



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MAY 2005

State

MAGAZINE

Kampala

POST OF THE MONTH

A glacier and alpine lake on Mount Kenya, Africa's second highest peak, photographed by Jewel McKee during her Aug. 2004 trek. The program analyst and inveterate trekker will be featured in June's People Like You.



IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: The Sky's the Limit for A Bureau Trekker

State

MAGAZINE

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A young Thai boy lights candles during a vigil for tsunami victims on Thailand's Patong beach.

16

CHRISTMAS IN PHUKET

NUMBER 490

- 6 POST OF THE MONTH: KAMPALA**
A new Uganda moves beyond its troubled past.
- 12 OFFICE OF THE MONTH: USOAS**
The mission advances multilateral policies with the hemisphere's 34 democracies.
- 14 DEPARTMENT REFUGEE PROGRAM SPARKS ERIE REVIVAL**
Immigrants add vitality to a Pennsylvania town.
- 16 CHRISTMAS IN PHUKET TURNS TO NIGHTMARE**
A vacationing consular officer stays to help tsunami victims.
- 18 WINNING THE FIGHT AGAINST OPIUM IN LAOS**
Modest programs have a major impact on wiping out rural opium production.
- 20 EMBASSY OUTREACH TARGETS ESTONIAN GRASS ROOTS**
Teams carry American culture beyond the capital.
- 22 DIPLOMATS IN RESIDENCE RECRUIT AT NYC JOB FAIR**
Perseverance and patience pave the way to diplomatic careers.
- 26 VOLUNTEERS OBSERVE HONDURAN ELECTIONS**
Observers put in a long day promoting democracy.

2 Direct from the D.G.

3 Letters to the Editor

4 In the News

24 Safety Scene

27 Personnel Actions

27 Obituaries

ON THE COVER

A highly endangered shoebill at the Ugandan Wildlife Education Center outside Kampala. The bird stands 1.5 meters tall and can be found only in marshy swamp areas along Lake Victoria and the plains of Rwanda. *Photo by Corbis.*

DIRECT FROM THE D.G.

AMBASSADOR W. ROBERT PEARSON



Contractors Contribute to the Department's Mission

Contractors are an integral part of the State Department family. They serve with us on the front lines in virtually every bureau and job and they're dedicated to the Department's mission of

creating a more secure, democratic and prosperous world for all Americans and the international community.

Domestically, about 7,500 contract employees protect our facilities, store and transport household goods and freight, operate the diplomatic pouch and mail as well as plan and prepare for domestic emergencies. They also create global communications solutions, assist with information technology, perform passport and visa operations, interpret and translate, perform clerical services and ensure that our buildings are clean and safe.

Overseas, there are approximately 20,000 contract employees. The Bureau of Diplomatic Security hires contractors to augment protective details in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Haiti and elsewhere as well as special details to protect President Hamid Karzai. They also serve as local guards for many of our missions abroad.

The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs hires contractors to support our counter-narcotics air wings in Colombia and Pakistan and to serve as police trainers and advisors in such places as Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Haiti and Liberia.

These men and women face considerable danger and, sadly, some have lost their lives in the line of duty. On March 12 two employees of Blackwater Security Consulting assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Iraq were killed in a roadside attack in Baghdad. These contractors, James Cantrell and Bruce Durr, played a vital role in our mission to bring democracy and opportunity to Iraq and were the latest example of contractors who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We grieve the tragic loss of these

dedicated colleagues and honor their memory, together with all those who have died in service to our country.

Contractors are critical to the Department's information technology. Currently, more than 1,200 IT contractors work in the Information Resource Management Bureau and in other bureaus throughout the Department. They provide the worldwide technical expertise that supports the Department's diplomatic and management initiatives. Installing computers, telecommunications and telephone systems; developing applications to improve productivity; and maintaining the e-mail systems we rely on every day to stay connected around the clock with our missions around the world are among their services. Our dedicated IT contractors are essential to conduct diplomacy in the information age.

The Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs hires contractors to clear land mines and ordnance in former war zones around the world for the Department's humanitarian mine action program. Recently, a group of those contractors was awarded the international Joint Military Commission's service medal for their efforts in southern Sudan. Other contractors for this office helped to establish the first national mine action program in Iraq's history.

The Office of Press Relations' transcription unit is staffed entirely by contractors who exhibit great teamwork and innovation. When the Secretary travels abroad, the contractors often work from home during the overnight hours to receive digital audio files via the Internet. By preparing accurate and timely transcripts seen by millions of people, these committed colleagues enable us to communicate American foreign policy to the world.

In short, contractors at the State Department help us respond to the needs of America. On behalf of the Secretary and the Department, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their vital service and support. ■

Reunion of American 'Berliners'

The Berlin Wall fell on Nov. 9, 1989. In recent years on the Saturday evening closest to that date, the German Embassy hosts a reunion of American officials, civilian and military, who served in Berlin in the tumultuous era between capitulation of the Third Reich and restoration of German national unity. Authentic German food and drink are provided in a congenial setting that fosters remembrance and rekindling of old friendships. Last November, 150 American "Berliners" attended. The guests of honor were senior Berlin police officials on duty when the Wall came down.

All Foreign Service personnel who served in Berlin or in Germany are welcome at these annual reunions. For details, contact Steve or Debbie FitzGerald at berlin.fallofthewall@verizon.net.

James A. Williams
Retired FSO

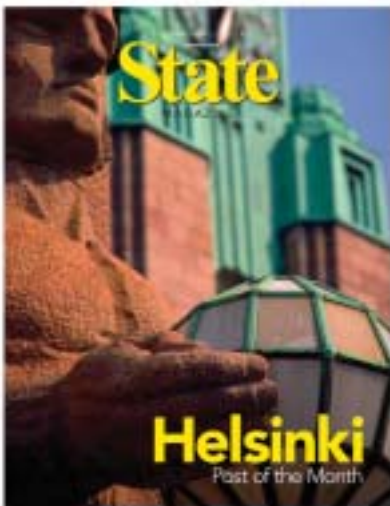
Learning More and More about Finland

In your article on Helsinki in the March 2005 edition, you misspelled the name of the "renowned architect and artist" Alvar Aalto. The article is great, nonetheless. And here's another factoid about Finland: It is the only nation to ever fully repay its World War I debt to the United States, which included making regular payments even during World War II when it was cooperating with Germany against the Soviet Union.

Cherie Lombardi
Bureau of Consular Affairs

Question Wasn't Frivolous

This is a response to your using the word "frivolous" in the March issue to describe my question to the Secretary (about whether she would play the



piano some day for Department employees) at her first Town Hall meeting. In the business of diplomacy, knowing what a person's interests are can mean the difference between having an enemy or a friend. I was attempting to have the Secretary share with us her human side, which, I'm sure, we all wonder about.

Her biographer committed at least 20 pages of a 255-page biography to her talents as a musician. I would hardly call a topic that consumes nearly 10 percent of a book frivolous.

The Town Hall meeting is designed to give people who normally would not have access to the Secretary the chance to ask any question or make any reasonable request. It was the perfect place for a question like mine.

Torrey L. Burton
*Transportation Division
TTM Audits Section*

You certainly asked a meaningful question and we regret a better word wasn't used to describe it. —The Editor

Correction

Soldiers of the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division, not Marines, are shown on page 27 of the March issue.

FROM THE EDITOR

Erie, Pennsylvania, is enjoying an economic renaissance: mills and factories are producing, neighborhoods are returning to life, the population is once again growing and the mayor is thanking the city's refugees as well as the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration for all the vitality.

Consular Officer Mike Chadwick and his wife were enjoying a leisurely Christmas vacation at Patong Beach in Phuket. He was reading a book on his hotel balcony overlooking the sea when a roar that sounded like a jet engine broke his concentration. But there was no airplane in the sky.

Opium is a major export in Laos. In fact, the communist nation is the world's third largest producer of the drug and now the Bureau of International Narcotics and

Law Enforcement and other agencies are working with officials there to root out its cultivation and addiction. With a modest \$2 million budget, the program is getting results.

Welcome to the Age of Radiation. This invisible force, the product of modern living, surrounds us, even penetrates us. It comes in all frequencies—low, moderate, high and lethal—depending on the type of radiation. Studies show human beings are tolerating these unseen waves without much risk—so far.

Paul Kovach

TAKE A HIKE

Tour a Continent Without Leaving Main State

“Walking the halls” has a new meaning in the Harry S Truman Building. While the phrase may still be used to describe those waiting for an assignment, it now refers to anyone who slips on sneakers at lunch hour and takes one of the new walking tours keyed to the murals at corridor intersections.

The tours, planned by the HR Bureau’s Sandra Yeaman, provide aerobic workouts of various lengths, depending on which continent you’re touring. For example, the Africa tour is 767 paces and 180 stairs and passes murals of Egypt, Tanzania, Morocco and Botswana. An optional Kenya loop adds about 30 percent to the distance, but you’ll need a pre-Smart ID badge. The shortest tour, South America, is 460 paces and 108 stairs and the longest, Asia, is 2,052 paces and 474 stairs. The average tour takes about 15 minutes. Combining tours, such as North and South America into a Western Hemisphere tour, can provide an even better workout.

Not only is it good exercise, it’s fun to figure out how the murals are organized by theme, location and color. Don’t assume a mural is going to be anywhere near an office that deals with that country.

Ms. Yeaman got the idea from her sister’s company in Minnesota, which has a health promotion program that encourages walking tours in national and state parks. She went to A Bureau for information on the murals. After deciding to base the tours

on continents and drawing up some maps, she got the medical office to post them on its web site and in its clinics: Room B846 in HST, Room L206 in SA-1, Room M18 in SA-44 and Room E111 at NFATC. The clinics are staffed by registered nurses who can provide guidance on starting a new exercise program.

Many Department employees, whether they’ve signed up for the President’s HealthierFeds challenge or not, like to get outside and walk during their lunch hours as the weather warms up, but now there’s no need to skip the exercise even when spring showers keep you inside.

See http://med.state.gov/common/health_overseas/walk_programs/inside_main.cfm for walking tour maps.



One employee out for exercise barely breaks stride as he passes a mural.

Ambassador Narrates Aaron Copland Work in Jerusalem

In a memorable performance Jan. 27 by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra conducted by U.S. maestro Leon Botstein, U.S. Ambassador Daniel C. Kurtzer narrated Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*. Performing with skill and panache, he and the orchestra brought many of the 800 audience members to their feet at the conclusion of the work.

Copland's piece includes words from the Gettysburg Address as well as quotes from Carl Sandburg's monumental poem on Lincoln, highlighting the American values of democracy and self-determination.

The performance of *Lincoln Portrait* was an integral part of "Victory 1945," the orchestra's commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. The concert was aired live on Israeli radio. The embassy provided the Hebrew translation of the text of *Lincoln Portrait*, allowing non-English speakers in the audience to enjoy it fully.

Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer narrates Lincoln Portrait. Behind him is the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.



BUNCHE LIBRARY: COMING NOW TO YOUR DESKTOP

The Bunche Electronic Library (which can be accessed at <http://BuncheElectronicLibrary.state.gov>) is redefining the word "library" in the Department and bringing a wide variety of online resources—databases, e-books, e-journals, and web links—to the desktops of employees worldwide.

"The library has done wonders in providing folks such a wealth of useful electronic tools to help them do their jobs better," said William A. Eaton, assistant secretary of the Bureau of Administration.

Employees agree. A few sample comments, by post or office:

Embassy Baghdad: "The cable on all the resources available through the library in the OpenNet came at exactly the right time, as I'm trying to assist various Iraqi institutions make contact with associations in the U.S. This was fabulous, thank you!"

Bureau of Intelligence and Research: "I just returned from a presentation on the new databases the library has available.

I am completely blown away! Thanks for all of the fantastic acquisitions."

Coordinator of International Information Programs: "I just wanted to relay how much excitement the 'new'

Bunche Library is creating among our information resource centers. The service your staff provides is wonderful."

The library's e-books list has management titles, foreign affairs titles and reference works such as the *Encyclopedia of American Foreign Policy and World Population: A Reference Handbook*. The e-journal list provides online access to *Foreign Policy*, *Far Eastern Affairs*, *Africa Confidential*, *Economic Development Quarterly* and *Quarterly Population Bulletin*, among others. Many more e-journals are available from library databases.

NewspaperDirect sends more than 200 newspapers from 50 countries in more than 30 languages to employee desktops before the papers appear on newsstands in their home countries. Titles include *Al Jazirah* (Saudi Arabia), *China Daily* (China), *Isvestiia* (Russia) and *La Nacion* (Argentina).

The library web site links to the *CIA World Factbook*, the UN Treaty collection, the International Court of Justice and many other sites.

Several online products, such as Dialog, Dun and Bradstreet, Factiva, LexisNexis and United Nations Documents, are accessible only by library staff, who can be contacted by going to the web site and clicking on "Ask a Librarian," telephoning (202) 647-1099, sending an e-mail to library@state.gov or visiting the library in Room 3239 of Main State.

Additional resources will be added to ensure that employees have desktop access to the most current and authoritative information available.



A classroom full of eager elementary school students symbolizes Uganda's hopeful future.



POST OF THE MONTH



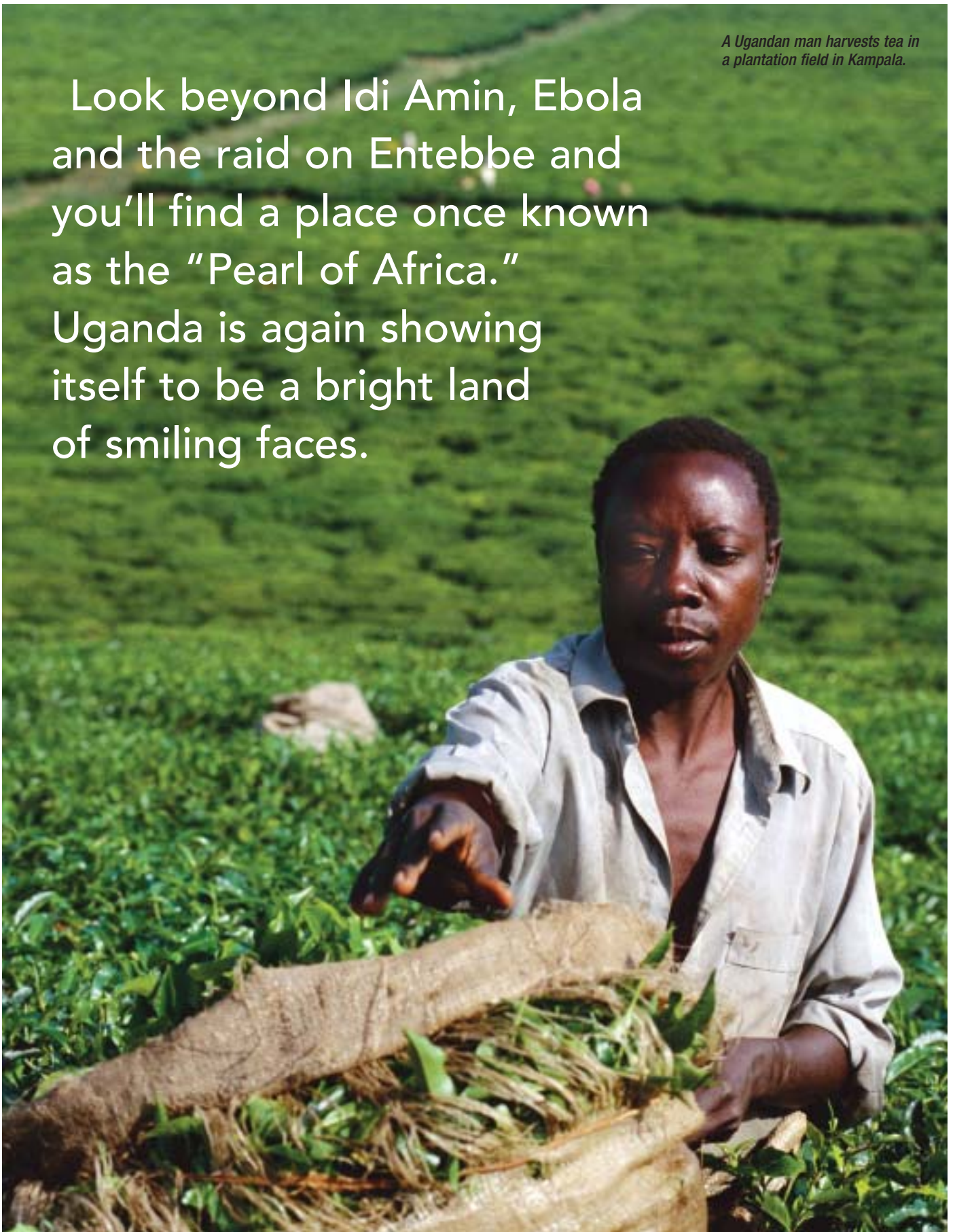
Kampala

RISING ABOVE A TROUBLED PAST

By Michael C. Gonzales

A Ugandan man harvests tea in a plantation field in Kampala.

Look beyond Idi Amin, Ebola and the raid on Entebbe and you'll find a place once known as the "Pearl of Africa." Uganda is again showing itself to be a bright land of smiling faces.



PHOTOGRAPHS: (LEFT); CORBIS; (OPPOSITE PAGE); GREG SMITH

As the sun rises over the seven hills of Kampala, motor-pool vehicles disperse throughout the lush city to ferry U.S. Embassy employees on another day of diplomacy in central Africa. While Newman Senkubuge collects people in the morning shuttle, John Lule picks up political chief Nate Holt for the long journey to Gulu in northern Uganda. The 18-year rebel campaign by the Lord's Resistance Army has begun to show the first hint of a possible resolution. After a government-rebel meeting, the first in more than a decade, Nate and Randy Harris of the U.S. Agency for International Development are eager to get the impressions of mediator Betty Bigombe and Acholi traditional leaders on the prospects for peace. John picks up conflict and reintegration advisor Carol Jenkins, who is slated for meetings on resettling 1.3 million displaced persons once peace breaks out.

Meanwhile, across town, David Kalungi drives the Centers for Disease Control's Harold Rasmussen, USAID's Amy Cunningham and Sereen Thaddeus and self-help coordinator Liz Nightingale—members of the mission's President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief team—east in preparation for Global AIDS Coordinator Ambassador Randall Tobias's visit to observe U.S.-sponsored activities in the Tororo District. As stewards of more than \$100 million for AIDS prevention, care and treatment, the team can show him a number of projects. They've decided to highlight CDC's pioneering home-based AIDS care project, which uses Foreign Service National employees on motorbikes to deliver anti-retroviral medications to patients in their rural homes.

Passing Jinja, the source of the Nile, Liz calls her husband, economic officer Andrew Herrup. He and Matt Becht, assistant regional security officer, are describing the latest commercial fraud case to the inspector general of police. A small electronics supplier in Milwaukee approached Andrew for advice on a suspicious order for stereos from Kampala. Matt explains how a stolen check was used as payment. By mentioning the scam in the country commercial guide and responding quickly to companies' inquiries, Andrew's office has saved American firms more than \$200,000 in potential

Nurse practitioner Glenda Siegrist and USAID's Loren Hostetter reach Margherita Peak after traversing the legendary glaciers at the equator.



AT A GLANCE



Country name: Uganda

Capital: Kampala

Independence: October 9, 1962 (from the United Kingdom)

Government: Republic

Population: 26.4 million

Population growth rate: 2.97 percent

Religions: Roman Catholic, Protestant, Muslim and indigenous beliefs

Total area: 236,040 square kilometers

Approximate size: Slightly smaller than Oregon

Currency: Ugandan shilling (UGX)

Per capita income: \$1,400

Chief exports: Coffee, fish and fish products, tea, gold and cotton

Export partners: Kenya (14.7 percent), Switzerland (13.7 percent), and the Netherlands (9.2 percent)

SOURCE: CIA World Factbook 2004



Top: Jack Lipinski, the embassy's management officer, stands in for a VIP while rehearsing a school visit. Right: The consular section on the job. From left, Harriet Kitumba, Kathleen Wagner, Gina Lapp and Agnes Nonnozi. Below: A silver-back mountain gorilla descends a tree in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park.



REAL ISSUES
 PHOTOGRAPHS: (LEFT) MIKE GONZALES; (OPPOSITE PAGE TOP) MIKE GONZALES; (BOTTOM) ADRIFT, INC.



Left: Sophie Bangi, left, and Connie Mutazindwa plan an Information Resource Center program while Gerry Seruyange shelves books. Below: White-water rafting near the headwaters of the Nile.



losses. By connecting the companies with bona fide Ugandan distributors, he can help increase U.S. exports.

Back at the embassy, consular associate Gina Lapp calls the Rwatambuga family to the interview booth. Forced by insecurity to flee the Democratic Republic of the Congo, they have virtually nothing in Uganda. The details they provide support their claim as refugees. It's a joyous moment for Gina to inform them that they will be going to the United States. Tears of hope fill the family's eyes.

Jody Stallings, USAID's senior environmental advisor, is also thinking about the Congo as he peers into the country from a mountainside in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. His adrenaline is still pumping after a run-in with a rogue forest elephant. The rampant human encroachment on animal habitats has resulted in the region being declared a biodiversity hot spot. Coming from a meeting on Ugandan-Congolese patrols to reduce cross-border trade in endangered species and poaching, Jody is in Bwindi for a briefing on USAID support to the African Wildlife Foundation for promoting enterprises that reduce human threats to the region's famed mountain gorillas.

As Jody watches the sunset over the Virunga volcanoes, Public Affairs Officer Mark Schlachter looks out over a crowd of 150 of Uganda's senior Muslim clerics and President Museveni as he takes the microphone at an embassy-sponsored conference of imams. Two years of public diplomacy outreach have dissolved the reluctance of the imams to interact publicly with the mission. Mark explains how American and Muslim cultures share many core values that contribute, in turn, to shared interests.

At Entebbe airport, Ambassador Jimmy Kolker greets Ambassador Tobias and briefs him. The United States is a good "brand name" here, he says. Uganda plays a role in nearly every U.S. interest in Africa: AIDS, political transition, trade, the Sudan, Congo and the conflict in northern Uganda. The United States can have a positive influence on the outcomes. Ahmed Baligeya drives the ambassadors north to Kampala as another day of American diplomacy draws to a close in central Africa. ■

The author is deputy public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Kampala.



Above: Hugh Neighbour, special adviser for political affairs, left, confers with Earl Irving, a political consular. Below: Talking strategy is Fannie Wilson, left, project assistant; Fernando Rojas, senior adviser; and consular Margarita Riva-Geoghegan, seated.

THE U.S. MISSION TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

MISSION ADVANCES ALLIANCES, INSPIRES ACHIEVEMENT **BY PAUL KOSCAK**

Improving life in the Americas is perhaps a simple way to explain what the U.S. Mission to the Organization of American States is all about, but considering it's involved in everything from improving drinking water to stamping out corruption the conclusion becomes obvious.

Led by Ambassador John F. Maisto and 22 employees, the mission works in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs to promote democracy, combat terrorism and illegal drugs, foster free trade and support economic development. There's also a major effort to strengthen democracy in a hemisphere once overshadowed by military dictatorships, civil wars and coups d' états.

"There's no other region of the world that has such an explicit commitment to democracy," said the ambassador.

Thirty-four democratic nations make up the Organization of American States, which evolved in 1948 from previous inter-American alliances. Annual General Assemblies and weekly committee meetings provide a forum for members and national leaders to meet, discuss policies, adapt declarations and plan future programs. At last year's Special Summit

of the Americas in Nuevo Leon, Mexico, President Bush called for "specific and measurable goals" and to "show the world that free societies and free markets can deliver real benefits for all our citizens."



Toward that objective, the U.S. mission, which supports 60 percent of the OAS budget, is championing several social and financial programs, among them, working to root out corruption, “the single greatest obstacle to economic and social development,” according to The World Bank. The mission also supports public financial management of government transactions and works with member nations to “deny safe haven to corrupt officials and their assets.”

It’s assisting farmers to increase yields with better crops and investing in projects to improve the quality and availability of drinking water. An upcoming meeting on sustainable development, for example, “will have a direct impact on the lives of people in the region by tackling the challenges of providing potable water to a growing population and mitigating natural disaster damage,” said Dan Martinez, the mission’s economic adviser.

A long-term effort to increase literacy and education is now underway with an ambitious goal of educating 75 percent of the region’s high school population, said Margarita Riva-Geoghegan, a mission consular. The mission supports early instruction in math and science modeled on the administration’s “No Child Left Behind” program.

“That concept was embraced by the members,” after being promoted by Rod Paige, the former education secretary who led the U.S. education delegation at the 2003 Third Education Ministerial in Mexico City, Ms. Riva-Geoghegan said.

Almost half of Latin American children fail to reach the fifth grade and only about 30 percent finish high school. Students from even the best school systems score in the bottom quartile of international achievement tests.

Having the president and the secretary of education representing the United States is an example of the biggest change the OAS is experiencing—attracting high-level attention, said Ms. Riva-Geoghegan, a 25-year veteran of the mission. “The other countries are happy we’ve raised the level of our representation at inter-American meetings.”

Support and commitment among member nations have increased during the last 10 years, she added. It’s not uncommon now for department ministers to negotiate educational, cultural or trade issues.

Those accomplishments and others keep the mission busy. “The hours can be long—especially in the run-up to the General Assembly when we’re negotiating resolutions,” said political officer Wendy Sneff. “The mission benefits from a mix of Civil Service, political appointees and Foreign Service officers. Each person brings a different expertise and energy to the mission.”

Much of the work involves staying in touch with other agencies, preparing for OAS meetings and negotiating, she added.

Adviser Stacy D. Williams is the mission’s representative to OAS specialized organizations such as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the Commission of Women and the Children’s Institute. He targets key members of these organizations to promote U.S. interests and negotiate resolutions and writes background and strategy papers for

senior staff. He also monitors how OAS organizations spend the money they receive from the United States.

“I really get a chance to make a difference in this job,” said Mr. Williams. “I actually have an opportunity to review, monitor and analyze an organization’s budget to ensure that U.S. interests are served.”

Recently, the organization pioneered conventions against terrorism, violence against women and drug abuse. It was also the first international organization to adopt an anti-corruption treaty.

As a mission absorbed in planning and managing diplomatic summits and an office in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, the office provides continuous administrative and logistical support, notes Tim Wray. The mission’s policy resource planning officer, he handles human resources, supply, office maintenance and the budget.



Political Officer Sergio Garcia, seated, speaks with Olwyn Staples, public affairs officer and Dan Martinez, economic adviser.

“One of the most time-consuming and complex tasks is collating and distributing the heavy volume of OAS documentation and communications for OAS meetings,” Mr. Wray said.

Program specialist Deborah Diggs also manages documents—storing, retrieving and distributing. But she also works behind the scenes planning special events and high-level meetings, preparing briefing books and managing travel arrangements.

Located in the Harry S Truman building, the mission recently restructured its staff to better accommodate OAS issues. Having Civil Service employees, for example, oversee on-going education and democracy projects assures long-term oversight and stability, while the temporary “political hot potatoes” that suddenly flare are usually handled by the Foreign Service staff, many with country experience. “There’s still some overlap,” said Ms. Riva-Geoghegan.

From June 5-7, the United States hosts the OAS General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., a conference that’s expected to draw foreign ministers from throughout the Americas. The assembly—the first in 30 years held in the United States—will focus on promoting democracy. ■

The author is State Magazine’s acting editor.



Refugees, from left, Abbas Al-Makzumi, Kadhum Al-Harbi and Deng Rag pose with their supervisor in an Erie factory.

Department Refugee Program Sparks Erie Revival

By Robert Hilton

Every year, tens of thousands of refugees enter the United States to begin new lives. Over the past two years, approximately 800 of them, from Europe and Eurasia, East Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, settled in Erie, Pennsylvania.

In January, a delegation from Erie visited the Department to thank the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration for its role in bringing refugees to Erie and to talk about the positive role they are playing in revitalizing the city.

The group included Mayor Richard Filippi, Congressman Phil English and executives from the Erie International Institute, the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership and the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. In their meeting with Assistant Secretary Arthur E. "Gene" Dewey, Mayor Filippi said the 2000 census showed that the population of Erie had grown rather than declined for the first time in 34 years. He attributed much of the growth to refugee arrivals over the previous decade.

The mayor also noted that refugees are contributing to the renewal of Erie neighborhoods by improving run-down housing. Erie's manufacturing industry offers



Above: Lilya Zheledyayeva from Ukraine concentrates on her work in an Erie plant. Left: Cecelia Shatem wears traditional Sudanese dress while participating in the local celebration of World Refugee Day.



employment opportunities. Refugees also make Erie a more diverse community.

With a population of just over 100,000, Erie is typical of the cities where newly arrived refugees settle. Smaller towns often cannot absorb large numbers of new residents and large cities can be overwhelming and impersonal. Medium-sized cities like Erie can provide refugees with the support they need and a comfortable environment. The Office of Refugee Resettlement in the Department of Health and Human Services helps with financial and other support.

The Erie *Times-News* reported on a recent arrival, James Barclay, who vividly recalls being beaten in Liberia by soldiers and going up to two weeks without food. After arriving in Erie, he “wanted to call 911” when he took his first walk and biting winds left his ears numb, said his wife Benetta Blamo. “But we like Erie,” she added. “It’s cheap to live here, the people are nice and we get a lot of help.” She is already working as a caregiver for the physically disabled.

“These are people who are not going to become a drain on our economy,” Mayor Filippi told the *Times-News*. “By and large, they become self-sufficient within four to six months. Many of them are very driven to succeed because of what they’ve gone through.” ■

The author is a public diplomacy officer in the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.



Christmas in Phuket

HOLIDAY DREAM TURNS TO NIGHTMARE **BY MIKE CHADWICK**

When my wife and I left for our three-day trip to Phuket over Christmas, our only real concern was oversleeping and missing our early plane home. The weather was perfect and the ocean at Patong Beach was postcard blue. We quickly slipped into a holiday dream of relaxation and fun, spicy food and chilled wine, sun and shade. That all changed at about 10 in the morning on Dec. 26.

We were having a lazy morning at our hotel on a hillside overlooking the Andaman Sea. I was sitting on the balcony reading a book when the ocean began roaring like a jet engine. My wife stepped out to see why a plane was flying so low and we saw the surge of white water rolling in, seven or eight feet tall. It smashed through the restaurant on the beachfront below us, picking up everything inside and pulling it back out to sea in a tangle of junk. Our hotel was high enough up that we were safe, for which I will be forever thankful.

The tsunami knocked out power to the hotel and left us in an information blackout. Powerful waves kept rolling in, so we stayed where we knew we were safe. We could see debris floating in the ocean. The beach below, usually filled with bright umbrellas and food stalls, was strewn with wreckage. When the power finally returned, many hours later, we saw the first news reports with estimates of hundreds of deaths. As we watched, the estimates rose to tens of thousands.

I let the embassy know we were OK and agreed to stay and help out. The first thing I did was start gathering information on American citizens. I walked to the nearby hospitals in Patong and found that we didn't have anyone listed among the dead and only a few among the injured.

The next morning, I talked with Ted Coley, the American Citizen Services chief in Bangkok, who knew where victims had been evacuated. After sending my wife off to the airport, I headed out to help Americans. A few wildly overpriced taxi rides later, I found myself at Phuket City Hall, where the Thai government had established the main consular assistance center and refugee area.

I grabbed a table and started assisting Americans as they arrived. The room was only about 10 by 20 meters and by that afternoon we packed in consular staff from more than 30 countries as hundreds of survivors streamed in. With no room to sit, victims, some of them badly injured, had to stand while others shoved past them. It was chaos.

Communications were almost impossible. Only one cell phone call in 10 could get through, so in the afternoon the cellular service companies set a two-minute limit. This helped slightly with getting a line, but every call was disconnected as soon as it hit that limit so when we did get through we had to trim our messages down to the core.

Richard Hanrahan, a vacationing U.S. embassy officer from New Delhi, also started visiting hospitals. We agreed to split up the work: He continued to search the hospitals and morgues for Americans while I manned the desk, collecting information and assisting people who wanted to leave Phuket.

By good fortune, Jim Miner from the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok and Dave Turner from the Defense Department were also in Phuket, as well as two Bangkok consular employees, Kathleen Hennessey and Kulvadi Akarapanayathorn, who organized our lists of victims.

The next day, we learned from arriving victims that nearby resort areas Phi Phi Island and Khao Lok were much worse off than Phuket. The stories were heartbreaking: parents searching for lost children, people crying for friends they saw crushed by buildings, newlyweds who had watched their spouses swept out to sea. All around City Hall were survivors suffering from injuries and shock, while the walls around them were covered by photos of the missing—tanned and smiling faces, posted in the hope someone might recognize them.

The mortuary photos were more sobering: row after row of the distorted faces of recovered bodies needing identification.

One American told me how he spent the first night after the wave sitting on Phi Phi Island holding his wife and trying to come to grips with the fact that their children were lost, only to discover when he finally made it to our desk that they had been evacuated on another boat and had survived uninjured.

Another American, whose European girlfriend had died in the tsunami, wanted to accompany her body home the following day but had lost his passport. We couldn't issue him one unless he went to Bangkok. The consular officials of her country agreed to let him travel with only a copy of his passport photo page, sent by his family and notarized by me. Cooperation among the representatives of all the countries was inspiring. Too bad it takes a tragedy to remind us of our shared humanity.

Helping displaced Americans get home, searching hospitals and morgues and collating lists of names to identify survivors and victims kept us busy in the first few days. Soon that changed to reporting on changes in Thai government policies and processes, representing the United States at meetings of the joint forensics task force, attending press conferences with the Thai interior minister and helping prepare for the visit of Secretary Powell and Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. Their visit impressed on our Thai hosts the importance the United States

Sam Chai watches as his brother Wan is cremated.





Above left: A Thai man prays inside a damaged shop on the Thai island of Phuket. Center: Injured foreign tourists are sent to a hospital after a tsunami hit Phuket. Right: A young Thai boy lights candles during a vigil for tsunami victims on Patong beach.

placed on victim recovery and humanitarian aid, so it helped us enormously.

Overall, Department colleagues were wonderful to work with and the Thai government did an excellent job helping foreign visitors. Volunteers from every country under the sun did extraordinary work, including the gruesome job of collecting bodies. Donors gave so generously and so quickly that most of the displaced people in Phuket did not go even one day without food, shelter and clothes.

But it was the people of Thailand who get my highest praise. Their courage, kindness and generosity to their foreign guests in the midst of their own sorrow will stay with me forever. ■

The author is a consular officer at the U.S. Embassy in Singapore.

WINNING THE FIGHT AGAINST OPIUM IN LAOS

BY DAVID WISE

Opium has a long history in Laos, but since 2001 the government of Laos has championed an aggressive campaign to make the country opium-free by the end of this year.

The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs,

through supporting opium detoxification and alternative development programs in northern Laos, where poppies are cultivated.

The challenges are considerable. One of the world's last communist holdouts, Laos is a small, landlocked and

landslides make some roads impassable. The United Nations' human development index ranks Laos 140th of 174 countries. Per capita income is about \$320 per year.

Laos is the world's third largest opium producer, but ranks far behind the two leaders, Afghanistan and Burma. The U.S. government estimates there are approximately 25,000 acres of opium poppies remaining in the country. In 1998, by contrast, there were about 75,000 acres under cultivation.

About 50 percent of the opium produced is consumed by the growers, their families and neighbors. The remainder is exported, usually to a neighboring district or province. In exchange for poppies, farmers receive cash or rice from traders. The average income farmers derive from cultivating opium poppies is around \$500 per year.

The primary goal of INL's modest \$2 million program in Laos is to eliminate opium cultivation and addiction. In two of the leading opium-growing provinces the program funds infrastructure, such as roads, water and sanitation systems, schools and clinics. It also supports alternative economic activities such as cattle banks, new cash crops, handicrafts and ecotourism, as well as opium detoxification projects.

Detoxification is just the first step for addicts. District and provincial health



Villagers contribute in-kind labor for a new clean water system.

along with other international organizations, nongovernmental organizations and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, is assisting Laos in reaching this goal, primarily

desperately poor country where 80 percent of the 5.7 million people live in the countryside. Travel is slow and difficult in the north, especially during the July-to-October rainy season when



Above: The author, in blue baseball cap, and field adviser Mike Carroll, in red cap, discuss detoxification with recovering addicts. Below: Ambassador Patricia Haslach demonstrates a gravity-fed clean water system in Luang Prabang.

officials visit and monitor them back in their home villages. A few years ago it was difficult to find volunteers for detoxification, but now it's difficult to keep up with the demand. Some recidivism is expected, but early results suggest that recidivism is far less when treatment is community-based.

In a December visit to Luang Prabang, Ambassador Patricia Haslach evaluated the program. The construction of gravity-fed water systems brought health benefits and eliminated having to haul unclean water up a steep hill. Several women told the ambassador, "We can now wash our clothes, ourselves and our children more regularly."

implement activities that the villagers are used to. They have been raising cattle for a long time, but never in sufficient numbers to replace the income lost from opium poppy eradication." The province has also greatly increased the number of hectares devoted to raising a strain of natural green tea that has proven very popular in Vientiane shops. With normal trade relations, that tea may soon be available at Starbucks.

Opium is steadily disappearing from the project areas. There is great satisfaction in seeing how very modest assistance can make a real difference to a village and contribute to developing a drug-free society. Eliminating opium, once viewed as an entrenched business in Laos, is a realistic goal. ■

The author is director of the Narcotics Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane.



Embassy Outreach Targets Estonian Grass Roots



Cultural Assistant Maris Laja, left, and Ambassador's Office Management Specialist Karen Trimble discuss their assigned county, Järvamaa.

By Kelly Adams-Smith

Until recently, U.S. Embassy personnel in Estonia tended to spend most of their time in the capital, conducting business with counterparts in government ministries and the national leadership. Except for occasional political reporting trips, forays outside of Tallinn or the main university city of Tartu were usually for high-profile ambassadorial events.

All that changed when last summer's regional outreach program began. By familiarizing Estonian society—even those far from Tallinn—with American ideals, values and culture, the embassy is strengthening grassroots support for U.S. policies around the globe.



Above: Information Resource Center Director Vaiko Sepper and Political/Economic Chief Stuart Dwyer plan their next regional outreach trip to Ida Virumaa county. Below: Students greet U.S. Ambassador Aldona Wos on a regional outreach trip to Jõgevamaa.

The program works like this: A volunteer American staffer is paired with a volunteer Foreign Service National employee from a different section. Each pair is assigned to one of Estonia's 15 counties and learns about its leaders, sites, economies and histories. They visit their counties at least twice a year to meet with government officials and local rising stars; speak publicly; visit American citizens, industries and local landmarks; and gather information for reports.

Volunteers come from every section as well as the legal attaché's office and the Office of Defense Cooperation. In



most cases, FSNs are assigned to counties with which they have some familiarity and connection.

After more than 20 outreach trips since March, the program has exceeded all expectations, winning praise from embassy participants who have met with the county governors and mayors and spoken to university and high school classes on everything from the U.S. presidential elections to exchange programs. The program complements the embassy's two (soon to be three) American Corners at regional libraries, which serve as venues for speaking events.

The trips have resulted in more than 20 newspaper articles as well as radio interviews and television coverage. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs complimented Ambassador Aldona Wos on the positive press.

The program has boosted embassy morale as well. Employees welcome the opportunity to gain experience outside their normal jobs. Our management

officer, general services officer and an office management specialist are doing reporting and public speaking, and our entry-level officers are honing their public diplomacy skills. Outreach pairs accompany the ambassador on county visits and other insights provide context for reports and briefings for high-level officials.

The program is now a prominent feature in the embassy's mission plan. The Foreign Service Institute uses it as an example in its public diplomacy training courses.

Employees are delighted to have a good reason to get out of the office and see parts of Estonia that they hadn't always paid enough attention to. Estonians have responded enthusiastically. The embassy has created something that will continue to serve the U.S. government well for years to come. ■

The author is the U.S. Embassy in Tallinn's economic officer and regional outreach coordinator.

NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

TALENT SEARCH TAPS THE NORTHEAST **BY PAUL KOSCAK**



Clyde Bishop, diplomat-in-residence at New York's City College, prepares applicants for the Foreign Service exam.

Some aspiring diplomats were surprised they couldn't submit a resume for a State Department job. In fact, hardly a resume could be spotted at the State Department's recruiting booth during a January career fair at New York City's Pennsylvania Hotel. Just across the street from the city's Penn Station rail hub, the event drew throngs of mostly young, well-dressed, enthusiastic job seekers.

Department representatives, including a diplomat-in-residence from New York's City College, took a different approach to finding future diplomats as they fielded questions and handed out literature. Compared to the nearly hundred other recruiters raking in stacks of resumes—from Honda and Goldman Sachs to Microsoft and the CIA—State's diplomatic recruiters used the event as a public affairs opportunity. Visitors soon learned that landing a diplomatic job is a long process where patience and perseverance are as important as qualifications.

"If anybody is interested in the State Department please gather around," shouted Judy Carson as she waved her arm at a large group of people curiously eying the State Department's booth from a distance. As they swarmed around, Ms. Carson leaned forward and tested them. "And who's my boss?" Some faces went blank. But others smiled and retorted "Colin Powell."

Recognizing the name, the group's interest spiked and they pressed for more information. They weren't disappointed. Even after 20 years in public service, Ms. Carson's enthusiasm is contagious. "We should be called 'The Department of Foreign Affairs,'" she explained, trying to draw an easy analogy. As the group of mostly students listened, her index finger sliced the air and she continued her high-energy spiel on the rewards of living far from home.

"We tell them up front, they'll be working overseas and that it can be a year-long process before an offer is made," she

said. "Sometimes they ask if they can leave a resume, but we explain it's not the kind of job where we look at your qualifications and then schedule an interview."

Meanwhile, Lari Martinez, another Foreign Service officer, stood outside the booth surrounded by another group of the curious. Although just as seasoned in the Foreign Service, his style of selling the Department took a more avuncular approach. He offered examples of his career, answered questions and encouraged everyone to take the first step toward a diplomatic career by signing up for the Foreign Service exam.

After listening to Mr. Martinez, Marilyn Alexander, a Pace University student majoring in international management, said she plans on taking the Foreign Service exam. She hopes her experience living in India and speaking a foreign language will give her an edge. "I'm young, I don't have any obligations at this time," she said.

But Gail Beulieu, who was also drawn to Mr. Martinez's message, was neither. A student at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Conn., Ms. Beulieu spent much of her career in office administration for a large defense contractor. "I'm looking for a change," said the East Hartford, Conn., resident who traveled more than three hours to attend the fair and only gave her age as "in my 50s." Her maturity, she explained, is an asset. "With age comes experience."

University of Buffalo Senior Alexandra Piotrowski traveled even farther to explore career opportunities. An international business major, she's interested in public diplomacy. "I like to work with the public and deal with people," she said. She also plans on taking the Foreign Service exam.

That afternoon, the recruiters held a more detailed information session about the State Department that drew more than 60 potential applicants.

Again, Ms. Carson grabbed everyone's attention. "I'm a Foreign Service officer. When I go overseas, I'm a U.S. diplomat," she said.

She told the applicants how one assignment enabled her to "lead helicopter missions with a peace-keeping force checking Egyptian and Israeli military installations."

Clyde Bishop, a diplomat-in-residence at New York's City College, surprised the audience when he spoke about requirements. "We don't actually have an educational requirement," he said. "That's why we have an exam. When applying for the exam, it's also important that you select your career field."

Even after passing the exam and an oral assessment, he said, applicants must complete security and medical clearances, which might take months. "Be forthright in answering questions for the security clearance," he said.

As a diplomat in residence, Mr. Bishop is among several senior Foreign Service officers assigned to colleges and universities throughout the United States who concentrate on minority recruiting. They're given an office and usually teach

courses or offer seminars while developing community and campus contacts to help them identify potential State Department employees. "The demographics here in the city are a melting pot," he said, noting the strong concentration of Asian, Hispanic and black populations. Overall, the Office of Recruiting strives to attract a diverse work force.



Judy Carson, Office of Recruiting, draws a crowd at the recruiting table.

At City College, Mr. Bishop teaches strategies for excelling on the Foreign Service oral assessment. "In my seminar, we actually go over the components of the exam," he said. "Using videos, applicants actually see what they need to do."

The interview, measuring verbal, analytical and quantitative skills as well as integrity and judgment, is where a majority of applicants fall out, he said. "The oral exam is more difficult; only about 20 percent pass."

Statistics support that assessment. Last year, according to the Recruitment Office, about 4,000 of the 20,000 people who took the written test passed. Twenty percent of those applicants—about 800—then passed the oral assessment. The Department will draw from that pool to fill an expected 400 Foreign Service positions in 2005.

Most people who stop by the recruiting booth, said Mr. Bishop, already know something about the State Department thanks largely to former Secretary Colin Powell's highly visible outreach and advertising campaign known as the diplomatic readiness initiative.

Still, not all jobs require taking a test. Applicants with specialties in health and information technology can join the Department as Foreign Service specialists and there are ample Civil Service opportunities for human resource specialists, financial managers and engineers, he added.

"Getting your foot in the door is the main thing—keep applying." ■

The author is acting editor of State Magazine.

AIRTIME

RADIO WAVES HELP US COOK, COMMUNICATE—
BUT CALL FOR CAUTION

BY TERRY CARRAWAY JR.

Radiation is all around us. Radio and TV stations, satellite and microwave communications, cell phones, radar and even power lines generate radio frequency, or RF, radiation. So news linking this energy to any number of health ailments may cause some concern.

RF isn't the same as nuclear or X-ray radiation, which ionize or change the charge of atoms from one type to another. RF is nonionizing radiation. It doesn't change atoms, but just speeds up their motion. The result is heat, as when you use your microwave.

Because the human body produces heat, it has very good mechanisms for eliminating excess heat, such as sweating or blood circulation, and can handle RF radiation. Of course, a very high exposure can literally cook a person. But this only occurs if someone, such as a maintenance person, is very close to a powerful radar unit.

The only part of the body that does not diffuse excess heat well is the eyes. Overexposing the eyes to RF can cause cataracts and other damage. This is one of the major concerns about cell phones, since the phone's design places the head between the antenna and eyes. Cell phones are also very low power and radiate 360 degrees instead of concentrating their energy. The difference in radiation between a cell phone

and a microwave oven is the difference between a one-watt lightbulb outdoors and a 2,000-watt spotlight in a small room. The biggest cell phone hazard, however, is trying to use one and drive at the same time.

Throughout the years, there have been many studies to try to determine if RF radiation causes cancer, tumors or certain chronic diseases. The studies—at least the larger, well-designed ones—don't show any statistically valid links. Studies showing such links tend to use small numbers of exposed people or ignore other potential causes.

The research continues, and although there's no evidence of risk at this time, there are a few things you can do to reduce your exposure. Use a hands-free unit to keep your cell phone away from your eyes. One of the largest sources of RF radiation in the home is the microwave oven. You can buy an inexpensive RF leak detector to see if radiation is escaping from the oven. If so, the manufacturer should be contacted so repairs can be made. ■

The author is a certified industrial hygienist in the Division of Safety, Health and Environmental Management.



Communications systems as large as this antenna and as small as a cell phone are sources of radio frequency radiation.

Embassy Volunteers Observe Honduran Elections

By Swati M. Patel

More than half of the official observers of the Feb. 20 Honduran national elections were representatives from the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa. It was the first time the Organization of American States had conducted an observation mission for primary elections and the embassy played a critical role.

The result of recent reforms, the primary elections were the first in the nation's history to permit each presidential contender to offer a slate of congressional candidates, running by name and photo. The two main political parties—the National and Liberal parties—held open primaries concurrently.

In addition to voting for presidential and mayoral candidates, a voter in the Francisco Morazan Department, which includes Tegucigalpa, the nation's capital, could choose from among 92 or 184 candidates to fill 23 congressional slots, depending on the voter's party affiliation.

The embassy fielded 19 two-person teams in 8 of the country's 18 departments. Fifteen teams gathered data for the crucial "quick count" of the presidential ballots. Every volunteer received OAS election observer training, while quick-count teams assumed added responsibility.

In addition to the observers, members of the defense attaché's office and the U.S. military group staffed command centers in Tegucigalpa and the industrial center of San Pedro Sula. These teams oversaw the security of election materials and polling sites.

Several volunteer teams, which included representatives from six different U.S. agencies and two eligible family members, left the day before the election for their assignments to find the polling sites and to coordinate with OAS representatives. On election day, most teams were on the road by 5 a.m.

to observe the opening of polling sites and then observed several other sites within their assigned municipalities. Those designated as quick-count teams returned to the initial polling sites at 3:30 p.m. to witness the official 4 p.m. closing. Polling stations that had opened late were permitted to close late. Embassy observers monitored ballot counting by candlelight and some didn't leave until after 10:00 p.m.

It was a long, tiring but memorable day, judging from the feedback. Honduran voters, party operatives and elections



Martina Polt, human resources officer, left, and Patti Baide, general services officer, confer at a polling station in Puerto Cortes.

officials were unanimous in welcoming the volunteers. The most rewarding part of the mission was realizing that the volunteer election observers played a crucial role in promoting democracy through free and fair elections. ■

The author is a vice consul in the consular section of the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa.



DID YOU MISS PEOPLE LIKE YOU IN THIS ISSUE?

So did we.

For the first time in memory we couldn't find a Department employee or retiree engaged in an interesting after-work activity to highlight in our monthly feature.

If you or someone you know does something fascinating beyond work, let us know at statemagazine@state.gov and we'll take it from there.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

FOREIGN SERVICE RETIREMENTS

Quackenbush, Nicholas B.
Reed, Worley Lee
Ryan, Vincent Joseph

CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENTS

Ackerman, Carlene G.	Cifrino, Margaret Haberstroh	Hollinshed, William J.
Aderholdt, Nancy C.	Cureton, Deanna J.	Howland, Nina D.
Anderson, Bertha L.	Elliott, Martha J.	Mercer, John W.
Armitage, Richard L.	Garczynski, Casimir L.	Munson, Sharon B.

O B I T U A R I E S

Marlee K. Anderson, 64, a retired Civil Service employee, died of lung cancer March 8 in Asheville, N.C., where she had recently retired after her last assignment in Lagos. She also served in Freetown and Conakry and had temporary assignments in several other countries. She was an active volunteer for the American Red Cross.



Ada Green Burrell, 93, a retired Foreign Service specialist, died Feb. 7 of natural causes in Arlington, Va. She lived in the Philippines for many years until the Japanese invasion. After the war, she moved to Mexico, where she joined the Department in 1949. Her other overseas postings included Costa Rica, Spain, Burma and Hong Kong.



Cal Calisti, 69, a retired Foreign Service specialist, died in October of a heart attack in Arlington, Va. He served in the Army and Air Force before joining the Department in 1967. He served overseas in Bangkok, Paris and Frankfurt, mostly as a diplomatic courier. He retired in 1991.



Charles Philip Campbell, 79, a retired Foreign Service officer, died Feb. 16 of a stroke in Orlando, Fla. He joined the Department in 1957 and retired in 1981. He served in Africa and Jamaica and was a graduate of the National War College.

George F. Kennan, 101, a retired Foreign Service officer, died March 17 in Princeton, N.J. He was "one of the greatest strategists in the history of American foreign policy," Secretary Condoleezza Rice said. In 1946-47, he authored the

famous "Long Telegram" and the anonymous article in *Foreign Affairs* that outlined the policy of containment of the Soviet Union. He served in Riga, Berlin, Vienna, Prague and Moscow before becoming U.S. ambassador to Russia and, later, Yugoslavia. He was the intellectual author of the Marshall Plan and wrote 17 books, two of which won Pulitzer Prizes. He was a professor emeritus at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. He helped found the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington. "His many books and memoirs and his devotion to Russian and Soviet studies made a lasting contribution to scholarship," Secretary Rice said.



Joel Kleiman, 62, a retired Foreign Service specialist, died Nov. 22 of a heart attack in Williamsburg, Va. He served overseas in Brussels, Bombay, Paris, Moscow, Hamburg, Bonn, Rabat, Frankfurt and Beijing. After retirement, he volunteered with the Kena Shrine Center, arranging for children to receive free treatment at a Shriners hospital.

Robert N. Margrave, 84, a retired Foreign Affairs specialist, died Dec. 7 of pneumonia in Washington, D.C. He was a World War II veteran and joined the Department in 1946. After retirement, he pursued interests in the fine arts, philately, numismatics, gemology and antiques.



Harold E. Mason, a retired Foreign Service specialist, died Jan. 23 of complications from surgery in El Paso, Texas. He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars and worked for the Drug Enforcement Administration before joining the Department in 1981. He served overseas in Lusaka, Singapore, Belgrade, Guangzhou, Papua New Guinea, Cairo and Suva. He retired to El Paso in 1995.

O B I T U A R I E S

James Leo "Jamie" McCarthy, 83, a retired Foreign Service officer, died Jan. 5 in Erie, Pa. He served in the Navy in World War II. His overseas postings included Pakistan, South Africa, Afghanistan, India, Turkey, Somalia, Sinai and Bolivia. In retirement, he was an active church and community volunteer.



Arthur Parolini, 93, a retired Foreign Service officer, died Feb. 1 of myocardial infarction in Fairfax, Va. He served in the Army during World War II. His overseas assignments included Paris, Lisbon, Bangkok, Singapore, Rangoon, Guatemala City and Saigon. After retiring from the Department, he worked for an engineering firm in Africa and for the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.



Alfred Puhon, 91, a retired Foreign Service officer, died Jan. 20 in Sarasota, Fla. He joined the Department in 1952 and served overseas in Vienna, Bangkok and Budapest, where he was ambassador from 1969 to 1973. He also served as assistant secretary for West European Affairs. After retirement in 1981, he gave foreign policy lectures at the Sarasota Institute of

Lifetime Learning.



G. Lewis Schmidt, 89, a retired Foreign Service officer, died Dec. 31 in McLean, Va. He served in the Army during World War II and the occupation of Japan. He joined the Department in 1951 and served overseas in Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro, Izmir and Bangkok. He served as acting deputy director of USIA. After retirement in 1972, he founded the

Japan-America Student Conference and initiated the USIA portion of the Oral History Project.



James Francis Shea, 80, a retired Foreign Service officer, died Jan. 29 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, of complications from surgery. He served with the Army in Italy during World War II. His overseas assignments included Brazil, Ecuador, Argentina, Israel, Australia, Spain and Italy. He retired in 1989.



Karl E. Sommerlatte, 82, a retired Foreign Service officer, died Jan. 24 of a stroke in Palm Bay, Fla. Before joining the Department he served in the Navy. His overseas postings included Singapore, Thailand, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Russia and Yugoslavia. After retiring in 1976, he worked as a vice president with Morgan Stanley in Florida for more

than 20 years.



Helen "Madge" Jenner Stever, 88, widow of Foreign Service officer Edward T. Stever, died April 26, 2004, of respiratory failure in Alexandria, Va. She accompanied her husband to postings in Tokyo, Frankfurt, Bonn and Lagos. In Japan, she taught English to students and businessmen.

Kristine Konold Stockman, a retired Foreign Service employee, died Jan. 15 in Arlington, Va. She worked for the U.S. Information Agency and was posted overseas to Greece, Iran, India and Cyprus. She wrote a book about working in London during World War II.



Alfred T. Wellborn, 91, a retired Foreign Service officer, died March 1 in Baton Rouge, La. He served in the Army before joining the Department in 1939. His overseas postings included Montreal, Kunming, Chungking, Paris, Helsinki, Tientsin (where he evacuated Americans and closed the post after the communist victory), Tokyo, Saigon, Rabat and Abidjan. In

retirement, he was active in the Meals on Wheels program.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT YOU'RE A DOUBLE-TALKING SMARTYFANTS WITH FLAWED POLICY COOTIES?

I KNOW YOU ARE, BUT WHAT AM I?

I'M RUBBER, AND YOU'RE GLUE...



I TOLD YOU ALREADY - ASSISTANT SECRETARY BILLY WILL LOOK AT YOUR ACTION MEMO AS SOON AS NAP TIME IS OVER!



BUT I HAVE TOP SECRET, YEAH, YEAH, ACTING MONDO GALACTIC CLEARANCE! UNDER SECRETARY FANCY PANTS, BUT WHERE'S YOUR HALL PASS?!?



BOLD ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY, TIMMY - CAN WE MAKE A WHOLE COUNTRY TAKE A TIME OUT?

WE'D NEED CLEARANCE FROM SPANKING AFFAIRS...



YUMMY BREAKFAST, DADDY - WHAT DO WE DO NEXT TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD? HEY, LET'S CLEAR MORE INFO MEMOS, THEN IT'S TIME FOR LUNCH!

MOMMY, HOW MUCH LONGER DO WE HAVE TO STAY HERE?

EASY, HONEY - EVENTUALLY THEY ALWAYS PUT OUT MORE MAPLE BARS...



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