

USANEWS IN BRIEF



DECEMBER 2008

ISSUE 1

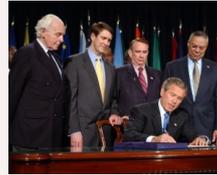
HIV/AIDS: The Search for a Cure

U.S. doctors first noticed an outbreak of a peculiar immune deficiency disorder in 1981. Three years later, researchers at the Pasteur Institute in Paris and the National Cancer Institute in Washington isolated the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Since it was first identified, HIV has claimed more than 25 million lives. Although no cure has been found, anti-retroviral treatments have improved over the years, and it is estimated that more than 33 million people around the world are now living with HIV.



2008

In March, the World Health Organization's World Health Statistics 2008 projects deaths from HIV/AIDS worldwide will rise from 2.2 million in 2008 to a maximum of 2.4 million in 2012 before declining to 1.2 million in 2030. (© AP Images)



2003

President Bush announces PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, a five-year, \$15 billion initiative to address HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in hardest-hit countries. (© AP Images)

2000

United States and U.N. Security Council each declare HIV/AIDS a security threat. (©



**WORLD AIDS DAY
DECEMBER 1, 2008**

**U.S. LEADERS CELEBRATE
LIFE ON WORLD AIDS DAY**

Treatment programs backed by United States reach more than 1.7 million



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE
by Ambassador
Thomas
F. Stephenson



Key members of Obama-Biden national security team announced

Chicago -- President-elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden officially announced key members of their national security team today: nominating Senator Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State, selecting Defense Secretary Robert Gates to remain as Secretary of Defense, nominating Eric Holder as Attorney General, nominating Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, nominating Susan Rice as Am-

bassador to the United Nations and selecting General Jim Jones, USMC (Ret) as National Security Adviser. [Read more...](#)



President-elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden announce Members of the National Security Team [LEARN MORE](#)

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"Democracy is..."

YOUR CHOICE.
YOUR VIDEO.

Have you heard about the Department of State, International Information Program's "Democracy Video Challenge?" If not, this is: **The Challenge** -- Create a video short that completes the phrase "Democracy is..." **AND** **The Prize** -- An all-expense-paid trip to Washington, New York and Hollywood to attend gala screenings of the winning videos, gain exposure to the U.S. film and television industry and

meet with creative talent, democracy advocates and government leaders.

Complete details about the Democracy Video Challenge are available at

<http://www.videochallenge.america.gov/index.html>

(in English and in several language translations).

The deadline for submissions is **January 31, 2009!**

- [What our Partners are Saying](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Let Your Voice be Heard!



- THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM
- INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
- ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING & LEARNING
- J-1 EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAMS
- AU PAIR PROGRAM
- SUMMER WORK/TRAVEL PROGRAM
- CULTURAL PROGRAMS
- STUDY IN THE U.S.
- YOUTH PROGRAMS
- SPORTSUNITED

My Culture + Your Culture = ? Share Your Story



ational and Cultural Affairs in partnership with Adobe Youth Voices. Its mission is to create an online community of people dedicated to bridging cultures and making a positive difference in the world.

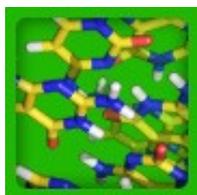
Contest opens December 1, 2008 and closes January 26, 2009. Winners will be announced March 16, 2009.

Create your videos now for a chance to win an international experience of a lifetime!...

Enter the [ExchangesConnect](#) Online Video Contest for your chance to win an International Exchange Program. This contest is sponsored by the [U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Edu-](#)

People all over the world ages 14 and older are invited

Promotional materials can be found at: <http://exchanges.state.gov/news/ovc.html>



SCIENCE PLANET: DISCOVERIES AT THE EDGE

Science Planet is your best source for information on the newest scientific findings.

U.S. Sponsors Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX)



FUTURE LEADERS EXCHANGE PROGRAM CHANGES LIVES

Since 1993, the Future Leaders Exchange program, more commonly known as FLEX, has brought more than 18,000 students from Eurasia to live and study in the United States for one school year. [Read more...](#)



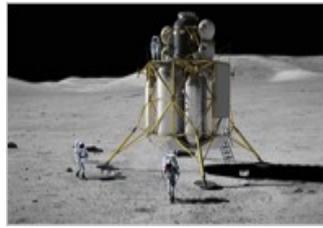
Did you Know?



The National Medal of Arts and National Humanities Medal embody America's cultural diversity. Among the 2008 recipients: actress Olivia de Havilland, sculptor Jesus Moroles, scholar Gabor Boritt, and the Fisk University Jubilee Singers.
[Read more...](#)



The students of Queens College in New York represent a mosaic of cultural backgrounds, and the college grounds are filled with the sounds of Hindi, Korean, Spanish, and many other languages in addition to English.
[Read more...](#)



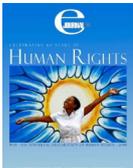
The development effort for NASA's new Ares and Orion spacecraft is unparalleled in U.S. spaceflight since the shuttle program formally began in 1972.
[Read more...](#)



THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1948, LAYS THE FOUNDATION FOR PROTECTING HUMAN FREEDOM AND DIGNITY WORLDWIDE. FIND OUT ABOUT ITS FIRST 10 ARTICLES.

eJournal USA



SIXTY YEARS: CELEBRATING THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

This issue of eJournal USA celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It explores the document's origins, sites it

within humanity's common intellectual heritage, and explains how it has bettered the lives of individuals in every corner of the globe.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Books, articles, and Web sites on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Press Freedom—Feature article



COURAGEOUS WOMEN JOURNALISTS

Many women journalists cope with death threats and constant danger. An award from the International Women's Media Foundation recognizes their bravery and dedication.

Press Freedom Remains Under Assault Worldwide

Press freedom is threatened in countries around the world, including Russia, Venezuela, Cuba, Iran and China. The non-governmental organization Freedom House reports press freedom has stagnated and in some cases declined over the last decade. In addition, a growing number of governments are restricting Internet freedom by censoring, harassing or shutting down

sites that offer alternative sources of news and commentary.



This map, provided by Freedom House, shows the status of press freedom around the world.

English Teaching Corner

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY TEACHERS INCREASED 27% BETWEEN 1992 AND 2005 AND IS PROJECTED TO INCREASE AN ADDITIONAL 18% BETWEEN 2005 AND 2017. [MORE INFO...](#)

Welcome to U.S.A. Learns!

The Online English Portal, known as *USALearns*, is an easily accessible Internet learning tool that contains instructional materials, developed primarily with public funds, to teach basic English skills and help adults improve their English proficiency. The Web site is designed to allow learners with low-level literacy skills to use the tool independently, but it can also be used with a teacher or tutor. *USALearns* contains easy-to-understand directions and free instructional materials for independ-

ent study by these adults, and it can be used inside or outside the traditional classroom environment.

While the site is designed for independent use, teachers and tutors can also find instructional materials that can be used in classroom and individual instructional settings. The Web site has an online management system available for teacher and tutor use.

People who don't have the time, money, or luck needed to get into E.S.L. classes, or who want to practice on their own,

can now cozy up to a library computer and get hours of valuable training in the practical language of taxes, government, health, parenthood, and other useful subjects.

Education Statistics



EDUCATIONUSA IS A GLOBAL NETWORK OF MORE THAN 450 ADVISING CENTERS SUPPORTED BY THE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE.



The number of international students enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities and the number of U.S. students studying abroad set records last year, a new report says.



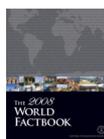
Nearly 50 million students are heading off to approximately 97,000 public elementary and secondary schools for the fall term, and before the school year is out, an estimated \$489 billion will be spent re-

lated to their education. These are just a few of the statistics contained in Back to School Stats, which offers data about American elementary, secondary and postsecondary schools, students, and the educational process. [more info...](#)

More Resources for Students and Teachers...



GEODE lets students display on maps a range of data: population, transportation, political boundaries, oil, water, other natural resources, and more. Students can explore geographic relationships by combining and co-displaying these data on maps of Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Middle East, and other parts of the world. (U.S. Geological Survey)



World Factbook provides in-depth country profiles with information on geography, people, government, economy, communications, transportation, military, and transnational issues. It includes maps of major regions and links to other geopolitical and geographical information. (Central Intelligence Agency)



Introduction
Geography
People
Government
Economy
Communications
Transportation
Military
Transnational Issues

Library Corner

If you are interested in receiving full-text of the following articles, just send an email to: reflisbon@state.gov

Serving in tough times

Library use goes up in hard times. The number of Americans who rely on libraries to deliver on the promise of free, accessible education, information, and entertainment can only increase. Despite the hard times, librarians must continue to tell the library story to constituents and funders so that

libraries remain a priority...

Putting Students FIRST

If the mission of schools is to prepare students to live, work, and learn in the 21st century, many school administrators must be wondering how the school library fits in. To become effective advocates, our profession must shift the focus of our messages from speaking out about school libraries to promoting and supporting student learning and achievement. Clearly demonstrate that school

libraries and media specialists play vital roles in preparing students for success. Since the driving purpose is to improve practice, the improvements to the library program will help promote the



CURRENTLY, 73 PERCENT OF ALL LIBRARIES NATIONWIDE REPORT THAT THEY ARE THE ONLY PROVIDER OF FREE INTERNET ACCESS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. IN RURAL AREAS, THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY IS EVEN MORE CRITICAL, AS 83 PERCENT OF LIBRARIES ARE THE ONLY FREE INTERNET PROVIDER.

American Library Association News

ALA: Obama's concern over closures demonstrates understanding of libraries' role in economy

40 libraries to host "Visions of the Universe" traveling exhibit

Museums inspire @ your library

Get cooking @ your library®

Nation's libraries celebrate National Gaming Day @ your library

Vote @ your library

10 Reasons Why the Internet Is No Substitute for a Library

By Mark Y. Herring

Dean of library services
Dacus Library
Winthrop University
Rock Hill, South Carolina

Reading, said the great English essayist Matthew Arnold, "is culture." Given the condition of reading test scores among school children nationwide, it isn't surprising to find both our nation and our culture in trouble. Further, the rush to Internetize all schools, particularly K-12, adds to our downward spiral. If it were not for the Harry Potter books one might

lose all hope who languishes here. Then, suddenly, you realize libraries really are in trouble, grave danger, when important higher-education officials opine, "Don't you know the Internet has made libraries obsolete?" Gadzooks! as Harry himself might say.

Read more...

"AN INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE PAYS THE BEST INTEREST."
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,
1706-1790



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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
LISBON • PORTUGAL



Embassy Programs 2008

U.S. Post-Election Speaker Draws Large Audiences
Embassy Supports Environmental Contest
Election Night Watch
Consul General Gets the Word Out on ESTA
Embassy Briefs Students on US Elections
Travel Industry Learns About ESTA
Embassy Recognizes Students for Excellence in English
Amb. Stephenson at Portugal-US Friendship Association
Extensive Media Coverage of Secretary Rice's visit
Amb. Stephenson Recognizes Achievements in Maritime Safety and Marine Science
Amb. Stephenson Visits Habitat for Humanity Portugal
Amb. Stephenson Addresses Porto Leaders and Journalists
US Secretary of Energy Bodman Visits Portugal
Ambassador Stephenson at Fulbrighters Portugal Conference
Paul Hollander Addresses Anti-Americanism and Political Violence
Political Commentor Explains US Primaries
Ambassador Stephenson Opens Education Conference
Ambassador Stephenson at Joint Staff College
Ambassador Stephenson Speaks at American Club
IRO Myra Brown Talks to University Students
Cultural Collaboration Produces Excitement

**The IRC is your
information key!**

The Resource Center is part of the Office of Public Affairs and assists the Embassy staff as well as the Portuguese government institutions, the private sector, NGO's, the media, researchers, scholars, and others with a serious research interest in the United States.

Hours of Operation

- The AERC provides telephone service every day between 8:30 and 17:00 except during: Lunch Hour (12:30 - 13:30), weekends, [Portuguese/American Holidays](#)
- AERC also responds to queries by fax, telephone, e-mail and regular mail.
- Access to our facility is by appointment only. Please call us in advance to schedule your visit.

Latest Reports - If you are interested in receiving full text of the following reports, just send an email to: reflisbon@state.gov

STATE OF WORLD POPULATION 2008: REACHING COMMON GROUND: CULTURE, GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). November 16, 2008.

CALL TO ACTION: HEALTH REFORM 2009. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.). November 15, 2008.

SHORT-TERM ENERGY OUTLOOK. Energy Information Administration. November 14, 2008.

STAYING THE COURSE: ONLINE EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES, 2008. Sloan Consortium. I. Elaine Allen and Jeff Seaman. November 13, 2008.

THE PLUM BOOK (U.S. POLICY AND SUPPORTING POSITIONS). Committee on Homeland Security and

Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate. November 12, 2008.

FACT SHEET: TREASURY STRENGTHENS PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST IRAN. U.S. Department of Treasury. November 6, 2008.

INSIDE OBAMA'S SWEEPING VICTORY. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. November 5, 2008.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. Global Migration Group. November 2, 2008.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SERVICE-LEARNING IN AMER-

ICA'S SCHOOLS. Corporation for National & Community Service. Kimberley Spring and et al. November 2008.

THE MONEY TRAIL: FINDING, FOLLOWING, AND FREEZING TERRORIST FINANCE. Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Matthew Levitt and Michael Jacobson. November 2008.

WORLD OF WORK REPORT 2008. International Labour Organization. November 2008.

MEASURING SKILLS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY. Education Sector. Elena Silva. November 2008.

CHINA'S PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS. National Bureau of Economic Research. Huifang Tian and John Whalley. October 2008.

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