



American Resource Center Newsletter U.S. Embassy Helsinki September 2015, Issue 8

Startups and Global Solutions

Evan Burfield, an American entrepreneur and co-founder of the startup incubator “1776,” visited Helsinki September 1-4, 2015 as a guest speaker of the U.S. Embassy. Mr. Burfield’s visit honored the on-going 375th anniversary of the University of Helsinki, and the 20th anniversary of the cooperative partnership between the American Resource Center and the University Main Library.

During his visit, Evan Burfield met several audiences from students to scientists, and he discussed the many ways that entrepreneurship and startups can solve global problems. In particular, he talked about “1776,” which is a global incubator and seed fund that helps startups transform industries that impact millions of lives every day—education, energy & sustainability, health, transportation and cities.

Mr. Burfield was one of the international speakers of Thinkfest, an urban science festival organized by the University of Helsinki, giving presentations at the events of “VOX Helsinki” and “Think Helsinki, Think” as well as Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences.

More information:

1776: <http://www.1776.vc/>

VOX Helsinki: <http://www.helsinki.fi/vox/>

Think Helsinki, Think: <https://thinkhelsinkithink.com/>

Metropolia: <http://www.metropolia.fi/en/>



Amerikkalaisena Suomessa

Tule keskustelemaan ja kuuntelemaan millaista ulkomaalaisen on asua Suomessa. Paikalla American Women’s Club Finlandin puheenjohtaja Tracy Dolan, toimittaja Gregory Pellechi ja urheiluvalmentaja Steve Stokes sekä eduskunnan Yhdysvallat-ystävyyssryhmän puheenjohtaja, kansanedustaja Sanna Lauslahti. Tilaisuus on englanninkielinen ja järjestetään yhteistyössä Suomi-Amerikka Yhdistysten Liiton kanssa.

Kaisa-kirjaston auditorio (Fabianinkatu 30, 7. krs)
keskiviikkona 7.10. klo 17:00-18:00

Welcome!

WebPicks

collected by the ARC staff

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

American Life

The Coddling of the American Mind by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt. The Atlantic, September 2015.

In the name of emotional well-being, college students are increasingly demanding protection from words and ideas they don't like. Here's why that's disastrous for education—and mental health.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/09/the-coddling-of-the-american-mind/399356/>

In Conversation: Quentin Tarantino by Lane Brown. New York Magazine, August 24-September 6, 2015.

Midway through postproduction on his eighth movie, the director discusses the country's legacy of white supremacy, Obama, and why he doesn't worry about a 'Transformers' future.

<http://www.vulture.com/2015/08/quentin-tarantino-lane-brown-in-conversation.html>

Jonathan Franzen's Great Expectation by Christian Lorentzen. New York Magazine, August 24-September 6, 2015.

How America's foremost novelist became its leading public moralist.

<http://www.vulture.com/2015/08/jonathan-franzen-purity-public-moralist.html>

Letter to My Son by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The Atlantic, September 2015.

"Here is what I would like for you to know: in America, it is traditional to destroy the black body—it is heritage." Ta-Nehisi Coates is an Atlantic national correspondent. This essay is adapted from his book *Between the World and Me*, which has just been published.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/07/tanehisi-coates-between-the-world-and-me/397619/>

The Man for Mars by Sue Halpern. The New York Review of Books, August 13, 2015.

Book Review: *Elon Musk: Tesla, SpaceX, and the Quest for a Fantastic Future* by Ashlee Vance.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2015/aug/13/elon-musk-man-mars/>

That 'Useless' Liberal Arts Degree Has Become Tech's Hottest Ticket by George Anders. Forbes, August 17, 2015.

Revenge of the Philosophy Majors.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/georgeanders/2015/07/29/liberal-arts-degree-tech/>

The Virtues of Difficult Fiction by Joanna Scott. The Nation, July 30, 2015

If novels aren't worthy challenges, we have no reason to linger in their pages.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/the-democracy-of-difficult-fiction/>

Economy & Politics

Bill Clinton on How Entrepreneurs Can Transform the Country by James Ledbetter. Inc., September 2015.

The 42nd president exclusively shares with Inc. his vision for 21st century business leaders.

<http://www.inc.com/magazine/201509/james-ledbetter/inc-interview-bill-clinton.html>

Donald Trump and the American Id by Kevin D. Williamson. National Review, August 6, 2015.

The art of the grotesque.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/422116/donald-trump-and-american-id-kevin-d-williamson>

A Dream Undone by Jim Rutenberg. New York Times Magazine, July 29, 2015.

Inside the 50-year campaign to roll back the Voting Rights Act.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/29/magazine/voting-rights-act-dream-undone.html?_r=0

Google's \$6 Billion Miscalculation on the EU by Brad Stone. Bloomberg Businessweek, August 6, 2015.

Why the search leader's antitrust deal fell apart.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2015-08-06/google-s-6-billion-miscalculation-on-the-eu>

Immigrants to the Rescue by Charles Kenny. Bloomberg Businessweek, July 30, 2015.

Donald Trump is wrong: Immigration isn't a problem—it's the solution to a shrinking, aging U.S. population

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-07-30/donald-trump-is-wrong-immigration-is-a-solution-not-a-problem>

Global Challenges

The U.S. is the Chair of the Arctic Council from May 2015 through May 2017. We will be highlighting Arctic issues in the WebPicks through the chairmanship.

Arctic Issue: **At GLACIER, Nations Urge Caution in Opening the Arctic to Fishing** by Monica Gokey. Alaska Public Media, September 8, 2015.

As the Arctic opens, several countries are eyeing what may be a virgin commercial fishery in the central Arctic Ocean. How to regulate those new potential fishing grounds was on the table for discussion at the State Department's GLACIER conference in Anchorage last week. Several nations urged caution and the need for more science before opening the fishery.

<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2015/09/08/at-glacier-nations-urge-caution-in-opening-the-arctic-to-fishing/>

The Global Fight Over Our Drinking Water Is Just Getting Started by Michelle Chen. The Nation, September 1, 2015.

Water is an essential natural element, but around the world, it's also an artificially endangered resource.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/the-global-fight-over-our-drinking-water-is-just-getting-started/>

How Climate Change is Messing with Bees by Marissa Fessenden. Smithsonian, September 8, 2015.

New and ongoing research points to issues with bee ranges and the early emergence of flowers.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/how-climate-change-messing-bees-ability-pollinate-180956523/>

Arctic Issue: **Inside Shell's Extreme Plan to Drill for Oil in the Arctic** by Paul Barrett Benjamin Elgin. Bloomberg Business, August 5, 2015.

A global oil glut has tanked prices and cut profits—so why won't Shell give up on the north?

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2015-08-05/inside-shell-s-extreme-plan-to-drill-for-oil-in-the-arctic>

Study Finds Snowpack in California's Sierra Nevada to Be Lowest in 500 Years by Nicholas St. Fleur. The New York Times, September 14, 2015.

The snow that blanketed the Sierra Nevada in California last winter, and that was supposed to serve as an essential source of fresh water for the drought-stricken state, was at its lowest levels in the last 500 years, according to a new study.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/15/science/california-snow-report.html>

These Clean Energy Investments Could Save the World's Cities Trillions of Dollars by Chelsea Harvey. Washington Post, September 8, 2015.

Cities are central to solving the climate problem. Here's how.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/09/08/these-clean-energy-investments-could-save-the-worlds-cities-trillions-of-dollars/?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-clean-energy%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-clean-energy%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&wpmm=1&wpisrc=nl_green

International Relations

America's Last 'Pivot' to Asia: The Vietnam War and the China Factor by Lyle J. Goldstein. The National Interest, September 21, 2015.

A crisis in U.S.-China relations from half a century ago offers perspective on recent superpower tensions in Southeast Asia ahead of the upcoming Obama-Xi Summit.

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/americas-last-pivot-asia-the-vietnam-war-the-china-factor-13884>

How Xenophobia Could Ruin the Best Thing about the EU by Daniel Trilling. The Nation, September 14, 2015.

If the European Union can't agree on a common resettlement policy for refugees, one of its signal achievements—open borders among member nations—could disappear.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/how-xenophobia-could-ruin-the-best-thing-about-the-eu/>

Japan Curtails Its Pacifist Stance by Matt Ford. The Atlantic, September 19, 2015.

In a major shift in East Asian geopolitics, the Japanese military will play a broader role in regional defense under a controversial new law.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/09/japan-pacifism-article-nine/406318/>

Russian Involvement and a Redirection of Policy on Syria by Paul R. Pillar. The National Interest, September 20, 2015.

The recently increased Russian involvement in Syria ought to be viewed as an opportunity, more so than as a threat or as something that needs to be countered. Although Moscow's current involvement is only an extension of its longtime relationship with the Syrian regime, it represents just enough of a change to serve as the closest thing we are likely to have to a peg on which to hang some needed rethinking about the Syrian conflict.

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/paul-pillar/russian-involvement-redirection-policy-syria-13891>

The Surge Fallacy by Peter Beinart. The Atlantic, September issue.

Having misunderstood the Iraq War, U.S. Republicans are taking a dangerously hawkish turn on foreign policy.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/09/the-surge-fallacy/399344/>

ADA 25th Anniversary

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the ARC organized an event on September 22. Jeanie Duwan from the U.S. Embassy, Executive Director Kalle Könkkölä from Kynnys, and Professor of Disability Studies Simo Vehmas from the University of Helsinki gave remarks followed by a screening of stand-up comedy performances. The show by awarded comedians Josh Blue and Shannon DeVido was breaking the conventional image of disability through comedy.



Originally, the ADA became a law in July 26, 1990 when President George H.W. Bush signed it in front of more than 3,000 people. Disability rights is a social justice and a human rights issue. The ADA extends civil right protections to persons with disabilities by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, state and local government programs, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation, and telecommunications. Inclusion of persons with disabilities advances democracy and human rights and strengthens civil society. It is at the nexus between disability rights advocacy and broader human rights advocacy.



For more information please visit <http://www.ada.gov/>.



Did You Know?

Columbus Day is a U.S. holiday that commemorates the landing of Christopher Columbus in the New World on October 12, 1492. It was unofficially celebrated in a number of cities and states as early as the 18th century but did not become a federal holiday until the 1937. For many, the holiday is a way of both honoring Columbus' achievements and celebrating Italian-American heritage.

Columbus Day is celebrated on October 12. The U.S. Embassy Finland is closed but the ARC remains open. Welcome!

(Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/exploration/columbus-day>)



ARC at Kaisa House
P.O.Box 53 (Fabianinkatu 30)
00014 University of Helsinki
Finland

Telephone: +358-50-448 5704



arc@usembassy.fi



finland.usembassy.gov/arc.html



facebook.com/AmericanResourceCenter



twitter.com/ARCHelsinki