treatment counseling.
<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1412/faith-based-programs-popular-church-state-concerns>



SOCIAL ISOLATION AND NEW TECHNOLOGY: HOW THE INTERNET AND MOBILE PHONES IMPACT AMERICANS' SOCIAL NETWORKS. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Keith N. Hampton et al. November 4, 2009.

The report adds new insights to an ongoing debate about the extent of social isolation in America. A widely-reported 2006 study argued that since 1985 Americans have become more socially isolated, the size of their discussion networks has declined, and the diversity of those people with whom they discuss important matters has decreased. However, the Pew Internet Personal Networks and Community survey finds that Americans are not as isolated as has been previously reported. People's use of the mobile phone and the internet is associated with larger and more diverse discussion networks. [PDF format, 84 pages].

http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2009/PIP_Tech_and_Social_Isolation.pdf



COLLEGE ENROLLMENT HITS ALL-TIME HIGH, FUELED BY COMMUNITY COLLEGE SURGE. Pew Research Center. Paul Taylor et al. October 29, 2009.

The share of 18- to 24-year-olds attending college in the United States hit an all-time high in October 2008, driven by a recession-era surge in enrollments at community colleges, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of newly released data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Just under 11.5 million students, or 39.6% of all young adults ages 18 to 24, were enrolled in either a two- or four-year college in October 2008, the most recent date for which comprehensive nationwide data are available. Both figures, the absolute number as well as the share, are at their highest level ever. [PDF format, 19 pages].

<http://pewsocialtrends.org/assets/pdf/college-enrollment.pdf>

THE “ZEAL OF THE CONVERT””: IS IT THE REAL DEAL? Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. Allison Pond and Greg Smith. October 29, 2009.

A common perception about individuals who switch religions is that they are very fervent about their new faith. The analysis provides quantitative support for this piece of conventional wisdom often referred to as the "zeal of the convert." The analysis finds that people who have switched faiths, or joined a faith after being raised unaffiliated with a religion, are indeed slightly more religious than those who have remained in their childhood faith, as measured by the importance of religion in their lives, the frequency with which they attend religious services and other measures of religious commitment. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1392/greater-zeal-of-religious-converts-is-real-but-modest?src=prc-latest&proj=peoplepress>



FOX NEWS VIEWED AS MOST IDEOLOGICAL NETWORK. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Andrew Kohut and Michael Remez. October 29, 2009.

The Fox News Channel is viewed by Americans in more ideological terms than other television news networks. And while the public is evenly divided in its view of hosts of cable news programs having strong political opinions, more Fox News viewers see this as a good thing than as a bad thing.

[PDF format, 15 pages].

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/559.pdf>

LATINOS AND EDUCATION: EXPLAINING THE ATTAINMENT GAP. Pew Hispanic Center. Mark Hugo Lopez. October 2009.

Nearly nine-in-ten (89%) Latino young adults say that a college education is important for success in life, yet only about half that number (48%) say that they themselves plan to get a college degree, according to the national survey of Latinos. The biggest reason for the gap between the high value Latinos place on education and their more modest aspirations to finish college appears to come from financial pressure to support a family, the survey finds.

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1368/latinos-education-explaining-the-attainment-gap>

[HTML format, various paging].

THE STATES OF MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE. Pew Research Center. October 15, 2009.

On the national level, the Census Bureau survey showed that a shrinking share of Americans are married with 52% of males ages 15 and older and 48% of females ages 15 and older. The proportion of Americans who are currently married has been diminishing for decades and is lower than it has been in at least half a century. The age range used in standard Census tabulations dates back to the days when more people married as young teenagers. Among Americans 18 and older, the proportion currently married, but not separated, is 55% for men and 50% for women. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1380/marriage-and-divorce-by-state?src=prc-latest&proj=peoplepress>

MOST STILL OPPOSE GAY MARRIAGE, BUT SUPPORT FOR CIVIL UNIONS CONTINUES TO RISE. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. October 9, 2009.

A clear majority of Americans (57%) favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into legal agreements with each other that would give them many of the same rights as married couples, a status commonly known as civil unions. Over the past year, support for civil unions has grown significantly among those who oppose same-sex marriage. At the same

time, opponents of same-sex marriage continue to outnumber supporters overall. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1375/gay-marriage-civil-unions-opinion>

MAPPING THE GLOBAL MUSLIM POPULATION. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. October 8, 2009.

A comprehensive demographic study of more than 200 countries finds that there are 1.57 billion Muslims of all ages living in the world today, representing 23% of an estimated 2009 world population of 6.8 billion. [PDF format, 62 pages].

<http://pewforum.org/newassets/images/reports/Muslimpopulation/Muslimpopulation.pdf>

THE HARRIED LIFE OF THE WORKING MOTHER. Pew Research Center. Kim Parker. October 1, 2009.

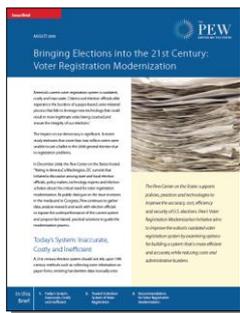
Women now make up almost half of the U.S. labor force, up from 38% in 1970. The nearly forty-year trend has been fueled by a broad public consensus about the changing role of women in society. A solid majority of Americans (75%) reject the idea that women should return to their traditional roles in society, and most believe that both husband and wife should contribute to the family income. But in spite of these long-term changes in behaviors and attitudes, many women remain conflicted about the competing roles they play at work and at home. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://pewsocialtrends.org/pubs/745/the-harried-life-of-the-working-mother>

SUPPORT FOR ABORTION SLIPS: ISSUE RANKS LOWER ON THE AGENDA. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. October 1, 2009.

Polls conducted in 2009 have found fewer Americans expressing support for abortion than in previous years. In Pew Research Center polls in 2007 and 2008, supporters of legal abortion clearly outnumbered opponents; now Americans are evenly divided on the question, and there have been modest increases in the numbers who favor reducing abortions or making them harder to obtain. Less support for abortion is evident among most demographic and political groups. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://people-press.org/report/549/support-for-abortion-slips>



BRINGING ELECTIONS INTO THE 21st CENTURY: VOTER REGISTRATION MODERNIZATION. Pew Center on the States. Web posted September 2009.

America's current voter registration system is outdated, costly and inaccurate, according to the report. The report estimates that more than two million voters were unable to cast a ballot in the 2008 general election due to registration problems. It reviews the underperformance of the current voter registration system and recommends a 21st century, data-driven registration system. [PDF format, 4 pages].

http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Voter_Registration_Modernization_Brief_web.pdf

PUBLIC AGENDA

TEACHING FOR A LIVING: HOW TEACHERS SEE THE PROFESSION TODAY. Public Agenda. October 19, 2009.

Everyone agrees that you can't have good education without good teachers, but how do teachers see their profession? Why do people become teachers, what are their frustrations, and what reforms do they think would improve their work? The report is designed to learn more about how to support and retain the most promising teachers. It's a follow up on issues explored in the 2003 survey, Stand by Me, and our 2007 Lessons Learned reports on first-

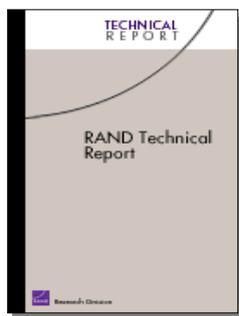
year teachers, as well as adding new questions to explore the differences between “Gen Y” educators and older teachers. [HTML format with links].
<http://www.publicagenda.org/pages/teaching-for-a-living>

PUBLIC CAMPAIGN

COLD HARD CASH, COLD WAR POLITICS: HOW CUBAN AMERICAN HARD-LINERS INFLUENCE CONGRESS WITH CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS. Public Campaign. November 16, 2009.

Since the 2004 election cycle, a network of Cuban-American donors and political action committees (PACs) has donated in excess of \$10 million to more than 300 federal candidates in order to thwart any changes in the U.S. embargo of Cuba. Recipients are Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate members, rank-and-file members and party leaders. Contributions are sometimes coordinated and mutually reinforcing. These donations were often targeted to members of Congress who changed their positions on U.S.-Cuba policy to align them with opponents of change, sometimes within days or a few weeks of making the switch, according to the report. [PDF format, 18 pages].
<http://www.publiccampaign.org/sites/www.publiccampaign.org/files/11-16cubareportfinal.pdf>

RAND



INNOVATION IN ACADEME: FEDERAL R&D FUNDING AND THE PATENTING ACTIVITIES OF U.S. UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES. Donna Fossum et al. RAND Technical Report, December 16, 2009

The Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 expressly gave colleges, universities, and other nonprofit entities the right, which had previously been presumptively held by the federal government itself, to patent inventions resulting from federally funded research and development (R&D) activities they conduct. In the nearly three decades since the Bayh-Dole

Act changed the nation's patent laws, some academic institutions have been much more prolific than others at patenting technologies and other inventions discovered in their laboratories. There is substantial interest in better understanding the link between federal funding and innovation among U.S. colleges and universities.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR749/

SELF-EMPLOYMENT AMONG OLDER WORKERS: ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, LIQUIDITY CONSTRAINTS AND EMPLOYMENT PATTERNS. RAND Corporation. Qian Gu. October 23, 2009.

Self-employment is an increasingly popular form of employment among older workers. The dissertation expand the knowledge base of the self-employment experience at older ages.

http://rand.org/pubs/rgs_dissertations/2009/RAND_RGSD252.pdf
[PDF format, 145 pages].

IMPROVING SCHOOL LEADERSHIP: THE PROMISE OF COHESIVE LEADERSHIP SYSTEMS. RAND Corporation. Catherine H. Augustine et al. Oct 2009.

Improving the nation's public schools is one of the highest priorities of federal, state, and local government in America. Recent research has shown that the quality of the principal is, among school-based factors, second only to the quality of the teacher in contributing to what students learn in the classroom. The study finds that it is possible to build more-cohesive

leadership systems and that such efforts appear to be a promising approach to developing school leaders engaged in improving instruction. [PDF format, 223 pages].
http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG885.pdf

RUTGERS U.-GEORGETOWN U.

STEADY AS SHE GOES?: THREE GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS THROUGH THE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PIPELINE. Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University and Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University. B. Lindsay Lowell et al. October 27, 2009.

A decline in both the quantity and quality of students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is widely noted, according to the report. Fears of increasing global competition compound the perception that there has been a drop in the supply of high-quality students moving up through the STEM pipeline in the United States. The report explores (1) What is the “flow” or attrition rate of STEM students along the high school to career pathway? (2) How does this flow and this attrition rate change from earlier cohorts to current cohorts? (3) What are the changes in quality of STEM students who persist through the STEM pathway? [PDF format, 57 pages].

http://www.heldrich.rutgers.edu/uploadedFiles/Publications/STEM_Paper_Final.pdf

THE ROLE OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN LONG-TERM HUMAN RECOVERY AFTER DISASTER. RAND Corporation. Anita Chandra and Joie Acosta. September 23, 2009.

In the four years since Hurricane Katrina, volunteers and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have been instrumental in supporting community efforts to recover and rebuild from the devastation in the Gulf States region. The period also provides a case study of the complex process of human recovery and the resource and policy constraints on NGO involvement in these efforts. [PDF format, 34 pages].

http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2009/RAND_OP277.pdf

STRATEGIC STUDIES INSTITUTE, U.S. ARMY WAR COLLEGE

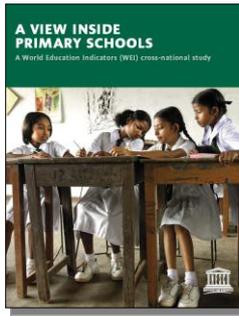
SCHOOLS FOR STRATEGY: TEACHING STRATEGY FOR 21st CENTURY CONFLICT. Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College. Colin S. Gray. October 28, 2009.

According to the report, all would-be strategists would benefit by some formal education. However, for education in strategy to be well-directed, it needs to rest upon sound assumptions concerning the eternal nature yet ever shifting character, meaning, and function of strategy, as well as the range of behaviors required for effective strategic performance. The author emphasizes the necessity for strategic education to help develop the strategic approach, the way of thinking that can solve or illuminate strategic problems.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=947>

[HTML format with links].

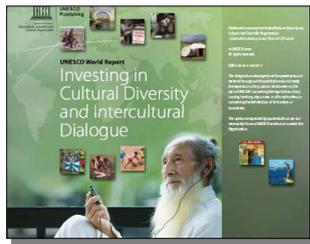
UNITED NATIONS



A VIEW INSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOLS: A WORLD EDUCATION INDICATORS (WEI) CROSS-NATIONAL STUDY. U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Yanhong Zhang et al. Eds. December 2009.

The report presents the results of a unique survey undertaken in 11 countries in Latin America, Asia and North Africa. As part of the World Education Indicators (WEI) program, the countries were involved in developing and conducting the survey to examine the factors shaping the quality and equality of primary education. Fourth grade teachers and principals from more than 7,600 schools responded to detailed questionnaires on how schools function, how teachers teach, learning conditions and the support available to teachers and principals. [PDF format, 294 pages]

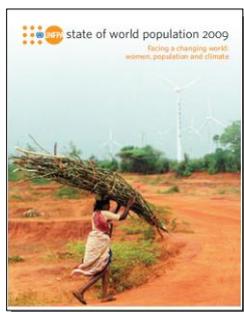
<http://www.uis.unesco.org/template/pdf/wei/sps/Report.pdf>



INVESTING IN CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE. U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Frederic Sampson et al. October 28, 2009.

Drawing on experts, thinkers, practitioners and decision-makers, the report emphasizes the importance of integrating the diversity of learners' needs into educational practices. The education section of the report acknowledges that 'a one size fits all' approach to education does not serve learners' needs and can create huge gaps between what pupils learn and how they live. It also includes an examination of the cultural relevance of educational methods and contents; learning societies and the right to education; and participatory learning and intercultural competencies. [PDF format, 420 pages].

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001852/185202E.pdf>



STATE OF WORLD POPULATION 2009: FACING A CHANGING WORLD: WOMEN, POPULATION AND CLIMATE. U.N. Population Fund. November 2009.

Climate is always changing, but never in known human experience more dramatically than it is likely to change in the coming century, according to the report. And, if the world is to avoid dangerous climate change, there may be little room left in the atmosphere for poor countries to develop economically through the same carbon-intensive energy patterns the industrialized countries relied upon in their own development over the last two centuries. Climate change's influence on people is complex, spurring migration, destroying livelihoods, disrupting economies, undermining development and exacerbating inequities between the sexes. [PDF format, 104 pages].

<http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/swp/englishwop09.pdf>

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE (USIP)

THE CURRENT STATUS OF RELIGIOUS COEXISTENCE AND EDUCATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA. U.S. Institute of Peace. Renata Stuebner. Nov 2009.

Despite 15 years of sporadic efforts, religion today in Bosnia and Herzegovina is more of a hindrance than a help to promoting peaceful coexistence among the region's various ethnic and religious groups. Polarization and extremism make religions other than one's own even

more distant, strange and threatening. Teaching culture of religions, history of religions and a comprehensive approach to different religions have not yet started to be implemented throughout the school system. [PDF format, 15 pages].

http://www.usip.org/files/resources/religion_education_bosnia_herzegovina_pb.pdf

URBAN INSTITUTE

HOW WELL HAVE MIDDLE CLASS AMERICAN FAMILIES ACCUMULATED WEALTH? Urban Institute. Robert I. Lerman. Web posted December 9, 2009.

Many commentators have worried about the low savings rates and high debt levels of American families. Does this picture of unbridled consumption and low asset accumulation fit the American family? Did declines in 2008–2009 house prices, stocks, and bonds reinforce stagnating wealth or offset previous growth in wealth? Using data from the 1989, 1998, and 2007 Surveys of Consumer Finances (SCF) to replicate family experiences over the life cycle by following age cohorts, this fact sheet shows that from 1989 to 2007 American families were accumulating wealth at a healthy rate as individuals and families moved through their life cycle.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411990_17_LermanNetworthOvertime.pdf

CAN THE NEW HEALTH SUBSIDIES BE ADMINISTERED? Urban Institute. Gene Steuerle. November 23, 2009.

An old congressional hand once confided that tax legislation usually looks like sausage making, but, compared to health legislation, it starts to look like French cooking, according to the report. His main boeuf? The extraordinary amount of hand waving in health bills due to the questionable assumption that administrators can solve problems the legislation can't.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/901303_governmentweddeserve_11202009.pdf

THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE: REDUCING RECIDIVISM AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. Amy L. Solomon, Urban Institute. . Hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs, November 5, 2009.

The traditional approach to incarceration is to keep inmates locked up to keep us safe. With little treatment and transition planning, most individuals are released with the same problems that got them locked up in the first place. In the past decade, it is noted that almost everyone who is incarcerated will eventually return home; especially true of the jail population. The big question: how do we incarcerate and release individuals in a way that makes them less likely to reoffend and more likely to work, support their families, pay taxes, and be productive members of society? [PDF format, 8 pages].

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/901296_reducing_recidivism.pdf

FAMILY MOBILITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGE: NEW EVIDENCE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY INITIATIVES. Urban Institute. Claudia Coulton et al. November 2, 2009.

Americans change residences frequently. Residential mobility can reflect positive changes in a family's circumstances or be a symptom of instability and insecurity. Mobility may also change neighborhoods as a whole. The analyzes the reasons and changes.

http://www.urban.org/uploadedpdf/411973_family_mobility.pdf [PDF format, 57 pages].

RISK AND RECOVERY: UNDERSTANDING THE CHANGING RISKS TO FAMILY INCOMES. Urban Institute. Gregory Acs et al. Web posted October 12, 2009.

The paper examines the characteristics and circumstances of families vulnerable to sharp income drops and those most likely to recover financially. More than 13 percent of nonelderly adults in families with children will see their incomes fall by half at some point

over the course of a year, and about 40 percent fully recover within a year. Those who lose jobs or have an adult leave the family are more likely to have a substantial drop in income and are less likely to recover. The paper uses data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation, which collects data every four months and can provide information on short-term income loss.

http://www.urban.org/uploadedpdf/411971_risk_and_recovery.pdf
[PDF format, 30 pages].

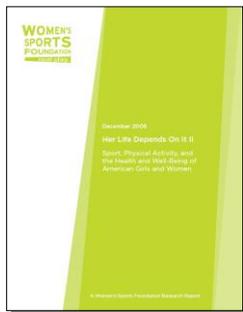


CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS: IMMIGRATION TRENDS. Urban Institute. Karina Fortuny and Ajay Chaudry. Web posted October 26, 2009.

The current fact sheet examines immigration trends and finds that children of immigrants are the fastest growing segment of the nation's children population – while the number of children of natives increased by 2.1 million between 1990 and 2007, children of immigrants grew by 8.1 million accounting for 77 percent of the growth of the U.S. children population during this time. [PDF format, 6 pages].

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/901292_immigrationtrends.pdf

WOMEN'S SPORTS FOUNDATION



HER LIFE DEPENDS ON IT II. Women's Sports Foundation, December 15, 2009

In December 2009 the Women's Sports Foundation released a new and expanded comprehensive review of its essential "Her Life Depends On It" report, first released in 2004. The benchmark 2009 review draws critical conclusions that further emphasize the vital roles that sports play in the physical and social health of girls and women. The report is compiled from more than 2,000 studies examining women's athletics and health, including hundreds of new studies conducted in the five

years since the last report was released.

<http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/Content/Research-Reports/Her-Life-Depends-On-It-II.aspx>

YALE GLOBAL

U.S. OPINION TURNS AGAINST THE GLOBALISM OF ITS PRESIDENT. YaleGlobal. Bruce Stokes. December 10, 2009.

All of President Obama's internationalist and multi-lateral policies may come to naught if he cannot convince Americans that such a strategy is in their best interest. Moreover, if American public opinion cannot be reversed, an insular country could erode US international standing and weaken its ability to obtain a consensus on a wide range of issues, according to columnist Bruce Stokes. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/us-opinion-turns-against-globalism-their-president>

ARTICLES FROM U.S. JOURNALS

SOUL OF A WRITER. Geffner, David. *Humanities*, vol. 30, no. 6, November/December 2009, pp. 20-24)

Jim Thompson, author of numerous hard-boiled crime novels, including *A Hell of a Woman*, *Savage Night* and *The Killer Inside Me* — joined the ranks of such classic pulp-fiction writers as James M. Cain and Dashiell Hammett long before filmmaker Quentin Tarantino made the genre fashionable. Says Geffner, accounts of the novelist’s colorful personal history recall his early years as a “hobo, bellhop, roughneck, boozier, factory worker, [and] Marine,” but rarely mention that he was once, briefly, a registered Communist. This omission is all the more striking because Thompson — whose experiences during the Great Depression shaped his perspective — has maintained a high profile, thanks to a steady stream of film adaptations of his works (*The Kill-Off*; *After Dark, My Sweet*; *The Grifters*; *The Getaway*). In the late 1930s, Thompson was director of the Oklahoma Federal Writers’ Project (a New Deal program to put American writers to work), and this detail also has been largely ignored, probably because the program was “a hotbed of radical politics,” says Geffner. Still, “Thompson’s leftist past may well have set the course for everything that followed in his later career,” and an understanding of this is essential in any assessment of Thompson as an writer, Geffner argues. But if Thompson developed populist sympathies as a result of his hardscrabble youth, he never romanticized the down-and-out characters who populate his novels. Thompson’s experimental structures and avant-garde sensibility almost certainly can be traced to his tenure at the Federal Writers Project, which exposed him to other writers who were pushing literary boundaries. In the end, though, his voice was all his own. Geffner concludes that Thompson “was rooted in the proletariat’s lot, the blood, sweat, and dirt of people he felt to be the salt of the earth — although his books showed them to be more like vipers in a pit.” Currently available online at <http://www.neh.gov/news/humanities/2009-11/Soul.html>

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF AMERICAN JOURNALISM. Downie, Leonard Jr.; Schudson, Michael. *Columbia Journalism Review*, November/December 2009

The authors of this in-depth report ask hard questions about the function of the press and the future of “accountability” journalism as a public service at a time of crisis in news media. They make six recommendations for the support of credible, independent and original news reporting. These include new approaches to public and private financing of news organizations serving the public good; incorporation of new dissemination vehicles while retaining downsized traditional formats; and utilizing volunteer news gatherers alongside professionals. Downie, a vice president and former executive editor of the *Washington Post*, and Schudson, a Columbia University journalism professor, call for more leaders across the board “to seize this moment of challenging changes and new beginnings.” Currently available online at http://www.cjr.org/reconstruction/the_reconstruction_of_american.php

TAKE A STAND: HOW JOURNALISM CAN REGAIN ITS RELEVANCE. Cunningham, Brent. *Columbia Journalism Review*, September/October 2009

Summary: Journalism in America has been damaged by its abdication of an adversarial role in public discourse. Instead, it “mostly amplifies the agendas of others—the prominent and powerful,” maintains the author. He examines the changing dynamic of the news media and questions whether it has the ability to moderate public conversation and introduce new angles and ideas on national issues. Calling press objectivity “a trap” that lessens journalism’s beneficial impact, he says the press needs to be on the side of the people and become a platform for establishing a public agenda. Available online at http://www.cjr.org/feature/take_a_stand.php

DAYDREAM BELIEVERS. Rieder, Rem. *American Journalism Review*, August/September 2009

Summary: “America has become a country filled with people who stubbornly continue to believe what they want to believe, regardless of the facts,” says Rieder, using as examples the persistence of people who refuse to believe Obama was born in the United States and those who believe that there are in fact provisions for “death panels” in health-care reform proposals. This situation makes it all the more critical for journalists to go beyond the “he-said, she-said” reporting of the past and not hesitate to reach firmly expressed conclusions — with fairness, of course. Mainstream journalism has long been uncomfortable about making and expressing conclusions, but according to Rieder, “as long as that conclusion is based on carefully reported evidence, not ideology, there's no good reason not to do it.” Currently available online at <http://ajr.org/Article.asp?id=4817>

BUZZ OFF. Peck, Morgan E. *Discover*, vol. 30, no. 9, October 2009, pp. 38-41

Summary: The possible stresses causing honeybee die-off, known as Colony Collapse Disorder, include pesticides, bacterial or viral infections and mite infestations. But recently scientists have focused on industrial agricultural practices that isolate bees from their natural habitat, forcing them to live crowded together in unhealthy boxes where bees are given monotonous diets that deprive them of essential nutrients available in the wild. Bees are transported thousands of miles to pollinate similar kinds of crops and fed corn syrup in slack periods. Inbreeding also takes its toll. Some entomologists are establishing new hives with wild queens, settling them with beekeepers who allow bees to live naturally. Currently available online at <http://discover.coverleaf.com/discovermagazine/200910?pg=41#pg41>

THE MOGULS' NEW CLOTHES. Greenwald, Bruce; Knee, Jonathan; Seave, Ava. *Atlantic Monthly*, October 2009

Summary: Even before the Internet upended their industry, big media companies were turning in poor performances and disappointing their shareholders. The four tenets of media industry wisdom — growth, globalization, content and convergence -- are myths, these authors insist. Growth has actually resulted in lower stock performance, and globalization doesn't necessarily lead to higher profits. Creating superior content makes more money for the artists than for the media companies hosting their work. And finally, increased competition from multiple media sources and the Internet undercut the advantage traditional big media companies had of economies of scale and captive customers. The only real avenue to salvation that the traditional media industry has open is unglamorous: improving the efficiency of their operations. <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200910/moguls>

THE WOMEN'S CRUSADE. Kristof, Nicholas; Wudunn, Sheryl. *New York Times Magazine*, August 23, 2009, pp. 28-39

Summary: In many parts of the world, women are routinely beaten, raped or sold into prostitution; they are denied access to medical care and education, and have little or no economic and political power. Changing that could change everything, write the authors, saying that “the oppression of women worldwide is the human rights cause of our time.” Their liberation could help solve many of the world's problems, from poverty to child mortality to terrorism. The United Nations has estimated that there are five thousand honor killings a year, the majority in the Muslim world, while one percent of the world's landowners are women. Still, they note that things are changing; educating girls and empowering women can help fight power and extremism. For example, in Egypt, 98% of people say they believe that “girls have the same right to education as boys.” This is one of a series of articles in a special issue of the magazine entitled Saving The World's Women. Currently available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/23/magazine/23Women-t.html#>

JOURNALISM AS A CIVIC PRACTICE. Oplinger, Doug. *Connections*, 2009, pp. 14-15

Summary: Even financially imperiled news organization can continue to be “chronicler and conscience” of their communities, says Oplinger. He uses the Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal as an example. Without compromising its journalistic integrity, he writes, the newspaper collaborated with its media competitors and the city’s special interests on a civic journalism project that explored, starting in 2006, the hopes and fears of America’s “disappearing middle class.” The project blossomed into a long series of stories and several public events.

“Collaborations such as the Beacon Journal’s middle-class project may begin to rewrite the rules of engagement for civic journalism,” Oplinger writes. The project worked because it not only reported on the problem, but helped drive the discussion, he says. Available online at http://www.kettering.org/media_room/periodicals/connections

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY. Bowden, Mark. *Atlantic Monthly*, October 2009

Summary: Unbiased journalism is being replaced by the work of “political hit men,” Bowden says, citing the televised treatment of Judge Sonia Sotomayor after she was nominated by Obama for the U.S. Supreme Court. The information on Sotomayor -- specifically the “make policy” and “Latina woman” comments -- wasn’t uncovered by journalists, but simply reprocessed by television news rooms from conservative web sites. The conservative Judicial Confirmation Network had gathered an “attack dossier” on each of the prospective Supreme Court nominees and had fed them all to the networks in advance, Bowden says. He decries the demise of the disinterested newspaper reporter: “What gave newspapers their value was the mission and promise of journalism -- the hope that someone was getting paid to wade into the daily tide of manure, sort through its deliberate lies and cunning half-truths, and tell a story straight.” <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200910/media>

THE WORLD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS. Fineberg, Gail. *Library of Congress Information Bulletin*, vol. 68, no. 5, May 2009, pp. 87-91

Summary: On April 21, 2009, Librarian of Congress James Billington launched the cultural-heritage website World Digital Library (WDL) to an international audience at UNESCO’s headquarters in Paris. Ahead of the launch, UNESCO members were invited to encourage their cultural institutions to participate in the development of the project since one of UNESCO’s mandates is to promote the free flow of all forms of knowledge in education, science, culture and communication. WDL contains cultural treasures that twenty-five institutions in eighteen countries contributed to this new global library, which features some 1200 digital items, including content about all 192 UNESCO member countries. WDL contains works by many noted poets, mathematicians, theologians, philosophers, astronomers, cartographers and historians in addition to rare books, maps, and manuscripts, along with works in more modern formats, such as films, sound recordings, prints and photographs. The WDL interface is in seven languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese Russian and Spanish. <http://www.wdl.org>

THE GREAT WIDE OPEN. Iyer, Pico. *Smithsonian*, Vol. 40, No. 8, Nov 2009, pp. 62-69

Summary: The state of Alaska celebrated its 50th year as a U.S. state in 2009, but this author writes that the great openness and wildness of the land create the feeling that America still has a frontier so unexplored that the visitor is awed. “Alaska plays havoc with your senses,” Iyer writes and “turns everyday logic on its head.” He discovered, for instance, that Alaska is more than twice the size of Texas, the largest state by far in the lower 48, but it has fewer miles of highway than Vermont, one of the nation’s smallest states in area. The state’s motto is “North to the Future,” but Iyer writes that the future never arrives in a place where wild animals and the hazards of the wilderness are never far away. Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/The-Great-Wide-Open.html>

GROWING SEASON. Lee, Mara. *Washington Post Magazine*, Oct 25, 2009, pp. 18-22

Summary: The move toward sustainable agriculture has some young adults deciding to spend a season, or a lifetime, in the fields as they turn to small farms to make a fresh start, or as a new career. They are often young, educated, politically motivated workers drawn to farms that embrace humane and eco-friendly practices. Such operations are getting a boost from Community Supported Agriculture, a system that lets customers pay in advance for a weekly share of a nearby farm's crops; the number of people participating in CSAs has grown 50% between 2007 and 2009. The number of farmers' markets in the United States has jumped by almost 13% over the last year and now even the White House has its own organic garden. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/16/AR2009101601714.html>

DIGITAL HISTORY REVIEW: GET OUT YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS! Stange, Eric. *American Heritage*, posted October 7, 2009

Summary: The Digital Diaspora Family Reunion is the creation of documentary filmmaker Thomas Allen Harris, who launched this initiative to encourage African-American households to share with the world via the Web their old family photos, now hidden away in attics and boxes. Harris seeks to digitize and archive thousands of photographs to make them part of the public record of black America. He notes that the work of both professional and amateur African-American photographers has rarely been studied, and a public digital archive will give a more complete picture of the life of black America. Harris has taken his campaign around the country in a "road show"-style format; in Atlanta, Georgia, dozens of people came forward with hundreds of photographs. What has surprised Harris is the amount of African-American family images dating from the earliest years of photography, starting with daguerreotypes in the 1850s and 1860s. Available online at <http://www.americanheritage.com/events/articles/web/20091007-Family-Photography-Through-Lens-Darkly-Library-of-Congress-Albums-Civil-War-World-War-African-American.shtml>

OPEN COURSES: FREE, BUT OH, SO COSTLY. Parry, Marc. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Vol. 56, No. 8, October 16, 2009, pp. A1, A16, A20

Summary: This lead in a series of articles on the Open Courseware Movement focuses on the perils and prospects for a phenomenon that some believe could end college as we know it, but others believe is about to fail for lack of a business model. MIT, the leader in open courseware, now offers almost 2,000 free courses and has more than 1.3 million monthly visits to its website and a \$3.7 million annual budget. But each course costs \$10,000–\$15,000 to put together. With the foundations that have until now bankrolled open courseware projects reducing or eliminating their funding, MIT now envisions fund-raising. Students love the courses but want credit; critics worry that you can't give away a college education for free without undermining the institutions that charge hundreds of thousands of dollars for a degree. Utah State recently dropped its open courseware project after money from the state legislature and a foundation dried up. The biggest question looming on the horizon: Will Congress fund the Obama Administration's \$500 million proposal to build open courses online? In "Around the World, Varied Approaches to Open Online Learning," Simmi Aujla and Ben Terris look at efforts ranging from those in China and India to boost open courseware through government support to those in the United Kingdom to make online learning more truly collaborative and interactive. These and related articles are currently available online at <http://chronicle.com/article/Free-Online-Courses-at-a-Very/48777/>

CHUCK BROWN'S LONG DANCE. Parker, Robin Rose. *Washington Post Magazine*, October 4, 2009, pp. 18-26

Summary: At 73, legendary Washington, D.C. musician Chuck Brown still has the energy of someone a third of his age; in the early 1970s, he created go-go music, and has stayed on the scene ever since. The author writes that Brown is one of a small number of musicians that single-handedly created a genre of music; blending Latin beats, African rhythms, jazz and the music of African-American churches, Brown slowed down the tempo of disco, which was popular in the 1970s. Brown called it go-go because it “goes and goes” -- with no breaks between songs. Most of his performances have been in the eastern U.S. -- but he makes an annual trip to Japan, where he has become very popular. Currently available online at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/25/AR2009092502858.html>

FULBRIGHT PROGRAM ADAPTS TO OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITIES. McMurtrie, Beth. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Vol. 56, No. 9, October 23, 2009, pp. A29-A32

Summary: The Obama Administration is putting its own stamp on the Fulbright Program, the U.S. Government's flagship international exchange. In the lead article, Beth McMurtrie describes the new priorities based on her interview with Alina L. Romanowski, the State Department's deputy assistant secretary for academic programs in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Among the new priorities: studies of such global issues as food security and climate change through the Fulbright Science and Technology award; the increased participation of U.S. community colleges; and the kind of cultural diplomacy represented by the Fulbright Fellowships. Three profiles of Fulbright programs follow. In the first, McMurtrie looks at the role U.S. community colleges may play in Russia if a high-level visit to Moscow by a group of community college administrators in Spring 2010 develops as planned. In the second profile, Shailaja Neelakantan looks at the Fulbright program in India, which has doubled this year. In the third profile, Karin Fischer describes how a university in California has taken advantage of an underutilized Fulbright program that covers scholars' travel costs when they conduct guest lectures. This and the related articles are currently available online at <http://chronicle.com/article/Fulbright-Program-Adapts-to/48828/>

OUR EVANESCENT CULTURE AND THE AWESOME DUTY OF LIBRARIANS. Heinberg, Richard. *Energy Bulletin*, October 7, 2009

Summary: How secure is our civilization's accumulated knowledge? Educator and author Heinberg notes that earlier civilizations over the millennia have disappeared, having given insufficient thought to how their societies' achievements would be preserved. Although the sheer volume of modern cultural materials is unprecedented, in many ways our modern heritage is uniquely vulnerable, and large swaths of it are at risk of being swept away at astonishing speed. The problem, notes Heinberg, is digitization -- not just that storage formats become obsolete, but that the entire cultural enterprise depends on electricity: “digitization represents a huge bet on society's ability to keep the lights on forever.” The real threats to modern information are systemic vulnerabilities, such as aging infrastructure and declining supplies of fossil fuels to power the electric grid. He says that the message is clear: don't let books die, and promote skills-based education to keep the practical and performing arts alive. Available online at <http://www.energybulletin.net/node/50315>

PARKER PALMER: KNOW YOURSELF, CHANGE YOUR WORLD. Van Gelder, Sarah. *Yes! Magazine*, Fall 2009

Summary: In this interview, educator and author Parker Palmer notes that most of us lack an understanding of our inner lives; reflection, which should be the fourth “R” of education, is not taught in schools. Parker says that “every line of work is deepened by bringing all of our

human capacities to bear on whatever we are doing, and that includes our inner sensibilities as well as our externally oriented knowledge and skill.” Schools are often not a place that promotes personal development, a chief reason why fifty percent of teachers are gone within five years, due to burnout. Parker notes that people who become aware of their inner life also become aware of the disparity between their integrity and the manner in which institutions around them operate. He cites Wall Street and the financial crisis as a prime example of an environment in which few insiders were brave enough to speak out about what was happening. While the courage of individual whistle-blowers is important, real institutional change happens when groups of like-minded people come together and lend each other support. Institutions can seem like an unassailable colossus, says Parker, but “we can call them back to some semblance of humanity by reinventing them, because we invented them in the first place.” <http://cms.yesmagazine.org/issues/learn-as-you-go/know-yourself-change-your-world/>

THE LONG WAY HOME, Theroux, Paul. *Smithsonian*, Vol. 40, No. 6, September 2009, pp. 70-77

Summary: Paul Theroux is one of the masters of travel writing, but he opens this article for *Smithsonian* admitting that he has never seen a great deal of his own country. He begins his cross-country road trip in Los Angeles, heading to his home in Cape Cod, Massachusetts with the plan that the journey is the destination. Along the way, he makes many of the iconic stops of the American road trip -- the Las Vegas strip, the Red Rocks of Arizona, the memorial to victims of the Oklahoma City terrorist attack, and the blues bars on Memphis’ Beale Street. He finds barren deserts, ferocious weather, and pastoral scenes which he likens to similar places he has seen in distant countries. But at the end of his more than 5,400 kilometer journey, Theroux observes that he experienced “not a moment of alienation or danger, no roadblocks, no sign of officialdom, never a second of feeling I was somewhere different.” Currently available online under the title “*Taking the Great American Roadtrip*” at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/The-Long-Way-Home-USA.html>

TEACHING COPS TO SEE. Hirschfeld, Neil. *Smithsonian*, vol. 40, no. 7, October 2009

Summary: When police officers investigate a crime scene or are on call, paying attention to detail and communicating accurately are critical. This article profiles Amy Herman, a New York art historian and lawyer who, after a harrowing experience on a police patrol while a law student, began teaching a course called “The Art of Perception” for police, designed to fine-tune their attention to visual details, using paintings from New York’s Metropolitan Museum. The focus is not on the artist, title of the work or technique, but on describing what they see in the picture. Herman has conducted the course for several federal-government agencies, as well as the Scotland Yard in London. The author notes that their newly-attuned skills of observation have paid off in at least one high-profile case. Available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/Teaching-Cops-to-See.html?c=y&page=1>

WHAT IF? Moyer, Steve. *Humanities*, vol. 30, no. 4, July/August 2009, pp. 32-36

Summary: The author believes that it is difficult to take in all the ways that reading is changing in response to new technology. Bob Stein, co-director and founder of the Institute for the Future of the Book, is exploring how the digital revolution is transforming the way we read. One of Stein's recent projects was a kind of online book club in which seven women engaged in a close reading of Doris Lessing's *THE GOLDEN NOTEBOOK*, then commented online in the margins of the electronic book, by means of an open-source software called CommentPress. Moyer explores the changes in the book in the past thirty years, noting that there have been more advances in the evolution of the book than there had been in the past five centuries. Currently available online at <http://neh.gov/news/humanities/2009-07/WhatIf.html>

KA'IULANI: HAWAII'S ISLAND ROSE. Hulstrand, Janet. *Smithsonian*, posted online May 8, 2009

Summary: This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of Hawaii's statehood. In this article, Hulstrand profiles Princess Ka'iulani, a little-known but pivotal figure in the history of Hawaii's annexation at the time of the Spanish-American War. Born into Hawaii's royal family, Ka'iulani, who was given the name "Island Rose" by visiting author and poet Robert Louis Stevenson, was sent to boarding school in England, but, by the time she returned, Hawaii was no longer an independent nation. In 1893, a group of American and British businessmen, backed by U.S. Marines, sought to overthrow the queen and annex Hawaii to the U.S.; Ka'iulani, only 17 at the time, sailed to New York to make a personal appeal to the American public to restore the Hawaiian government. The eloquence of her appeal attracted widespread publicity, and Ka'iulani was invited to visit President Grover Cleveland, who was quite critical of the takeover, and ordered the provisional government returned to the queen. However, President Cleveland was unable to prevent it; he served only one term, to be succeeded by President McKinley, who completed the annexation of Hawaii in 1898. After returning to Hawaii, Ka'iulani tragically died at age 23 -- but not before she succeeded in obtaining for her people the right to vote, in large part due to her ability to sway politicians and her gift to influence public opinion. <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/americas/Kaiulani-Hawaii-Island-Rose.html>

TR'S WILD SIDE. Brinkley, Douglas. *American Heritage*, posted August 31, 2009

Summary: In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt commemorated the 10th anniversary of his charge up San Juan Hill in the Spanish-American War by creating 45 new national forests in 11 states. He believed that "something in the American wilderness experience," including his experiences hunting in the West in the 1880s, "had given him an edge over the Spaniards" in Cuba, says Brinkley, a distinguished professor of history at Rice University. Similarly, Roosevelt's Rough Riders had spent much of their lives in the mountains and plains of the Southwest -- cowboys, military veterans, prospectors, hunters and lawmen. "There could be no better material for soldiers," he enthused. When Roosevelt assumed the presidency in 1901, he brought his love of nature, his doctrine of "the strenuous life," and his belief that "the American fighting spirit would only continue as long as outdoorsmen didn't get lazy and rest on their laurels." As a champion of conservation, Roosevelt added over 234 million acres to the public domain between 1901 and 1909. He used his executive power to save the Grand Canyon, Crater Lake, Devils Tower, Mesa Verde and the Dry Tortugas, and he initiated many innovative protocols for range management, wildfire control, land planning, recreation, hydrology and soil science throughout the American West.

<http://www.americanheritage.com/articles/web/20090831-President-Theodore-Roosevelt-Cuba-Spanish-American-War-Splendid-Little-Conservationism-Douglas-Brinkley-California-Florida.shtml>

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INTERNATIONALLY ADOPTED CHILDREN ARE THRIVING, STUDY SHOWS. By Jeffrey Thomas, DOS Staff Writer. 17 December 2009



Angie Hayward of Mattawan, Michigan, holds Tatum, 4, a special-needs child she adopted.

Washington — Even as the latest figures show a continuing multi-year decline in the number of U.S. children adopted from other countries, a U.S. government survey released in November finds that most of these international adoptees are in good health and fare well on measures of social and emotional well-being. They get a lot of attention from their parents and generally do well in school.

The survey, Adoption USA, was conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services between April 2007 and June 2008 and is nationally representative. Information was drawn from more than 90,000 children who represent the nation's 73.8 million children, including the 1.8 million who are adopted.

<http://www.america.gov/st/peopleplace-english/2009/December/200912171352251CjsamohT0.1063196.html?CP.rss=true>

FIVE PERFORMING ARTS LEGENDS RECEIVE KENNEDY CENTER TRIBUTE; HONOREES REPRESENT DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS, ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES. By Michael J. Bandler, DOS Staff Writer. 17 December 2009



Grace Bumbry and Dave Brubeck (seated) and Robert DeNiro, Bruce Springsteen and Mel Brooks (standing) were feted at the Kennedy Center

Washington — Each year, for more than three decades, Washington's John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has saluted a new group of celebrated performers: men and women whose talent, craftsmanship and artistic vision offer a unique distillation of American values.

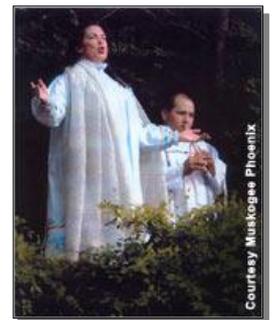
The 2009 honorees who were feted recently were film and theater writer/director Mel Brooks, jazz master Dave Brubeck, operatic soprano Grace Bumbry, film actor and community activist Robert De Niro and songwriter/performer/rock icon Bruce Springsteen.

<http://www.america.gov/st/peopleplace-english/2009/December/20091217130704JMreldnaB0.2261927.html?CP.rss=true>

INTERNATIONAL OPERA SINGER FUSES CLASSICAL AND CHEROKEE ELEMENTS. By Michael Gallant, Special Correspondent. 02 December 2009

Mezzo-soprano Barbara McAlister, left, who is part Cherokee, enjoys performing both operatic arias and traditional Cherokee music.

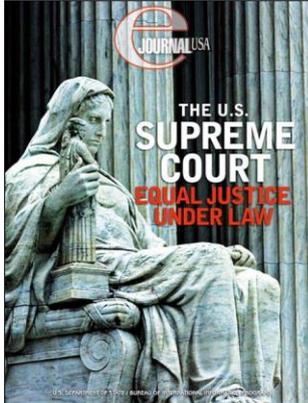
San Francisco — Calling on her years of experience performing opera around the world, dramatic mezzo-soprano Barbara McAlister sang a beautifully lilting melody in the traditional language of the Cherokees, an American Indian tribe from the southeastern United States. Serene and



floating, the tune conjured up images of lush prairie and star-filled black skies. But what do the lyrics say? “It’s a children’s song,” McAlister explained, laughing. “The words mean, ‘My grandmother has dirty ears.’”

From operatic repertoire to playful, traditional American Indian songs, McAlister has used her global singing career to learn more about her Cherokee roots — and to share that knowledge with others through performance and teaching.

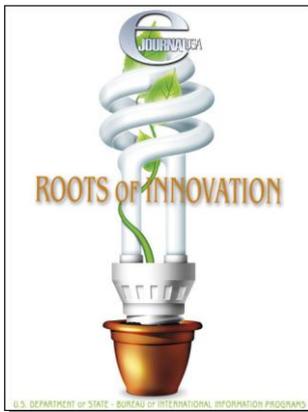
<http://www.america.gov/st/peopleplace-english/2009/December/20091202160734GLnesnoM0.7049524.html?CP.rss=true>



THE U.S. SUPREME COURT: EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW. eJournalUSA, October 2009

The U.S. Supreme Court is respected both in the United States and abroad. The October 2009 edition of eJournal USA describes many aspects of the U.S. Supreme Court. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Solicitor General Elena Kagan present their introductions and contributions by legal scholars and journalists focus on the elements of judicial decision making and independence of the justices. Four Court officials and a former Supreme Court law clerk also describe their jobs.

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/1009.html>



ROOTS OF INNOVATION. eJournal USA, November 2009

Economic expansion depends more and more on innovation — not simply producing more goods and services, but producing ever newer goods and services. This issue of eJournal USA seeks to show that innovation needs the right conditions to emerge.

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/1109.html>

Articles on the visual and performing arts, literature,
society and culture are available at
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U.S. Society and Values

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