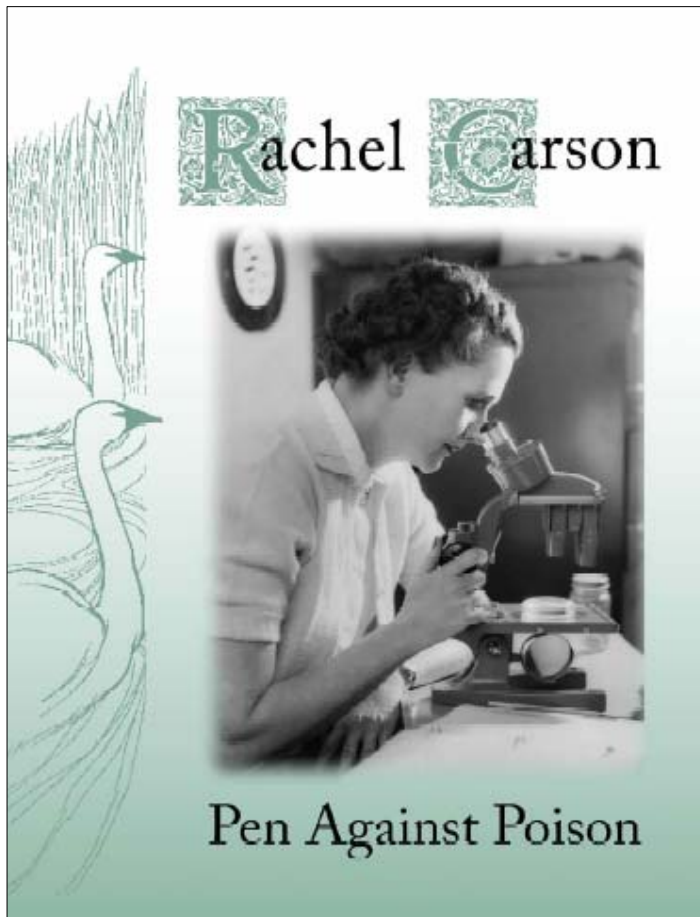




INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER
the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March 2007



Rachel Carson was a quiet woman who stirred extraordinary controversy that persists decades after her death.

Her 1962 book *Silent Spring* brought worldwide attention to the harm to human health and the environment wrought by mishandling of a powerful pesticide, fomenting the environmental movement.

In the 100th anniversary year of Carson's birth, this publication examines how occasionally in history a book with a powerful idea can bring about peaceful but dramatic change in a democratic society.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/carson/carson.pdf>

THE UNITED STATES CELEBRATES WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN MARCH

In 1981, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month, and has since passed such a resolution every year. Congressional action is followed by a U.S. presidential proclamation declaring March as Women's History Month.

Since its founding in 1980, the National Women's History Project has recognized and celebrated the rich and varied contributions of women to the history and culture of the United States.

The 2007 Women's History Month theme, Generations of Women Moving History Forward, celebrates the wisdom and tenacity of prior and future generations of women and recognizes the power of generations working together.

According to the National Women's History Project, "the year 2007 presents special opportunities to highlight some critically important events in women's history, including the 50th anniversary of the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and the 30th anniversary of the National Women's Conference in Houston, Texas."

USINFO offers a series of articles to celebrate National Women's History Month, 2007.

http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/population_and_diversity/women_in_the_us/womens_history_month.html

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Statement by Secretary Condoleezza Rice

U.S. Department of State. Washington, DC. March 7, 2007

Today, we pay tribute to women of courage around the world and hold them up as examples of hope, strength, and compassion. This year it is my privilege to inaugurate the Secretary's International Women of Courage Award. Through this annual award the United States will honor the courage of extraordinary women worldwide who have played transformative roles in their societies.

The global observance of International Women's Day reminds all nations that the empowerment of women is irrevocably tied to the safety, security, and prosperity of the world. The enfranchisement of women can no longer be a simple aspiration. Women are essential agents in bringing about change and an often overlooked resource in the preservation of human security, in overcoming transnational dangers, and in managing threats arising from tyranny, trafficking, poverty, and disease. Achieving the United States' mission of advancing democracy, prosperity, and security worldwide is not possible without the empowerment of women. If women cannot participate in the political process, there can be no real democracy. If women are deprived of economic opportunity, development is crippled. If women are not educated, they cannot pass knowledge to their children, and there is no true security for the next generation.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2007/mar/81497.htm>

UNITED STATES HAS GLOBAL APPROACH TO AIDING TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Immigration and Customs Enforcement probes human trafficking, protects victims

By Michelle Austein, *USINFO* Staff Writer. 21 March 2007



Washington – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) recognizes that trafficking victims have rights and require services and temporary immigration relief, Gabriel Garcia, chief of ICE's human smuggling and trafficking unit, said March 20.

ICE, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security, "has the unique organizational ability to investigate trafficking in persons with a global reach and provide short-term immigration relief to trafficking victims," Garcia said in testimony before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border, Maritime and Global Counterterrorism.

Trafficking victims rescued in the United States are granted "continued presence," which is a short-term immigration protection that allows certified victims of trafficking to remain in the United States for up to one year to enable them to apply for a "T visa." Those who receive T visas are able to stay in the United States and bring their families over as well. They have

access to federal benefits and services and can accept employment in the United States for up to three years and then apply for lawful permanent residence, Garcia said.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=March&x=20070321135632liameruoy0.1883509>

The full texts of prepared testimony presented at the hearing are available on the Web site of the Committee on Homeland Security:

<http://homeland.house.gov/SiteDocuments/20070320165922-71754.pdf>

SECRETARY SPELLINGS ANNOUNCES NEW TOOL TO HELP FAMILIES PLAN FOR COLLEGE

FAFSA4caster Gives High School Juniors A Leg Up On Financial Aid Planning U.S. Department of Education. Press Release, March 21, 2007

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings today unveiled a new online tool to help students and families financially prepare and plan for college before a student's senior year of high school. Called the FAFSA4caster, it provides students with an early estimate of their eligibility for federal financial aid, which could include a Pell grant of up to \$4,310.

"Improving college access and affordability are keys to giving more Americans a chance at higher education and keeping America competitive," said Secretary Spellings. "Families need more information—sooner—about students' federal aid eligibility so that they can plan ahead for college. The FAFSA4caster gives families an important tool they can use to make decisions about the future."

<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2007/03/03212007.html>

YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM: ANALYSIS OF OUTCOME DATA NEEDED TO DETERMINE LONG-TERM BENEFITS

U.S. General Accountability Office (GAO). Web posted February 28, 2007. 07AD380

In 1993, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided funds for YouthBuild which is a competitive grant program that trains and educates disadvantaged youth and helps build low-income housing. This program was transferred to the U.S. Department of Labor in 2006. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to assess the program and HUD's post-program performance to determine the long-term benefits of this program.

Full Text:

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0782.pdf> [pdf format, 42 pages]



CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS (HEARINGS, REPORTS, ETC.)

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES "TRULY BIPARTISAN"

Women from both political parties work to promote shared interests

By Michelle Austein, USINFO Staff Writer. 19 March 2007

Women in the U.S. Congress hold differing views, yet most work together in a bipartisan fashion as members of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to promote better opportunities for women worldwide.

Caucus members draw attention to women's issues internationally by working to assist women's groups in Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries and to increase funding for these groups. Members of the caucus were instrumental in the March 6 approval of a House resolution commemorating International Women's Day, which was March 8. The resolution "recognizes and honors the women in the United States and in other countries who have fought and continue to struggle for equality in the face of adversity."

"This is a historic time for the Congressional Women's Caucus," Congresswoman Lois Capps said in a March 6 press release announcing the organization's 30th anniversary. "Serving under the leadership of the first woman speaker with a record number of women members, the Women's Caucus is uniquely poised to have a greater voice than ever before in shaping the agenda of the Congress and the nation."

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=March&x=20070319123122hmnietsua0.3999292>

THE WHITE HOUSE

THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT: PREPARING OUR NATION'S STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

On Friday, March 2, 2007, President Bush Discussed The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) At Silver Street Elementary School In New Albany, Indiana.

Reauthorizing NCLB is one of the President's top priorities. NCLB is helping to raise student achievement and make a real difference in our Nation's schools. We must build on the law's success without watering down standards or rolling back accountability.

Silver Street Elementary School Is An Example Of The Good Results Of No Child Left Behind. Students at Silver Street Elementary School have met State standards for progress under NCLB every year since 2002.

Testing Data Has Helped Teachers At Silver Street Elementary School Tailor Instruction To Meet The Individual Needs Of Their Students. For example, when test results showed students needed to improve in reading, the school set aside a daily block of time for reading and writing instruction. Teachers at Silver Street also receive targeted training to improve their teaching techniques in areas where students are struggling.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/education/>

THINK TANK PUBLICATIONS

BAKER INSTITUTE

DOES REDUCING COLLEGE COSTS IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS?

Evidence From State Laws Permitting Undocumented Immigrants to Pay In-State Tuition at State Colleges And Universities

Aimee Chin and Chinhui Juhn. The James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy. Rice University. January 2007. 07AD353

Ten states have passed laws allowing undocumented students to pay in-state tuition to public universities and colleges. This study looked at the effects of these laws and educational outcomes of Hispanic immigrants who are not U.S. citizens. The result showed a positive effect of the law on college attendance of older Mexican men. The authors emphasize that there are two important factors of the study which need to be taken into consideration: (1) that little time has elapsed since the state laws were passed; and (2) that the federal policy on financial aid and legalization has not changed. [Note: Contains copyrighted material.]



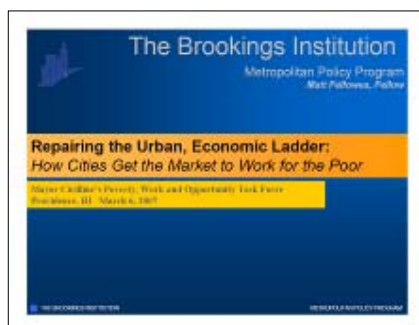
Full Text:

http://bakerinstitute.org/Pubs/Educational_Outcomes-5.pdf [pdf format, 39 pages]

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

REPAIRING THE URBAN ECONOMIC LADDER: HOW CITIES GET THE MARKET TO WORK FOR THE POOR

**Mayor Cicilline's Poverty, Work and Opportunity Task Force
The Brookings Institution, March 06, 2007**



An increasing number of lower income families work and play by the rules in Providence and elsewhere in the country; but poverty and barriers to economic mobility have persisted. In his presentation before Mayor Cicilline's Poverty, Work and Opportunity Task Force, Matt Fellowes discusses what is prompting city innovation to repair the economic ladder and what these cities are doing to boost economic mobility.

The metro program hosts and participates in a variety of public forums. To view a complete list of these events, please visit the metro program's Speeches and Events page which provides copies of major speeches, PowerPoint presentations, event transcripts, and event summaries.

http://www3.brookings.edu/metro/speeches/fellowes20070306_taskforce.pdf

CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK

MANDATORY TESTING AND NEWS IN THE SCHOOLS: IMPLICATIONS FOR CIVIC EDUCATION: A REPORT FROM THE CARNEGIE-KNIGHT TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM EDUCATION

Thomas E. Patterson

Carnegie-Knight Task Force on the Future of Journalism Education, Carnegie Corporation of New York. Web posted January 31, 2007. 07AD357

Public schools have been charged with educating students and turning them into citizens. Some believe that civil education has been compromised by mandatory student testing emphasizing language, math, and science. This report, based on a national survey of 1,262 teachers, examines the effect of mandatory testing on classroom use of current affairs news. The results show that tests do inhibit classroom discussions particularly in classrooms with lower-income students and/or students in English-as-a-second language classes. The report recommends how teachers, administrators and policymakers can mitigate the effects of mandatory testing.

[Note: Contains copyrighted material.]

Full Text: http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/presspol/carnegie_knight/news_in_schools_web.pdf

CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES

LATE, GREAT IMMIGRATION DEBATE

Online Debate Sponsored by the Los Angeles Times

Does the U.S. economy need all those illegal immigrants to stay or are they taking jobs away from Americans? Mark Krikorian, Executive Director of the Center for Immigration Studies, and Tamar Jacoby, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, debate immigration presented the following topics for discussion from February 19-23, 2007.

Monday: Secure Fence Act

Tuesday: Immigration economics

Wednesday: Amnesty

Thursday: Workplace immigration raids

Friday: Politics of immigration

<http://www.cis.org/articles/2007/latdebate.html>

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

KEEPING BABY BOOMERS VOLUNTEERING

New Report, Projections Show Nonprofits Must Make Better Use of Baby Boomer Volunteers Corporation for National and Community Service, March 2007

Washington, D.C. — The surge of Baby Boomers will increase volunteering by older adults by 50 percent by the year 2020 – and double the number of older adult volunteers by the year 2036, according to a report and projections released today by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The first-ever study to track volunteering among a large sample of Baby Boomers from year to year, Keeping Baby Boomers Volunteering, found that Americans born between 1946 and 1964 want higher-skill assignments to keep them engaged, and it advised nonprofit organizations to re-imagine roles for that emerging crop of volunteers. The report also found that Baby Boomers are volunteering at higher rates than their predecessors – including the Greatest Generation – and that those who volunteer 12 weeks or more annually are most likely to serve year after year.



http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/07_0307_boomer_report.pdf

HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL

DON'TS” AND “DO’S”: INSIGHTS FROM EXPERIENCE IN MITIGATING RISKS OF WESTERN INVESTORS IN POST-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

Charalambos A. Vlachoutsicos and Paul R. Lawrence

Harvard Business School Working Paper, Harvard Business School. January 22, 2007.



“Cultural and other misunderstandings between westerners and locals in post-communist countries are very costly, and western investors grossly underestimate how damaging ineffective interaction really is. This article shows that such interaction constitutes a major stumbling block to effective risk management and stands in the way of the enterprise fully taking advantage of opportunities for profit in these product-hungry, fast-expanding, and dynamic economies. Ultimately, effective communication between westerners and locals is the necessary condition for the success of western investments in transition countries.”

[Note: Contains copyrighted material.]

Full Text: <http://www.hbs.edu/research/pdf/07-041.pdf> [pdf format, 42 pages]

HERITAGE FOUNDATION**THE CONSTITUTION AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**by **Lee A. Casey****The Heritage Foundation. WebMemo #1404. March 22, 2007**

There have been a number of efforts to change this original design, including a proposed constitutional amendment (passed by Congress in 1977) that would have granted the District of Columbia congressional voting representation "as if it were a state." This amendment, however, was not ratified in the seven-year period established by Congress. Other proposals have included a retrocession of most, or all, of the District to Maryland—a plan that Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy in 1964 deemed impractical and unconstitutional—and the admission of Washington, D.C., to the Union as the fifty-first state.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/LegalIssues/wm1404.cfm>

WHY AMERICA IS SUCH A HARD SELL: BEYOND PRIDE AND PREJUDICEby **Juliana G Pilon, Ph.D.****Heritage Lecture #1003. February 12, 2007. Web-posted March 20, 2007**

The verdict seems to be that America is currently a "hard sell," meaning both hard to sell and sold too hard. Global opinion polls conducted for the past two decades, notably by the Pew Research Center, indicate that we are increasingly misunderstood, disliked, distrusted, even hated.

(...)

Obviously, America must expect to have enemies: As long as we are the most powerful and the wealthiest nation on Earth, we will be feared, envied, and resented. And yes, we haven't always acted wisely. But neither excessive self-flagellation nor self-righteousness is a rational response to unpopularity. Like individuals, nations make mistakes, and the United States government has sometimes pursued wrongheaded policies that have failed to advance even our own interests. Far less excusable is the failure to make our intentions understood not only abroad, but also at home. This failure is not just a recent ailment, but a national flaw.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/NationalSecurity/hl1003.cfm>

**INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK****DOES IT MATTER HOW PEOPLE SPEAK?**by **Alberto Chong****Research Department Working Paper 586, Inter-American Development Bank****December 2006. 07AD300**

Language enables communication and it reassures trust, social capital, and cultural identification. Research, however, shows no evidence on the role of language as a sign of cultural affinity. The author's research shows that "subtle



language affinity is positively linked with change in earnings when using English-speaking data for cities in the Golden Horseshoe area in Southern Ontario during the period 1991 to 2001.”

[Note: Contains copyrighted material.]

Full Text:

<http://www.iadb.org/res/publications/pubfiles/586.pdf> [pdf format, 39 pages]

PEW

TRENDS IN POLITICAL VALUES AND CORE ATTITUDES: 1987-2007, POLITICAL LANDSCAPE MORE FAVORABLE TO DEMOCRATS PEW Polls/Survey Results, March 22, 2007

Increased public support for the social safety net, signs of growing public concern about income inequality, and a diminished appetite for assertive national security policies have improved the political landscape for the Democrats as the 2008 presidential campaign gets underway.

At the same time, many of the key trends that nurtured the Republican resurgence in the mid-1990s have moderated, according to Pew's longitudinal measures of the public's basic political, social and economic values. The proportion of Americans who support traditional social values has edged downward since 1994, while the proportion of Americans expressing strong personal religious commitment also has declined modestly.

http://www.pewtrusts.com/ideas/ideas_item.cfm?content_item_id=4044&content_type_id=18&issue_name=Public%20opinion%20and%20polls&issue=11&page=18&name=Public%20Opinion%20Polls%20and%20Survey%20Results

View the full report at the Pew Research Center for People and the Press Web site:
<http://people-press.org/reports/display.php3?ReportID=312>

TOP JOURNALISTS LESS WIDELY ADMIRER THAN 20 YEARS AGO, FRAGMENTED MEDIA DIMINISHES PROMINENCE OF STARS PEW Polls/Survey Results, March 9, 2007

The increasingly fragmented media landscape has diminished the prominence of the nation's top journalists.

Two decades ago, the vast majority of Americans had a "favorite" journalist or news person, and the top picks were representatives of the big three broadcast television networks. Today, only a slim majority can name the journalist they admire most and the preferences are much more scattered.

Reflecting the myriad choices news consumers have today, the top 10 journalists named by the public are drawn from the networks, cable news channels, public television and even Comedy Central.

In another sign of the times, the internet was a major source of news about the recent downturn in the stock market. One-in-five Americans who were paying at least some attention to the stock market news say they first heard about the drop in stocks by going online.

View charts at the Pew Research Center Web site:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/425/top-journalists-less-widely-admired-than-20-years-ago>

View the full report at the Pew Research Center for People and the Press Web site:

<http://people-press.org/reports/display.php3?ReportID=309>

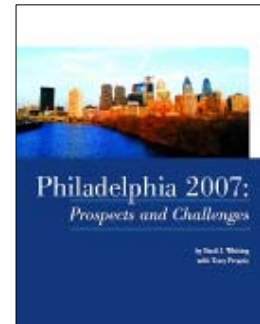
PHILADELPHIA 2007: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

by Basil J. Whiting with Tony Proscio

Pew February 2007

A study released by The Pew Charitable Trusts, entitled Philadelphia 2007: Prospects and Challenges, evaluates Philadelphia's strengths and weaknesses relative to six comparable American cities: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Cleveland, Detroit and Pittsburgh.

The Pew-commissioned study, written by Basil J. Whiting with Tony Proscio, defines the factors that are working for and against these cities and identifies issues that most affect their future trajectories.



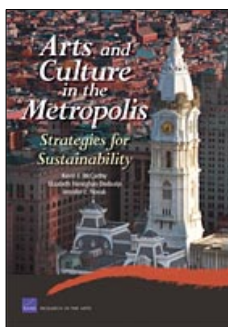
http://www.pewtrusts.com/ideas/ideas_item.cfm?content_item_id=3997&content_type_id=17&issue_name=Civic%20initiatives&issue=41&page=17&name=Pew%2Dproduced%20Publications

RAND

ARTS AND CULTURE IN THE METROPOLIS: STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

By: Kevin F. McCarthy, Elizabeth Heneghan Ondaatje, Jennifer L. Novak

RAND, March 2007



The nonprofit arts currently face an environment that challenges the way the arts have grown and raises the prospect of future consolidation.

Cognizant of these problems, William Penn Foundation and the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance asked RAND to examine the condition of Philadelphia's arts and culture sector and recommend actions to ensure its sustainability. The authors identify the sources and characteristics of this new environment and describe the ways local arts communities are responding to the challenges confronting them. In the course of their analysis of eleven metropolitan regions, including Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Minneapolis,

Philadelphia, Phoenix, and Pittsburgh, they introduce two novel ways of examining the local arts sector. First, they focus on the relationship among the three components of communities'

“arts ecology”: their arts infrastructures; the support systems upon which the arts depend; and the socio-demographic, economic, and the political environment in which they operate. Second, they create a new framework for describing and evaluating the range of support services that communities provide to their arts sectors. They then use this framework to analyze the components of Philadelphia’s arts ecology and assess its specific strengths and weaknesses.

Full Document: http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2007/RAND_MG477.pdf

Summary Only: http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2007/RAND_MG477.sum.pdf

LEADING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH: STRATEGIES AND OPTIONS FOR ACHIEVING SUCCESS

**By: Elizabeth D. Brown, John D. Graham
RAND, March 2007**

The authors examine some of the key strategies past presidents have used to lead the departments and agencies of the Executive Branch. Although centralizing power among the White House staff became the preferred alternative during the 20th century, the authors argue that this strategy insulates the president from valuable knowledge and experience in the departments and agencies. This shortcoming, combined with the unchecked proliferation of departments and agencies, has made it difficult for the president to develop meaningful, trusting relationships with each cabinet member. A comprehensive reorganization, such as the one recommended in 2003 by the National Commission on the Public Service (also known as the Volcker Commission), could redress some of the inherent limitations of centralizing power in the White House. Reducing the number of cabinet secretaries, for instance, could improve the chances that these secretaries will develop more effective, direct and hands-on relationships with future presidents. Missing from the case for comprehensive reorganization, however, is a systematic study of cabinet agency performance. Before launching into large-scale reorganization, a careful inquiry should be undertaken of the successes and failures of the largest cabinet agencies: the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security.



Full Document: http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2007/RAND_OP181.pdf

Summary Only: http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2007/RAND_OP181.sum.pdf

BREAKING GROUND: ANALYSIS OF THE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM AND IMPACT OF MEXICO'S TEACHER INCENTIVE PROGRAM "CARRERA MAGISTERIAL"

**By: Lucrecia Santibanez, Jose Felipe Martinez, et al.
RAND, February 2007**

Mexico’s Carrera Magisterial is one of the pioneer teacher incentive programs in the world. It was instituted in 1992 and designed jointly by the federal education authorities, state authorities, and the teachers’ union as a horizontal promotion system that rewards teachers with salary bonuses on the basis of their performance. Teacher performance is evaluated through a series of



assessments, including teacher and student tests. The program has never been formally and independently evaluated even though it encompasses hundreds of thousands of teachers and is responsible for allocating millions of dollars in salary bonuses every year. The Mexican Ministry of Education (Secretaría de Educación Pública) posed the question: How can Carrera Magisterial be reformed to help it increase educational quality in Mexico? This monograph presents the results from the work addressing this question. While Breaking Ground (an English translation of *Haciendo camino: Análisis del sistema de evaluación y del impacto del programa de estímulos docentes Carrera Magisterial en México*, MG-471/1-EDU, 2006) is concerned specifically with evaluating Carrera Magisterial's system of teacher evaluation and is thus of particular interest to education policymakers at Mexico's Ministry of Education, it also offers general insights regarding teacher incentives and assessments that may serve to inform a broad audience of policymakers, educators, and the general public interested in the field of teacher reform.

Full Document: http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2007/RAND_TR458.pdf

Summary Only: http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2007/RAND_TR458.sum.pdf

ARTICLES FROM U.S. JOURNALS

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U.S. STUDENTS USE VACATIONS TO VOLUNTEER IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Alternative spring break programs popular in United States, abroad

By Carolee Walker, USINFO Staff Write

U.S. Department of State, 19 March 2007

A student volunteer plays soccer with a local child in Ghana. (Cross-Cultural Solutions)Washington – Although many university students in the United States use their spring break to soak up the sun on the beach or catch up on school work, more and more are using their brief time off campus to do the world some good.

Alternative spring breaks, known as ASBs, are programs that place students in needy communities to perform volunteer community service. They take on a wide variety of challenges, from helping neighborhoods ravaged by natural disasters rebuild homes, to tutoring migrant farm workers, to working in homeless shelters. Other ASB programs send students abroad on projects such as working in wildlife conservation or helping communities devastated by HIV/AIDS or poverty.

“More and more students, and even working professionals, want to participate in a short-term project that has a clear beginning and an achievable end so that they can contribute to something useful and important in one week,” says Kam Santos of Cross-Cultural Solutions, an international nongovernmental organization (NGO) that places students in popular one-week ASBs in Brazil, Russia, Costa Rica, Peru and Guatemala.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=March&x=20070319121035bcreklaw0.9446375>

**INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS SET FOR U.S. BASKETBALL'S "MARCH MADNESS"
Virginia Commonwealth University's Cameroon duo ready for NCAA tournament**

By Tim Receveur, *USINFO* Staff Writer

U.S. Department of State, 20 March 2007

Franck Ndongo looks for an opening against Georgia State in Richmond, Virginia, on March 3. (VCU Photo/Scott Brown) Washington – Every March, 65 of the best teams across America compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men's Division I basketball tournament. The three-week event is commonly known as "March Madness" because of the frenzy the tournament ignites among sports fans and others.

The semifinal matches -- known popularly as the "Final Four" -- as well as the championship game are among the United States' most publicized sporting events. The 2007 Final Four will be played on March 31 and the final on April 2 in Atlanta.

In 2006, more than 70 million people watched the opening rounds of the NCAA tournament on television, according to CBS. The Internet version called "March Madness on Demand" generated 19 million video streams and drew 5 million visits in 2006, making it one of the largest live Internet events in history.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=March&x=20070312135337btruevecer0.8738214>

WHAT IRAQ TELLS US ABOUT OURSELVES

Lang, Col. W. Patrick Jr.

***Foreign Policy* Web Exclusive, Posted February 2007. AA07077**

Summary: Colonel W. Patrick Lang Jr., a retired Army colonel and member of the Senior Executive Service, who served with the Special Forces in Vietnam, as an Arabic professor at West Point, and as chief defense intelligence officer for the Middle East, presents the provocative argument that the true root of the problem in Iraq is the perception of foreigners held by most Americans, who "mistakenly believe that when we say that 'all men are created equal,' it means that all people are the same." He criticizes U.S. foreign policy as tending to be "predicated on the notion that everyone wants to be an American" and contends that we "invaded an imaginary Iraq that fit into our vision of the world. We invaded Iraq in the sure belief that inside every Iraqi there was an American trying to get out. In our dream version of Iraq, we would be greeted as not only liberators from the tyrant, but more importantly, from the old ways." It is vital that we learn to "deal with alien peoples on their own terms, and within their own traditions" if we are to avoid another such catastrophe. Currently available online at

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=3734&print=1 [PUBS;RH]

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