



AMERICAN INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER
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WHAT'S NEW
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Electronic Journals – all e-journals	IIP Publications – all publications
	<p>Choosing a Career (E-Journal, December 2008) This edition of eJournal USA rambles down the many varied paths that Americans take on their way to find their life's work. Professionals in various fields explain how they got there, and some wrong turns they made along the way. Experts describe how young people can weigh and explore the options before them.</p>
<p>Ask America Ask America allow foreign audiences to interact with American citizens on wide range of topics using a chat tool over the Internet. U.S. government and private sector subject experts, academics, journalists, and everyday citizens are brought on as guests to do webchats on USINFO. You may visit the Ask America HomePage to see upcoming ones, and read the transcripts of the previous webchats.</p>	<p>Podcasts http://www.america.gov/multimedia/podcasts.html Audio files and transcripts from America.gov</p>
<p>Videos http://www.america.gov/multimedia/video.html?videoid=1498976413 Video files on foreign policy, U.S. politics, American life, democracy, science and health.</p>	<p>Blogs http://blogs.america.gov/ Blogs at America.gov offers readers a place to discuss designated topics with experts from the United States and around the world, and to share their comments and reactions with the broader Internet public.</p>

SIGNIFICANT E-DOCUMENTS

ALL THAT GLITTERS: A REVIEW OF PAYMENTS FOR WATERSHED SERVICES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. International Institute for Environment. Ina Porrás et al. October 2008.

A growing international debate calls for downstream beneficiaries of wise upstream land and water use. The report studies in-depth international review and analysis of all accessible ongoing initiatives and advanced proposals for market mechanisms for watershed services.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/13542IIED.pdf> [PDF format, 138 pages].

ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON SETS RECORDS. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Web posted November 30, 2008.

The 2008 Atlantic Hurricane Season officially comes to a close on Sunday, marking the end of a season that produced a record number of consecutive storms to strike the United States and ranks as one of the more active seasons in the 64 years since comprehensive records began.

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2008/20081126_hurricaneseason.html [HTML format, various paging].

AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS AND U.S. HIGH SCHOOLS. Alliance for Excellent Education. November 2008.

There are an estimated 4.4 million American Indian and Alaska Native people living in the continental United States, representing 1.5 percent of the total population. They are citizens of the United States, and many are also citizens of the respective tribal nations to which they belong. Unfortunately, many American Indian and Alaska Native students do not receive the support they deserve from their respective learning communities. The Alliance seeks commitment to ensuring the well-being of these students and the quality of the education they receive, particularly given the clear evidence of striking disparities in their educational achievement and attainment levels.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.all4ed.org/files/AmerIndianAKNative_FactSheet.pdf [PDF format, 5 pages].

BUILDING LANGUAGE SKILLS AND CULTURAL COMPETENCIES IN THE MILITARY: DOD'S CHALLENGE IN TODAY'S EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT. Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives. November 2008.

Subcommittee Chairman Vic Snyder (D-AR) states, "American military forces need foreign language and cultural skills to operate more effectively. In today's and tomorrow's national security environment, the demand for these skill sets may be even greater, given the range of missions our military personnel can be called on to perform.

Language and cultural skills can save lives and even prevent conflict. If you are the service member patrolling the streets, this is not some academic exercise. It, literally, can be the difference between life and death."

<http://armedservices.house.gov/pdfs/Reports/LanguageCultureReportNov08.pdf> [PDF format, 125 pages].

CHINESE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE: HISTORY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK. RAND Corporation. Yong Kang et al. Web posted December 4, 2008.

The Chinese economy has been growing rapidly in recent years, as the nation has moved toward a stronger role for private enterprise and capitalism. As China has aligned itself more closely with the international economy, it has also sought to adopt more Western-style oversight mechanisms and legal standards concerning the operation of its corporations. Corporate governance is critically important to a country's economic growth and stability, because it provides the credibility and confidence in management that is fundamental to capital markets. The study provides an

overview of corporate governance mechanisms in China.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2008/RAND_TR618.pdf [PDF format, 62 pages].

CLEANING UP AMERICA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPLEX: AN UPDATE FOR STATES 2008. National Governors Association. Web posted December 8, 2008.

States have made enormous strides treating and disposing of America's Cold War nuclear waste over the past 18 years, but significant challenges and hurdles persist. The report articulates the progress states have made in partnership with the federal government treating, cleaning and disposing of waste throughout America's nuclear weapons complex. It also details recommendations to help improve this partnership.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0811NUCLEARCLEANUP.PDF> [PDF format, 40 pages].

CORE PROBLEMS: OUT-OF-FIELD TEACHING PERSISTS IN KEY ACADEMIC COURSES AND HIGH POVERTY SCHOOLS. Education Trust. Richard M. Ingersoll. November 2008.

In America's secondary schools, low-income students and students of color are about twice as likely as other students to be enrolled in core academic classes taught by out-of-field teachers. Out-of-field teachers are those who possess neither certification in the subject they have been assigned to teach nor an academic major in that subject.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www2.edtrust.org/NR/rdonlyres/0D6EB5F1-2A49-4A4D-A01B-881CD2134357/0/SASSreportCoreProblems.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

DYNAMIC GLOBALIZATIONS AND ITS POTENTIALLY ALARMING PROSPECTS FOR LOW-WAGE WORKERS. National Bureau of Economic Research. Hans Fehr et al. December 2008.

According to the authors, incomes of low and high skilled workers continue to diverge as shown by dynamic, six-good, five-region, U.S., Europe, N.E. Asia (Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong), China, and India, general equilibrium, life-cycle model. The model predicts a near doubling of the ratio of high- to low-skilled wages over the century. Increasing wage inequality arises from a traditional source, a rising worldwide relative supply of unskilled labor, reflecting Chinese and Indian productivity improvements.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w14527.pdf> [PDF format, 40 pages].

ECONOMIC GLOBALISATION: A CHALLENGE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Web posted December 7, 2008.

The seminar provided national statistical offices with a forum to share ideas and discuss approaches to cope with the distortions caused by the activities of multinational enterprises on the production of statistics. The seminar addressed globalization in the context of national accounts and the effect on gross domestic product, gross national income and other parts of the accounts. Presentations at the seminar were provided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Eurostat, UNECE, Canada, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.efta.int/content/statistics/economic-report> [PDF format, 247 pages].

EDUCATIONALLY/INSUFFICIENT? Children Now. November 2008.

An Analysis of the Availability & Educational Quality of Children's E/I Programming reveals substantial deficiencies in children's educational television programming and raises serious doubts about broadcasters' commitments to the nation's children. It evaluates the quality of programs claimed as educational/informational (E/I) by commercial stations and found that only one of every eight E/I shows (13%) is rated as "highly educational." In contrast, almost twice as many, nearly one of every four (23%) were classified in the lowest category of "minimally educational."

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://publications.childrennow.org/assets/pdf/cmp/eireport/eireport08_executivesummary.pdf
[PDF format, 18 pages].

EMERGING INFECTIONS: A PERPETUAL CHALLENGE. National Institute of Health. David M. Morens et al. Web posted November 25, 2008.

In 430 B.C., a new and deadly disease, its cause remains a mystery, swept into Athens. As streets filled with corpses, social order broke down. Over the next three years, the illness returned twice and Athens lost a third of its population. The phenomenon of widespread, socially disruptive disease outbreaks has a long history prior to HIV/AIDS, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), H5N1 avian influenza and other emerging diseases of the modern era, according to the authors. There are common determinants of disease emergence that transcend time, place and human progress. A better understanding of these determinants is essential to preparing for the next emerging or re-emerging disease that will inevitably confront man.

<http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/about/directors/pdf/EmergingInfectionsLancetID.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages].

EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES IN THE UNITED STATES 2007. Energy Information Administration. December 2008.

Total U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were 7,282 million metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO 2e) in 2007, an increase of 1.4 percent from the 2006 level according to Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 2007, a report released today by the Energy Information Administration (EIA). Since 1990, U.S. GHG emissions have grown at an average annual rate of 0.9 percent. U.S. GHG emissions per unit of gross domestic product (GDP), or U.S. GHG intensity, fell from 636 metric tons per million 2000 constant dollars of GDP (MMTCO 2e/million dollars GDP) in 2006 to 632 MMTCO 2e /million dollars GDP in 2007, a decline of 0.6 percent. Since 1990, the annual average decline in GHG intensity has been 1.9 percent.

<ftp://ftp.eia.doe.gov/pub/oiaf/1605/cdrom/pdf/ggrpt/057307.pdf> [PDF format, 64 pages].

ENDING CHILD HUNGER IN AMERICA. Progressive Policy Institute. Joel Berg and Tom Freedman. Web posted November 29, 2008.

In the long term, a well-fed population performs better in school, works more productively, and spends less on health care. According to the report, efforts to end hunger now would also directly improve the economy faster.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.ppionline.org/documents/MTNP-Berg-Freedman.pdf> [PDF format, 7 pages].

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY; FINAL RULE. U.S. Department of Education. December 9, 2008.

Following the tragic April 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech, the U.S. Department of Education published final regulations to clarify and give schools greater flexibility in making determinations about disclosures of information from students' education records in order to address threats to the health or safety of students or other individuals. The new regulations provide that guidance and clarify that colleges may share information with students' parents in many circumstances.

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/finrule/2008-4/120908a.pdf> [PDF format, 51 pages].

GLOBAL MIGRATION OF THE HIGHLY SKILLED: A TENTATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE APPROACH. United Nations University. Theo Dunnewijk. Web posted November 24, 2008.

Migration in a globalizing world is on the increase, especially that of the highly skilled. When the better educated leave their country in large quantities to try their chances abroad it was labeled in the 1960's as 'brain drain' stressing the negative welfare impact on the countries of origin (European at that time). However not always is the impact of migration negative for the country of origin and therefore 'brain drain' turned into 'brain gain' when it was seen from another perspective. The road in the middle is called 'brain strain' emphasizing that out migration can be

either positive or negative for the origin countries. A synthesis has been found in perceiving migration of the highly skilled in the more neutral phrase 'brain circulation'.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.merit.unu.edu/publications/wppdf/2008/wp2008-070.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages].

GLOBAL TRENDS 2025: A TRANSFORMED WORLD. National Intelligence Council. November 2008.

The report takes a long-term view of the future. It offers a look at how key global trends might develop over the next 15 years to influence world events. It offers a range of possibilities and potential discontinuities. Some of the highlights include the revolution of the whole international system, that includes new players, Brazil, Russia, India and China, the transfer of wealth roughly from West to East, unprecedented economic growth, coupled with 1.5 billion more people, and the potential for conflict increasing due to political turbulence in parts of the greater Middle East.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.dni.gov/nic/PDF_2025/2025_Global_Trends_Final_Report.pdf [PDF format, 120 pages].

HOW MUCH RISK IS ACCEPTABLE? Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. November 19, 2008.

The financial crisis has sparked proposals to reform the retirement income system. One component of such a system could be a new tier of retirement accounts. These accounts would augment declining Social Security replacement rates for low-wage workers and provide a buffer of security for middle- and upper-wage workers who, increasingly, will rely totally on 401(k) plans to supplement their Social Security. The brief takes the first step in exploring the question of how much risk is acceptable.

Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/ib_8-20.pdf [PDF format, 9 pages].

HOW SOON IS SAFE?: IRAQI FORCE DEVELOPMENT AND "CONDITIONS-BASED" US WITHDRAWALS. Center for Strategic International Studies. Anthony H. Cordesman and Adam Mausner. December 1, 2008.

The U.S. and Iraq now face a transition period that may well be as challenging as defeating the insurgency, Al Qa'ida in Iraq, and the threat from militias like the Mahdi Army. A combination of Iraq's internal politics and outside pressure from nations like Iran has created serious tensions between the U.S. and Iraqi government over the status of U.S. forces and the timetable for US withdrawal. Iraqi politics and public opinion see the U.S. as an occupation force. Iraq's Kurds are the only group in Iraq that showed a consistent desire for the US to stay. The history of states facing a predicament similar to Iraq's present position, however, shows that time and patience can be critical assets.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/081201_isf_report.pdf [PDF format, 185 pages].

HUNGER 2009. Bread for the World Institute]. Web posted December 5, 2008.

The report calls on the new Congress and President-elect Barack Obama's administration to rework U.S. foreign assistance to make it more effective in fighting global hunger and poverty. It analyzes the progress that has been made in reducing hunger and poverty over the last few decades and the risk to this progress posed by the impact of high food prices. It draws lessons about what works and what doesn't in the way the U.S. delivers foreign assistance.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.hungerreport.org/2009/> [HTML format, various paging under Chapters tab].

IMMIGRATION AND THE MACROECONOMY. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Federico S. Mandelman and Andrei Zlate. November 2008.

The study analyzes the dynamics of labor migration and the insurance role of remittances in a two-country, real business cycle framework. Emigration increases with the expected stream of

future wage gains but is dampened by the sunk cost reflecting border enforcement. During booms in the destination economy, the scarcity of established immigrants lessens capital accumulation, labor productivity, and the native wage. The welfare gain from the inflow of unskilled labor increases with the complementarity between skilled and unskilled labor and the share of the skilled among native labor. The model matches the cyclical dynamics of the unskilled immigration from Mexico.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.frbatlanta.org/filelegacydocs/wp0825.pdf> [PDF format, 49 pages].

IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN ON SCHOOLS. American Association of School Administrators. Robert S. McCord and Noelle M. Ellerson. November 2008.

School districts in every region of the country are feeling the impact of the economic downturn. The study, based on a survey of school superintendents conducted in October 2008, finds that belt-tightening measures are already underway in districts nationwide in response to shrinking budgets. It also suggests the economic downturn could threaten gains in student achievement and progress in narrowing the achievement gap, which schools have fought so hard to attain, as well as the capacity of schools to deliver essential services. Some of the implementations include altering thermostats (62 percent), eliminating non-essential travel (57 percent), reducing staff-level hiring (48 percent), and reducing consumable supplies (48 percent).

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.aasa.org/files/PDFs/Publications/AASAEconomicImpactSurvey2008.pdf> [PDF format, 26 pages].

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMS: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION'S EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME AND THE KYOTO PROTOCOL'S CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM. U.S. Government Accountability Office]. Web posted December 2, 2008.

International policies to address climate change have largely relied on market-based programs; for example, under the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) phase I (2005 to 2007) carbon dioxide emissions reductions were sought by setting a cap on each member state's allowable emissions and distributing tradable allowances to covered entities, such as power plants. Beginning operation in 2002, the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) has relied on offsets, allowing certain industrialized nations to pay for emission reduction projects in developing countries, where the cost of abatement may be less expensive, in addition to reducing emissions within their borders. Legislative proposals to limit greenhouse gas emissions are under consideration in the United States.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09151.pdf> [PDF format, 69 pages].

INTERNATIONAL GRANTMAKING IV: HIGHLIGHTS. Foundation Center]. December 5, 2008.

Estimated United States foundation giving for international purposes reached a record \$5.4 billion in 2007, and 2008 giving is likely to top that record. The prospects for international giving in the near term are also less pessimistic than current market conditions might suggest. "The single most important message from this study is that international grantmaking is here to stay," says Foundation Center President Bradford K. Smith. "More U.S. foundations are spending more resources on international problems, challenges, and opportunities than at any time in history."

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/intlgmiv_highlights.pdf [PDF format, 12 pages].

IT'S NOT JUST ECONOMY: TACKLING THE CRISIS OF GLOBAL ORDER. Brookings Institution. Bruce Jones et al. December 9, 2008.

The heads of state of the world's twenty leading economies came together in November to begin the process of enhancing the ability of international financial institutions to ensure the stability of capital markets. The leaders were spurred to action by the deepest crisis of the global economy since the Great Depression. Fortunately, there is another truism of politics: leadership matters.

President-elect Obama has written incisively that protecting American security depends on promoting global security. The international response to the election shows a pent-up demand for U.S. leadership. The job ahead is daunting but do-able. Forging effective cooperation against transnational threats is the leadership challenge of our time, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2008/1209_global_crisis_mgi.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

MEASURING UP 2008: THE NATIONAL REPORT CARD ON HIGHER EDUCATION. National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. Web posted December 3, 2008.

The study highlights the uneven distribution of higher education opportunity and achievement in the United States. Family wealth and income, race and ethnicity, and geography play too great a role in determining which Americans receive a high school education that prepares them for college, which ones enroll in college, and which ones complete certificate or degree programs. The core message is that despite our historical successes in higher education, the preeminence of many of our colleges and universities, and some examples of improvement in this decade, higher education performance is not commensurate with the current needs of the society and the economy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://measuringup2008.highereducation.org/print/NCPPHEMUNationalRpt.pdf> [PDF format, 36 pages].

MIRACLES, DIVINE HEALINGS, AND ANGELS: BELIEFS AMONG U.S. ADULTS 45+ WITH HISPANIC OVERSAMPLE. American Association of Retired Persons. Gretchen Anderson. Web posted November 27, 2008.

The American Association of Retired Persons' July 2008 telephone survey included a Hispanic over sample. Key findings include: Four in five survey respondents (80%) say they believe that miracles occur today as in ancient times, while 67% say they believe that illnesses and injuries can be divinely healed. Respondents age 45-54 were more likely to believe in miracles (85%) than age 55 and older (77%). Unsurprisingly, God (84%) and Jesus (75%) were the two figures respondents rated highest in bestowing miracles. A strong majority of Hispanics report believing in miracles (86%), spirits and angels (86%), and divine healings (82%), significantly more than white non-Hispanics.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/general/miracles_08.pdf [PDF format, 50 pages].

MORE VARIABLE AND UNCERTAIN WATER SUPPLY: GLOBAL WARMING'S WAKE-UP CALL FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES. National Wildlife Federation. November 2008.

The second major drought of the last decade is a wake-up call for the Southeast United States, showing the region's vulnerability due to its reliance on scarce supplies of fresh water. The region has been operating under the best-case water availability for the last 50 years, during which drought conditions were relatively rare. But, the region has historically experienced regular droughts. Global warming is the future wildcard, potentially causing both more extremely dry periods and more heavy rainfall events. At the same time, warming-induced sea-level rise will increase the risk of saltwater intrusion into important groundwater aquifers.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.nwf.org/nwfwebadmin/binaryVault/NWF_SEWaterSupply_FINAL2.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages].

THE MOVEMENT OF ILLEGAL GUNS IN AMERICA. Mayors Against Illegal Guns. December 2008.

The report reveals previously unreported trends in the movement of illegal guns across state lines. The report analyzes state-by-state 2006 and 2007 trace data released by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and finds that states that supply interstate crime guns at the highest rates have comparatively weak gun laws.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/trace_report_final.pdf [PDF format, 40 pages].

NORMALIZATION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS: CONSEQUENCES FOR IRAN'S ECONOMY AND THE UNITED STATES. National Foreign Trade Council. Dean A. DeRosa and Gary Clyde Hufbauer. December 2008.

If the United States lifted sanctions on Iran and the nation liberalized its economic regime, the world price of oil could fall by 10 percent and Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) could increase by 23 percent annually, according to the paper. The paper was written based on the assumption that U.S. sanctions currently in place are lifted, and Iran adopts more open policies toward foreign investment and expands other dimensions of its economy. "To generate significant economic gains, any normalization of Iran's economic relations must entail dramatic changes beyond the lifting of U.S. sanctions. Iran must adopt policies that welcome foreign direct investment in its oil sector," wrote the authors.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.nftc.org/default/trade/NFTC%20Iran%20Normalizaton%20Book.pdf> [PDF format, 44 pages].

OUTLOOK FOR U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE. Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Web posted December 2, 2008.

The Outlook offers the latest value and volume of U.S. agricultural exports, by commodity and region, as well as the agricultural trade balance and the import and export outlook.

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/AES/AES-12-01-2008.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages].

PACIFIC CURRENTS: THE RESPONSES OF U.S. ALLIES AND SECURITY PARTNERS IN EAST ASIA TO CHINA'S RISE. RAND Corporation. Evan S. Medeiros et al. Web posted November 24, 2008.

China's economic, military, and diplomatic power has been on the rise, and many worry that it is nudging aside U.S. influence in the Asia-Pacific region. The authors examine six specific U.S. allies and partners: Australia, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, and Thailand. They examine the responses in each nation to China's rise and assessed the implications for U.S. regional security interests. The six nations see China primarily as a source of economic opportunity, but many have concerns about China's regional goals. They want China to be engaged regionally in productive ways but do not want to allow it to become dominant. They find U.S. security commitments reassuring, bolstering their ability to engage China with confidence.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG736.pdf [PDF format, 309 pages].

PROGRESS IN GLOBAL MEASLES CONTROL AND MORTALITY REDUCTION, 2000-2007. Center for Disease Control. December 5, 2008.

During 2007, further progress was made toward achieving the 2010 global measles mortality reduction goal of a 90% reduction in measles mortality compared with 2000. The largest percentage decrease in estimated measles deaths occurred in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, which appears to have already met the 2010 goal. An important contributor to the rapid reduction in measles mortality in the Eastern Mediterranean Region during 2007 is the intensification of SIAs in the region, which resulted in more than twice the number of children reached through SIAs in 2007 compared with 2006. The African Region was the largest contributor to the global decline in measles mortality, accounting for 63% of the decline.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5748a3.htm?s_cid=mm5748a3_x [HTML format, various paging].

RESIDENT DUTY HOURS: ENHANCING SLEEP, SUPERVISION, AND SAFETY. Institute of Medicine. December 2008.

Medical residency in the United States aims to prepare recent medical school graduates to

practice medicine independently. One fundamental requirement of resident education is in-depth, firsthand experience caring for patients. During the three to seven years of training, residents often work long hours with limited time off to catch up on their sleep. They can experience fatigue on the job, contributing to increased errors and accidents. However, many medical educators believe extensive duty hours are essential to provide residents with the educational experiences they need to become competent in diagnosing and treating patients.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.iom.edu/Object.File/Master/60/469/residency%20hours%20revised%20for%20web.pdf>
[PDF format, 4 pages].

REVERSING COURSE: THE TROUBLED STATE OF ACADEMIC STAFFING AND A PATH FORWARD. American Federation of Teachers. Web posted December 6, 2008.

More than half of the undergraduate courses at U.S. public colleges and universities are taught by “contingent” faculty and graduate instructors rather than full-time tenured faculty, resulting in an unstable and financially exploited workforce. According to the report, contingent faculty and instructors, including graduate teaching assistants, make up almost 70 percent of the people teaching in U.S. colleges and universities today. The report also found that contingent faculty members teach nearly 49 percent of all undergraduate public college courses. Because graduate teaching and research assistants are not counted as college “faculty” in most databases, that figure does not include graduate instructors. When graduate teaching assistants, who teach 16 percent to 32 percent of undergraduate sections at public research universities, are added to the mix, it becomes clear that nonpermanent faculty members instruct well over half of all undergraduate classes.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.aftface.org/storage/face/documents/reversing_course.pdf [PDF format, 32 pages].

SEX, GENDER, AND WOMEN'S HEALTH: WHY WOMEN USUALLY COME LAST. Disease Control Priorities Project. Web posted December 2, 2008.

Both sex and gender matter in health. They may act independently or, more often, they interact to bring about different disease patterns between men and women. Researchers have found that women's biology, their genetic makeup, physiology, or hormones, seems to have more influence on the onset and progression of diseases than gender. But gender differences in society influence whether women recognize their symptoms and act on them, whether they can seek and obtain quality health care, and how well they comply with treatment.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.dcp2.org/file/222/dcpp-gender-web.pdf> [PDF format, 4 pages].

STATE ARTS POLICY: TRENDS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS. RAND Corporation. Julia F. Lowell. Web posted November 24, 2008.

State arts agencies, key players within the U.S. system of public support for the arts, face growing economic, political, and demographic challenges to the roles and missions they adopted when founded in the mid-1960s. The report looks at state arts agencies' efforts to rethink their roles and missions, reflecting on what the changes may mean for the direction of state arts policy. Drawing on readings, discussions, and analyses conducted for the study, the author concludes that if current trends and strategies continue, future state arts policy is likely to focus more on developing the creative economy, improving arts education, and encouraging a broader spectrum of state residents to participate in the arts.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG817.pdf [PDF format, 44 pages].

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON AGREEMENTS WITH IRAQ. Office of Press Secretary, White House. November 30, 2008.

Iraq's Council of Representatives approved two agreements with the United States, a Strategic Framework Agreement and a Security Agreement, often called a Status of Forces Agreement or SOFA. The Strategic Framework Agreement sets the foundation for a long-term bilateral

relationship between our two countries, and the Security Agreement addresses our presence, activities, and withdrawal from Iraq.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/11/20081127-1.html> [HTML format, various paging].

http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/iraq/SE_SFA.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages, Strategic Framework Agreement].

http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/iraq/SE_SOFA.pdf [PDF format, 24 pages, Security Agreement].

TERRORISM IN INDIA AND THE GLOBAL JIHAD. Brookings Institute. November 30, 2008.

The attacks on multiple targets in downtown Mumbai in late November 2008 is only the latest in a long series of horrific terrorist operations in India. Terrorism in India is a complex phenomenon with numerous perpetrators. The most dangerous terrorist menace comes from groups with intimate connections to the global jihadist network centered around Usama bin Laden and al Qaeda and its allies in the Pakistani jihadist culture, according to the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.brookings.edu/articles/2008/1130_india_terrorism_riedel.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

THINKING ABOUT TOMORROW. National Center for Policy Analysis. Andrew J. Rettenmaier and Thomas R. Saving. December 2008.

If the federal government stopped the Medicare and Social Security programs tomorrow, collecting no more payroll taxes and allowing no more accrual of benefits, it would still owe up to \$52 trillion to those who have already earned these benefits, according to the authors. To put the numbers in perspective, the size of the entire U.S. economy is \$14 trillion. If Medicare and Social Security continue on their current course, the obligations of taxpayers will grow. In the spring, the Social Security/Medicare trustees reported that if Social Security and Medicare were to continue indefinitely, the present value of the unfunded obligation is \$101.7 trillion, or seven times the size of the national economy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.ncpa.org/pub/st/st317/st317.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

THE TRUE COST OF COAL. Greenpeace. Web posted December 1, 2008.

According to the report, the global cost of coal was at least €360 billion last year alone. The figure arrives from CO2 damage costs, health costs and mining accidents. Coal burning has existed for centuries, and its use as a fuel has been recorded since the 1100s. It powered the Industrial Revolution, changing the course of first Britain, and then the world, in the process. In the U.S., the first coal-fired power plant opened on the shores of the lower East River in New York City in September 1882. Today, coal is used to produce nearly 40% of the world's electricity. However, burning coal is one of the most harmful practices on the planet.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/true-cost-coal.pdf> [PDF format, 92 pages].

UNIONS AND UPWARD MOBILITY FOR WOMEN WORKERS. Center for Economic and Policy Research. John Schmitt. December 2008.

The study documents a large wage and benefit advantage for women workers in unions relative to their non-union counterparts. It finds that unionized women workers earned, on average, 11.2 percent more than their non-union peers. In addition, women in unions were much more likely to have health insurance benefits and a pension plan.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/unions_and_upward_mobility_for_women_workers_2008_12.pdf [PDF format, 10 pages].

THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTHEAST ASIA: TOWARD A STRATEGY FOR ENHANCED COOPERATION. Center for Strategic and International Studies. December 8, 2008.

The conference report includes presentations from seven Southeast Asian countries, as well as senior U.S. government officials, diplomats and nongovernment specialists in Southeast Asian Affairs. The topics covered are the United State's role in Southeast Asia, trends in ASEAN affairs, shifting external power dynamics in Southeast Asia, and the status of U.S. alliances and emerging partnerships in the region.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.csis.org/media/isis/pubs/081208_mitchell_usandseasia-web.pdf [PDF format, 33 pages].

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHP ACCOMPLISHMENTS. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. November 2008.

International leadership by the United States to reduce emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, is highlighted in the report. Current U.S. supported M2M projects, when fully implemented, will deliver estimated annual emissions reductions of more than 24 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions, tripling the reductions achieved in 2006. M2M reduces greenhouse gas emissions by recovering methane, also a primary component of natural gas, from agricultural waste, coal mines, landfills, and oil and gas systems and using it as clean energy.

http://www.epa.gov/methanetomarkets/pdf/2008-accomplish-report/m2m08_usg_report_08_scrnrez.pdf [PDF format, 28 pages].

WAS THE WEALTH OF NATIONS DETERMINED IN 1000 B.C.? Harvard Business School.

Diego A. Comin et al. Web posted November 26, 2008.

The authors assemble a dataset on technology adoption in 1000 B.C., 0 A.D., and 1500 A.D. for the predecessors to today's nation states. They note that this very old history of technology adoption is surprisingly significant for today's national development outcomes. Strong and robust results are for 1500 A.D. determining per capita income today. There were technological persistence across long epochs: from 1000 B.C. to 0 A.D., from 0 A.D. to 1500 A.D., and from 1500 A.D. to the present.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.hbs.edu/research/pdf/09-052.pdf> [PDF format, 66 pages].

WHY AREN'T FOOD COMPANIES REDUCING PRICES? Renewable Fuels Association.

November 2008.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for October proves that input costs for food processors are way down but the prices they charge grocery shoppers continue to climb. Prices for virtually everything consumers buy, gasoline, airline tickets, clothing, dropped in October, except food prices. According to a report, the excuse for these prices hikes given by big food companies does not pass well, particularly when one considers that these price hikes are not necessary.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.ethanolrfa.org/objects/documents/2057/sticky_food_prices.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Campaign+Monitor&utm_content=313532792&utm_campaign=Release%3a+Oil+and+Grain+Costs+Way+Down%2c+But+Consumer+Food+Prices+Still+Up+Shoppers+Pay+While+Food+Processors+Profit&utm_term=Why+Aren%26%238217%3bt+Food+Companies+Reducing+Prices%3f [PDF format, 3 pages].

WINDS OF POLITICAL CHANGE HAVEN'T SHIFTED PUBLIC'S IDEOLOGY BALANCE. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Juliana Horowitz. November 25, 2008.

The Democratic Party's advantage in party identification has widened over the past two decades, but the share of Americans who describe their political views as liberal, conservative or moderate has remained stable during the same period. Only about one-in-five Americans currently call themselves liberal (21%), while 38% say they are conservative and 36% describe themselves as moderate. This is virtually unchanged from recent years; when George W. Bush was first elected

president, 18% of Americans said they were liberal, 36% were conservative and 38% considered themselves moderate.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1042/winds-of-political-change-havent--shifted-publics-ideology-balance> [HTML format, various paging].

WORLD AT RISK: THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE PREVENTION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PROLIFERATION AND TERRORISM. Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism. Bob Graham et al. December 2, 2008.

The report calls on the President-elect and the next Congress to immediately initiate several concrete actions, unilaterally and with the international community, to address the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that pose the greatest peril: nuclear and biological weapons. The Commission centered its findings on several areas where it determined the risks to the United States are increasing: the crossroads of terrorism and proliferation in the poorly governed parts of Pakistan, the prevention of biological and nuclear terrorism, and the potential erosion of international nuclear security, treaties and norms as we enter a nuclear energy renaissance. <http://documents.scribd.com/docs/2avb51ejt0uadzxm2wpt.pdf> [PDF format, 161 pages].

WORLD REPORT ON CHILD INJURY PREVENTION. World Health Organization. Web posted December 10, 2008.

More than 2000 children die every day as a result of unintentional or accidental injuries. Every year tens of millions more worldwide are taken to hospitals with injuries that often leave them with lifelong disabilities, according to the report. It provides the first comprehensive global assessment of unintentional childhood injuries and prescribes measures to prevent them. It concludes that if proven prevention measures were adopted everywhere at least 1000 children's lives could be saved every day.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241563574_eng.pdf [PDF format, 232 pages].

ZIMBABWE: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CALL FOR END TO ABDUCTIONS OF ACTIVISTS. Human Rights Watch. December 10, 2008.

The human rights groups came together to call on regional and international organizations to take strong action to protect those who fight for human rights in Zimbabwe. The abduction of activists is taking place at a time when the country is facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, including a cholera outbreak and severe food shortages for which the government is seeking international help.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/12/09/zimbabwe-international-organizations-call-end-abductions-activists> [HTML format, various paging].

ARTICLES

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Fallows, James THEIR OWN WORST ENEMY (Atlantic Monthly, vol. 302, no. 4, November 2008, pp. 72-77)

After spending two years in China, Fallows wonders “how can official China possibly do such a clumsy and self-defeating job of presenting itself to the world? China, like any big, complex country, is a mixture of goods and bads. But I have rarely seen a governing and ‘communications’ structure as consistent in hiding the good sides and highlighting the bad.” China’s press policy, he says, reflects the view that scrutiny from the Western press is not really necessary and the ignorance and insularity among China’s leadership about the hows and whys of foreign opinion and its importance. Currently available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200811/chinese-progress>

Goldsmith, Arthur MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR PARTIAL DEMOCRACY? QUESTIONING THE PREMISES OF DEMOCRACY PROMOTION (International Security, vol. 33, no. 2, Fall 2008, pp. 120-147)

Goldsmith, professor of management at the University of Massachusetts Boston, asserts that democracy promotion is a favorable strategy to advance the cause of world peace, especially in the Middle East, but undifferentiated democracy promotion has two faulty premises. First, all progress toward the establishment of democratic regimes does not necessarily make the global community safer. Second, regime change is not something external actors have the capacity to guide in the desired direction. The first assumption fails to consider the well-documented security problems caused by partial democracies, and the second assumption overstates the ability of powerful outsiders to induce transitions to full democracy. Goldsmith writes that a cautious and selective approach to democracy promotion is better than a “one-size-fits-all” blanket approach that disregards the nature of each situation.

Ricchiardi, Sherry OFFSCREEN (American Journalism Review, vol. 30, no. 5, October-November 2008, pp. 16-23)

Although the intensity of the war in Afghanistan has surpassed that of Iraq, media coverage is failing to give it its due, says Ricchiardi, senior AJR contributing writer. The number of Western journalists covering the war in Afghanistan is “barely in double digits.” Lack of an interested audience is part of the problem, as is the high cost of putting reporters into a country with challenging topography and lack of infrastructure. Ricchiardi notes that journalists face the threat of kidnapping, robbery and murder whenever they move outside safe zones, and there is a growing risk of suicide bombings and improvised explosive devices. Even so, given the importance of events in Afghanistan, the lack of information is a serious detriment to an informed citizenry. Currently available online at <http://www.ajr.org/Article.asp?id=4602>

Stickney, Dane CHARTICLE FEVER (American Journalism Review, vol. 30, no. 5, October-November 2008, pp. 36-39)

A fast-growing trend in newspapers is the charticle -- a bite-size combination of words, images and graphics. Some newsrooms call them blurbs. No matter what the name, these easy-to-digest forms for relaying information are becoming all the rage among newspapers eager to attract young readers away from the Internet and appeal to busy readers short on time. Detractors say charticles contain too much personal opinion and lack detail. Supporters say charticles are readable ways to present mundane information. Currently available online at <http://www.ajr.org/Article.asp?id=4608>

ECONOMIC SECURITY

RESURGENCE OF RISK: A PRIMER ON THE DEVELOP(ED) CREDIT CRUNCH (The Oil Drum, posted October 10, 2008)

This article, an update of a version posted a year earlier by a respected financial blogger writing under a pseudonym, gives a prescient warning and detailed description of the disaster that has occurred in the financial markets. The writer notes that the credit hyperexpansion of the last decade has created the appearance of great wealth, but it is illusory; unlike inflation, which reduces the shares of existing wealth by an increased money supply, credit expansion "creates multiple and mutually exclusive claims to the same shares of the existing wealth pie." Every dollar of subprime mortgage debt created during the last few years has been leveraged into a hundred or more dollars of additional debt through derivative swaps. A credit expansion cannot continue indefinitely, and the gargantuan "inverted pyramid" of leveraged debt that Wall Street created is imploding in a sea of margin calls. Available online at <http://www.theoil Drum.com/node/4629> (print caution: only the first 10-12 pages are the article itself; the remainder are posted comments)

Cassidy, John ANATOMY OF A MELTDOWN (New Yorker, December 1, 2008)

The author chronicles the U.S. financial history of the last two years and the role of Ben Bernanke, chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank. In hindsight, it still isn't easy to judge the whether Bernanke, described by fellow economists as "the smartest guy in the room," should have done things differently or if he did it right. Cassidy says that Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson and Bernanke employed the "finger-in-the-dike" strategy, attempting to keep the financial sector operating so that it could repair itself. As more financial institutions failed and the government put more resources into bailing out the financial sector, the Federal Reserve Board has become engaged in the boldest exercise of its authority since its inception in 1913. Bernanke believes that the Fed's bold action has avoided a disaster. Cassidy describes the views of the Fed's proponents and critics and the reasoning behind each of the various financial bailouts. Currently available online at http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/12/01/081201fa_fact_cassidy

Ferguson, Niall WALL STREET LAYS ANOTHER EGG (Vanity Fair, December 2008)

Ferguson, professor of history at Harvard University and fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, notes that the worldwide financial crisis is about more than the stock market; it is "a fundamental breakdown of the entire financial system, extending from the monetary-and-banking system through the bond market, the stock market, the insurance market, and the real-estate market. It is global in scope and unfathomable in scale." Credit and money have been growing faster than underlying economic activity for several decades, to the point where, two years ago, the total value of domestic and international bonds was forty percent higher than the economic output of the entire world. Says Ferguson, "Planet Finance was beginning to dwarf Planet Earth; Planet Finance seemed to spin faster, too." He notes that the "hunt for scapegoats is futile. We have all played a part ... we shall now have to question some of our most deeply

rooted assumptions” about the nature of the modern economic system. Available online at <http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2008/12/banks200812>

Rowe, Jonathan FALSE READINGS: HOW THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT LEADS US ASTRAY (Columbia Journalism Review, vol. 47, no. 4, November/December 2008, pp. 22-24)

The Gross Domestic Product, or GDP, was devised as a planning tool by economist Simon Kuznets at the U. S. Commerce Department in 1933 to help navigate the Depression. Since that time it has been extensively used -- erroneously, according to the author -- as a barometer of how the economy is doing. Looking at GDP alone without examining the side effects of “growth” gives an inaccurate picture, Rowe maintains. Some effects, assumed harmless, may not be when consumption is the result of diseases caused by industrial pollution, a byproduct of growth. Kuznets, who ultimately won a Nobel Prize, came to see “fixation on the GDP as fundamentally misguided.” The author offers Kuznets’ view that knowing exactly what is growing and the effects of that growth is as important as knowing the rate of economic growth.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Ahlberg, Kristin BUILDING A MODEL PUBLIC HISTORY PROGRAM: THE OFFICE OF THE HISTORIAN AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Public Historian, vol. 30, no. 2, May 2008, pp. 9-28)

The author, a Historian in the Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State, presents the evolution of a model public history program. The Office of the Historian in the U.S. Department of State has engaged in an expanding series of historical outreach programs aimed at both new and old audiences. The Foreign Relations of the United States series is still the major publication produced by this office and provides an accurate record of diplomatic correspondence and decisions for any given year. The production of this series has benefited from the application of new technologies as the Office of the Historian at the U.S. Department of State adapts to meet the challenges of new realities and emerge as a model public history program.

Ganguly, Sumit NUCLEAR STABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA (International Security, Vol. 33, No. 2, Fall 2008, pp. 45-70)

The author, professor of political science at Indiana University, Bloomington, asserts that an examination of the 1999 and 2001–02 crises between India and Pakistan suggests that nuclear deterrence is robust in South Asia. Even though the 1999 crisis erupted into a war, its scope and dimensions were carefully circumscribed. Despite its conventional capabilities, India chose not to cross the Line of Control (the de facto international border in the disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir), and it avoided escalation of the conflict. India’s restraint cannot be attributed either to timely U.S. intervention or to a concern about avoiding a bellicose international image. Instead, a highly jingoistic regime, which had defied international public opinion the previous year through a series of nuclear tests, chose to exercise restraint because of Pakistan’s possession of nuclear weapons. In 2001, despite grave Pakistani provocation through a series of terrorist attacks, India could only respond with a strategy of coercive diplomacy.

Kapur, S. Paul TEN YEARS OF INSTABILITY IN A NUCLEAR SOUTH ASIA (International Security, Vol. 33, no. 2, Fall 2008, pp. 71-94)

Kapur, professor at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, writes that the tenth anniversary of India’s and Pakistan’s 1998 nuclear tests provides an opportunity to examine nuclear weapons’ impact on South Asian security. The author believes that some optimistic analyses of nuclear

proliferation's beneficial effect in stabilizing Indo-Pakistani relations are mistaken. Nuclear weapons have had two destabilizing effects on the South Asian security environment. First, nuclear weapons' ability to shield Pakistan against all-out Indian retaliation, and to attract international attention to Pakistan's dispute with India, encouraged aggressive Pakistani behavior. This, in turn, provoked forceful Indian responses, ranging from large-scale mobilization to limited war. Although the resulting Indo-Pakistani crises did not lead to nuclear or full-scale conventional conflict, this was not guaranteed and did not result primarily from nuclear deterrence. Second, these Indo-Pakistani crises led India to adopt a more aggressive conventional military posture toward Pakistan. This development could exacerbate regional security dynamics and increase the likelihood of Indo-Pakistani conflict in years to come. Thus, nuclear weapons not only destabilized South Asia in the first decade after the nuclear tests -- they may damage the regional security environment well into the future.

Lischer, Sarah Kenyon SECURITY AND DISPLACEMENT IN IRAQ: RESPONDING TO THE FORCED MIGRATION CRISIS (International Security, Vol. 33, no. 2, Fall 2008, pp. 95-119)

The author, professor of political science at Wake Forest University, notes that since the 2006 bombing of the al-Askari Mosque, 4.5 million Iraqis have fled their homes, and displacement has become a central strategy in the civil war. Militant groups have engineered these colossal population movements to consolidate their power and expand their territorial claims. As this crisis demonstrates, displacement can expand and intensify violence during a civil war. In addition, refugee flows increase the risk that conflict will spread across international borders. In some cases, refugee militarization can lead to international war and regional destabilization. Even if the displaced Iraqis do not join militant groups, their mere presence will exacerbate political tensions. To prevent the wide-scale militarization of the displaced Iraqis, Lischer writes that donors and host states should provide a massive infusion of humanitarian aid; resist the temptation to build camps to house the displaced; refrain from repatriating the displaced against their will; and expedite the resettlement process, especially for vulnerable Iraqis such as those who were once coalition employees.

Ripsman, Norrin; Levy, Jack WISHFUL THINKING OR BUYING TIME? THE LOGIC OF BRITISH APPEASEMENT IN THE 1930s (International Security, Vol. 33, no. 2, Fall 2008, pp. 148-181)

The authors, political science professors at Concordia and Rutgers Universities respectively, write that appeasement is usually defined as a policy of satisfying grievances through one-sided concessions to avoid war in the short term. There are three distinct variations of appeasement: resolving grievances (to avoid war for the foreseeable future); diffusing secondary threats (to focus on a greater threat); and buying time (to rearm and/or secure allies against the current threat). British appeasement of Adolf Hitler in the 1930s is usually interpreted as a naive attempt to maintain peace with Germany by satisfying his grievances; however, the authors argue that this is incorrect. British appeasement was primarily a strategy of buying time for rearmament against Germany; British leaders understood the Nazi menace and did not expect that appeasement would avoid an eventual war with Germany. They believed that by the time of the Rhineland crisis of 1936 the balance of power had already shifted in Germany's favor, but that British rearmament would work to reverse the balance by the end of the decade. Appeasement was a strategy to delay confrontation with Germany until the military balance was more favorable.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

2008 INNOVATIONS AWARDS (State News, vol. 51, no. 6, November/December 2008, pp. 20-27)

For over twenty years, the Council of State Governments (CSG) recognizes states that offer innovative approaches in a variety of activities and programs, including public safety, human resources, health services, and economic development. The eight CSG Innovations Award recipients this year include Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Washington, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and South Dakota. The Georgia Crisis and Access Line, a 24/7 hotline, streamlined the previous multi-layered bureaucratic system that required users to call one of 25 numbers to get help. The tech-savvy hotline also allows real-time appointment scheduling so clients no longer wait weeks, or even months, for an appointment with a health provider. The Georgia crisis line saved the state \$12.5 million by referring callers to appropriate community resources, which helped to avoid unnecessary hospital emergency room trips. A statewide imagery program called Virtual Alabama saved that state more than \$40 million. Rather than investing in brand-new imagery, Alabama's Department of Homeland Security used the high-tech, high-quality images that already existed, but were scattered among numerous agencies with the state. By securing an inexpensive license with Google Earth, and with the Google platform, Virtual Alabama allows every state official access to images – and layers of useful data - of the entire state. In revamping the Arizona Government University, Arizona's training program for its employees, the state established consistency in the curriculum, reached more employees through a desk-top computer training module, and cut costs. Delaware's innovative health program, DelaWELL, keeps its employees active, healthy, more engaged and more productive. The program has been replicated in the private sector and is easily adopted by other states. Currently available online at <http://www.csg.org/pubs/Documents/sn0811.pdf>

Chavers, Mikel WI-FI IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS (State News, vol. 51, no. 6, June/July 2008, pp. 23-26)

Increasingly, visitors to U.S. state parks can not only hike, fish, ski, snorkel or scuba dive, but surf the Internet. With California taking the lead, and other states like Ohio, Kentucky and Texas following, wireless Internet hotspots are becoming more available in state parks. With its "almost negligible footprint," park directors and other state officials see Wi-Fi as meeting the need of visitors and ensuring those visitors keep coming, whether they be short-term vacationers, business or other groups holding events or retirees spending several weeks or months on the road and in the parks. The chief information officer for California State Parks comments: "We know today that people live very complicated lives. People end up being tethered to their cell phone or their computers. We were concerned that we were going to start losing people at our state parks." Some states charge for access, while others offer free service. But, in all cases, the bottom line is not to recoup costs, but to provide a service that travelers increasingly have come to expect. Currently available online at <http://www.csg.org/pubs/Documents/SN0806.pdf>

Earle, Jonathan IN A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN: THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM (Museum, May/June 2008, pp. 1-4)

The Negro League Baseball Museum, located in Kansas City, Missouri, tells the story of segregated baseball from the post-Civil War era to the 1960's, focusing on the Negro National League, organized in Kansas City by Chicago American Giants owner Andrew "Rube" Foster in 1920. The Negro League games became very popular, often drawing more than 50,000 spectators to Major League ballparks across the country. Baseball officially became integrated after World War II, when Jackie Robinson joined the Major League's Brooklyn Dodgers; the

Negro League folded after the 1948 season, as more black players followed Jackie Robinson's footsteps into Major League baseball. While it was founded during the era of segregation, the Negro Leagues enabled black-owned businesses involved with the league to flourish, and helped solidify the black community. The museum attracted 55,000 visitors last year, supports itself through licensing of Negro Leagues names and logos, and is currently undergoing an expansion. The new location will still be in the historically black part of Kansas City, whose history is intertwined with that of the Negro Leagues. Currently available online at <http://www.aam-us.org/pubs/mn/negroleagues.cfm>

Gurwitt, Rob EDS, MEDS AND URBAN REVIVAL (Governing, May 2008)

In many American cities, a university or medical system is the largest private employer, and in four of them -- Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, San Diego and Baltimore -- universities and medical systems generate more than half the jobs among the 10 largest employers. Taking Birmingham, Alabama, as an example, Gurwitt looks at how local political and civic leaders are beginning to think strategically about how "eds and meds" can be used to further economic and community development. It is widely acknowledged that, without the University of Alabama, Birmingham would have collapsed in the 1980s when U.S. Steel shut down the mills that provided the city's identity for more than a century. Today, the university, with its medical school and hospital system, is a major source of economic development in Birmingham. Universities have big money to spend and they don't get bought out or relocated -- but they have not always recognized their local responsibilities. "The priorities of the university, the city and the state all move in different directions, making intensive collaboration difficult to build," Gurwitt says. Universities look to their alumni, students and state legislatures for money, and Birmingham city leaders have not been as supportive of the university's needs with the state legislature as they might have been. But now in Birmingham there's a new appreciation for the role the university plays in the city's economy. Available online at <http://www.governing.com/articles/0805universities.htm>

Gurwitt, Rob WELCOME MAT (Governing, December 2008)

American towns everywhere are struggling to adapt to an influx of immigrants. The immigration problem was "dumped [by Congress] into the laps of hometowns across America," says New Haven, Connecticut, Mayor John DeStefano. While nearby Danbury, is cracking down on immigrants, New Haven has issued nearly 7,000 ID cards to both legal and illegal immigrants since July 2007 without discriminating between the two groups. Gurwitt outlines the arguments by supporters and opponents of this approach. Opponents consider the idea of giving ID cards to illegal immigrants "close to treasonous," while supporters say the card and atmosphere of tolerance have made immigrants feel part of the community, boosted their use of public libraries and other services, and made them more comfortable talking with housing inspectors and police. The police chief of Fair Haven, a New Haven suburb where most immigrants live, claims a 17 percent drop in the crime rate, and librarians says libraries and ESL classes have more customers. However, the card has not helped many immigrants make use of the city's banks, a key goal of the program -- only four New Haven banks will accept the cards. While there is not much evidence yet how beneficial the new ID cards are, it is "certainly clear is that places such as New Haven will be crafting their approaches to illegal immigration for a long time to come," says Gurwitt. Available online at <http://www.governing.com/articles/0812immig.htm>

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