



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

## INSIDE

### U.S. Embassy Donates Books to Ethiopian Educational Institutions and Libraries

[U.S. Embassy, Addis Ababa] – United States Ambassador to Ethiopia, Donald Yamamoto, today presented over 30,000 American textbooks to universities, libraries, and other educational institutions and libraries throughout Ethiopia. Donated by the Brother’s Brother Foundation (BBF) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the books are new and are the same books in use in universities and high schools across the United States. The subjects of these textbooks are mainly medicine, information technology, busi-



Ambassador Yamamoto handing over the donation document to Ato Abdissa Desalegn, Head Librarian at Public Service College in Oromia.

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### U.S. Ambassador, Commandant Open New English Language Computer Laboratory at Staff College

Wednesday, November 14, 2007 (U.S. Embassy) – United States Ambassador to Ethiopia Donald Yamamoto and Commandant Brigadier General Migbe Haile today inaugurated a new English language computer lab at the Ethiopian Defense Command and Staff College.

A grant from the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Department of State funded this computer lab and two related audio facilities in Awash Arba.



Ambassador Yamamoto (Left) and Brigadier General Migbe Haile talk with English teacher Mr. Waleign Tilahun and academic Dean Mr. Dereje Getachew in the new computer lab.

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## General Ward Outlines Vision for AFRICOM to Journalists at African Union Press Event

The United States Mission to the African Union hosted a visit by General William E. "Kip" Ward, Commander of U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) November 8-10. On his first trip to Africa in his new role as USAFRICOM Commander, General Ward met with African Union leaders including Commission Chairperson Konare. At a press conference at the African Union on November 8, General Ward elaborated his vision for AFRICOM. "We must create a command that allows the Department of Defense, for the first time, to organize all of its activi-

ties in Africa under one command, allowing one commander – me – and my staff to focus entirely on all of the important activities, pro-



*General Ward engaged in Q & A with journalists*

grams, and exercises we undertake in our military cooperation efforts here in Africa." General Ward stressed US AFRICOM's intent to build mutual trust, respect and confidence with partners on the continent through sustained engagement to increase security capacity. He emphasized that AFRICOM will not change the way U.S. foreign policy on Africa is made. Instead, AFRICOM will build on and make more efficient, support for the United States' ongoing activities with partners in Africa.♦

## American Chamber Music Group, "Trio Chicago and Friends," Begins Concert Tour in Ethiopia

**U.S. Embassy, Addis Ababa** – Returning to Ethiopia for a fourth concert tour, "Trio Chicago and Friends" arrived in Addis Ababa on November 14 to launch their latest concert tour of Addis Ababa and Gondar. As United States "Cultural Ambassadors," the five American musicians will perform concerts at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence, the Addis Ababa Municipal Theatre, Gondar University, the Fasilidas Palace in Gondar, and conduct a master class for student musicians at the Yared Music School.

The group performed in Ethiopia in 2003, 2004, and 2005 performing the first-ever live concert by any Western musical group in Jimma. On previous visits, they also performed in Mekelle, Bahir Dar, Adama, and Awassa. Their concerts of American and Western classical music have also been enjoyed by audiences in Mali, Uganda, and Zambia, as well as Turkey, Vietnam, Laos, China, Venezuela,

Cuba, and Belize, as well as many concerts throughout the United States. Whether playing in concert halls, soccer stadiums, sports fields, or school auditoriums, Trio Chicago and Friends represent the best of American culture through a universal language understood by all – the language of music.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer recently recognized Trio Chicago and Friends for their "exceptional contributions and services to Cultural Diplomacy in Africa." Senator Barack Obama also hailed their contributions to international understanding when he wrote, "As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, it is crucial that

America show its best face to the world and Trio Chicago and Friends has exemplified what it means to be an ambassador."

The five American "Cultural Ambassadors" arrived in Addis Ababa from Jordan, where they just completed a successful concert tour, and will return to the United States at the conclusion of their program.♦



*Trio Chicago performing their concert at the Addis Ababa Municipality Theatre Hall, November 15, 2007.*

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## U.S. Embassy Donates Books to Ethiopian Educational Institutions . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

ness management, the sciences, art and literature, and English. Speaking at a press conference at the U.S. Embassy attended by representatives of the nine universities receiving the books, Ambassador Yamamoto said, "In this year of the Ethiopian Millennium, the U.S. government and the American people are making a special effort to support education at all levels in Ethiopia. For the youth of this country, education is more important than ever in enabling them to face the challenges of development and integration into the global economy and we are pleased to support that effort. These books provided by Brother's Brother Foundation symbolize the people to people connections that make the Ethiopian-American relationship so strong and it is one that will only grow stronger with the next generation in the new Millennium."

The nine colleges and universities receiving books are the Public Ser-

vice College of Oromia, the PAN Abyssinian College, the Universal Medical College, CPU College, Admas University College, Queens College, Bethel Medical College, Atlanta College, and Medco Bio-Medical College. BBF provided these books at the request of the receiving institutions and the shipment to Ethiopia was funded by USAID.

BBF is a non-profit organization that provides books, food, medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, and other humanitarian assistance around the world. Since its founding in 1958, it has provided over 58 million books to more than 25 million students in over 50,000 academic institutions throughout the globe. It is the largest distributor of privately-donated books in the world.♦



*Sample display of books at the donation ceremony.*

## U.S. Ambassador, Commandant Open New English Language . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

These three facilities provide state-of-the-art English language learning environments for the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF). As Ambassador Yamamoto noted at the dedication ceremony, "These learning tools will strengthen the ENDF's capacity to continue its significant contributions to multilateral coalition efforts, such as UN peacekeeping."

The new English language computer lab at the Defense Command

and Staff College, worth \$300,000 (2.7 million Birr) with its Awash Arba affiliates, features the latest language instruction software from the United States Defense Language Institute in San Antonio, Texas, and will allow students to learn English through an interactive, step-by-step method.

Ethiopians at the Defense Command and Staff College received training on how to operate, maintain, disassemble and reassemble the laboratories to ensure sustainable operation now that the coop-

erative installation is complete.

The new facilities complement three other facilities installed in cooperation with the U.S. government in 2002 at the Defense Engineering College in Debre Zeit

At the dedication ceremony, Ambassador Yamamoto praised the Computer Lab as another facet of the United States' positive and growing bilateral relationship with Ethiopia.♦



# HIV/AIDS Health Service Center Inaugurated in Bishoftu Public Hospital, Oromiya

*CDC-Ethiopia and ICAP inaugurate an ART Clinic fully renovated with PEPFAR Funds*

Bishoftu, Oromiya – After extensive renovations funded by the United States Government, a new Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) clinic is now providing services at the Bishoftu Public Hospital in Bishoftu, Oromiya Region. Operating in partnership with the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP), the Bishoftu Hospital is one of the 42 Hospitals being supported by ICAP Ethiopia to address the multi-faceted problems of HIV/AIDS in the region. The activities of the Bishoftu Clinic include the Voluntary Counseling & Testing (VCT), Provider Initiated HIV Counseling and Testing (PIHCT), Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT), Care and Treatment of TB/HIV co-infections, Basic Palliative Care Services, ART (Anti Retroviral Therapy) and Infection Prevention and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP).

The US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Ms. Deborah Malac, inaugurated the new clinic with H.E. Ato Muktar Kedir, Vice President of Oromiyaa National Regional State and chairman of the Oromiya Region HIV/AIDS Prevention & Control Board. In addition, several other prominent officials participated in the ceremony: Professor Lee Goldman, Executive Vice-President of Health & Medical Sciences at Columbia University and Dean of the Faculties' of Health Sciences and Medicine; Professor Wafaa El-Sadr, Director of Columbia University's

International Center for HIV Care and Treatment Programs; Country Directors of CDC – Ethiopia and ICAP – Ethiopia; and prominent dignitaries from the Oromiya Regional Health Bureau, Federal Ministry of Health, Federal HIV AIDS Prevention and Control Office, CDC,

of encouraging results have been demonstrated. The Bishoftu ART Clinic is now providing services to a total of over 3200 patients, of whom 2479 are in the pre-ART stage. The rest are enrolled in ART programs. This newly-renovated facility will further strengthen those



*The Medical Director at Bishoftu hospital shows the before and after pictures of the health center.*

services and make them more accessible to the residents of Bishoftu and its vicinity, which are estimated to reach 1 million people. The renovation of the Clinic includes the complete reconstruction of walls and roofs; merging/split of rooms for operational convenience; reconstruction of rooms for toilet, laboratory, TB/HIV, ART, pharmacy, and waiting area; cleaning and landscaping; as well as furnishing with new furniture and medical equipment.

USAID, PEPFAR's implementing Partners, and officials from the Bishoftu Town Municipality.

This ART Clinic was fully renovated by ICAP-Ethiopia with the funds obtained from President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Center for Disease Control (CDC – Ethiopia). ICAP-Ethiopia is supporting the hospital to provide comprehensive family focused quality HIV/AIDS services through capacity building (both human resources & infrastructure), system strengthening and service strengthening.

Since PEPFAR began supporting the Bishoftu Hospital in 2005, a number

The Bishoftu ART Clinic renovation was made possible through the cooperation and support of the Ethiopian Government and the Oromia Health Bureau with PEPFAR and HAPCO, as well as with the PEPFAR's implementing agencies, CDC Ethiopia and ICAP Ethiopia.

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is the largest commitment ever by any nation for an international health initiative dedicated to a single disease – a five-year, \$15 billion, multifaceted approach to combating HIV/AIDS around the world through programs to prevent HIV infection, and provide comprehensive care and treat-

*(Continued on page 6)*

## HIV/AIDS Health Service Center Inaugurated in Air Force Referral Hospital, Oromiya

### *CDC-Ethiopia and UCSD Inaugurate a VCT and ART Center Fully Renovated with PEPFAR Funds*

Bishoftu, **Oromiya** – With the support of the United States Government and the American people, a Voluntary Counseling & Testing (VCT) and ART (Anti Retroviral Therapy) Center has been opened at the Ethiopian Air Force Hospital in Bishoftu, Oromiya Region. Operating in partnership with the University of California San Diego (UCSD), the Center was fully renovated and equipped through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC – Ethiopia). The US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Ms. Deborah Malac, inaugurated the new facility along with representatives from the National Ministry of Defense, the Country Directors of CDC-Ethiopia, and representatives of UCSD.

Extensive structural improvement works and provision of laboratory equipment and furniture were initiated in December 2006. Today the newly renovated hospital provides ART (Anti Retroviral Therapy), VCT (Voluntary Counseling & Testing), PMTCT (Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission), TB/HIV collaborative activities, PIHTC (Provider Initiated HIV Testing and Counseling) and Palliative Care services for the Ethiopian Air Force members, their dependants, and retired members, as well as to civilians in the town. Presently, 359 patients are receiving

Anti Retroviral Therapy and Voluntary Counseling and Testing has been provided to 5,950 clients. In addition, 180 pregnant women have been tested for HIV and 21 of them have taken PMTCT treatment.



*Deputy Chief of Mission Deborah Malac cuts the ribbon at the Air Force Hospital*

Future plans for the center focus on strengthening the center's palliative care, TB/HIV and its STI services. Moreover the UCSD extension plan will incorporate the initiation of its VCT activities in the Dire Dewa, Bahir Dar and Mekelle Air Forces bases.

The Air Force VCT and ART Center is one of many examples of the close cooperation between the Ethiopian and American governments in combating HIV/AIDS through both prevention and treatment. The National Defense Forces of Ethiopia is one of the uniformed service partners to UCSD; the Air Force Hospital is one of the 10 ART (Anti Retroviral Therapy) sites that

give comprehensive HIV/AIDS related services in the National Defense Forces of Ethiopia. The hospital is the referral center for air force health facilities which are located at different parts of the country.

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Ethiopia is one of PEPFAR's 15 focus countries, which collectively represent 50 percent of HIV infections worldwide. Under the Emergency Plan, Ethiopia received more than \$48 million in FY2004, more than \$83.7 million in FY 2005, and approximately \$123 million in FY2006 to support a comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care program. In FY 2007, the United States Government (USG) has pledged more than 241.8 million to support Ethiopia's fight against HIV/AIDS.♦

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## U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa Announces New Automated Process for Applying for Nonimmigrant Visas.

The new procedures, which go into effect November 15, 2007, include an Internet-based Electronic Visa Application Form (EVAF) and a new Internet-based visa appointment system

### Electronic Visa Application Form

**(EVAF):** The Embassy's consular staff anticipate the new EVAF will make the non-immigrant visa application process easier and more efficient. As of November 15, 2007, all non-immigrant visa applicants must now complete the internet-based Electronic Visa Application Form (EVAF), in English. The U.S. Department of State established this requirement worldwide to improve efficiency and customer service. The U.S. Embassy will not charge any additional fees for using the EVAF. Applicants can fill out their applications on any Internet-connected computer. The EVAF provides increased uniformity, accuracy and security in processing visa applications. The EVAF application is available on the internet at:

<http://evisaforms.state.gov> Instructions on how to fill out the form are available at: [http://addisababa.usembassy.gov/how\\_to\\_apply\\_for\\_niv.html](http://addisababa.usembassy.gov/how_to_apply_for_niv.html)

The EVAF process produces a three-page printed form that incorporates the applicant's biographical data into an electronic barcode system. The barcode allows consular staff to quickly input the applicant's information into the computer system, saving time since no data-



*Journalists listen to the presentation by consular officers.*

entry is required. Applicants are required to print out the completed three-page EVAF form and their non-immigrant visa appointment sheet from the internet. Applicants must bring both their completed EVAF form and visa appointment sheet to the Bank of Abyssinia with their passport when they pay the application fee.

### Internet-based Visa Appointment

**System:** In addition to the EVAF application, beginning November 15, 2007, applicants for nonimmigrant visas will be required to book

appointments for visa interviews on the Embassy's new Internet-based appointment system. After completing the EVAF, applicants will go to the Embassy's website at: [http://addisababa.usembassy.gov/how\\_to\\_apply\\_for\\_niv.html](http://addisababa.usembassy.gov/how_to_apply_for_niv.html) to complete visa appointment. After selecting "Make an Appointment," applicants will select a date and time to interview for their visas, and enter the barcode number from their EVAF sheet. Applicants will print out a confirmation of appointment sheet, which they will take with them to the Bank of Abyssinia, along with their passport and EVAF. At the bank they will pay the non-refundable application fee

(\$100 or equivalent in Birr), and submit the EVAF. Bank staff will review the EVAF for completeness, examine the passport and the appointment confirmation sheet, and collect the fee. Complete information about how to apply for a non-immigrant visa are available on the Embassy's website at:

[http://addisababa.usembassy.gov/how\\_to\\_apply\\_for\\_niv.html](http://addisababa.usembassy.gov/how_to_apply_for_niv.html)◆

## HIV/AIDS Health Service Center Inaugurated in Bishoftu . . .

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## Dr. Mekonen Haddis Discusses Democracy, Ethics and Good Governance at St. Mary's University College

U.S. scholar and poet, Dr. Mekonen Haddis, spoke to over 90 law students and faculty at St. Mary's University College on November 8 on "Governance, Ethics and Democracy." Speaking in Amharic, he spoke of the requirements for the creation of a democratic society. Following the talk students asked insightful questions about how Ethiopia could use these concepts to create a federal democracy. This lecture is a continuation of a lecture series begun in December 2006 with Dr. Mekonen's lecture to St. Mary's University College students on "Democracy in a Multi-Ethnic Society." ♦



*One of the attendees asking a question*

## New Generation Students Challenge U.S. Scholar Dr. Mekonen Haddis

Dr. Mekonen Haddis, U.S. scholar, poet and consultant, spoke to global affairs students and instructors of New Generation University College on November 13 on the topic of "Ethics, Governance and Democracy." Speaking in English to the student group, which also included international students, he focused on the American contribution to the process of democracy and good governance and called upon the students to develop processes which would work in Ethiopia. Students asked challenging questions regarding how to cope with ethnic diversity in a democracy. Dr. Mekonen discussed how the con-

cept of shared values contributed to the creation of an American identity and suggested that the same procedure could work in Ethiopia.

The students, instructors and Dr. Mekonen had a lively debate on the position of the United States in

global politics and the influence of the United States on the development of Ethiopian democracy. Students also questioned American foreign policy, the war on terrorism and HR 2003. Dr. Mekonen referred his basic requirements for a democracy, which included the importance for each country to know its own national interest and act upon it. ♦



*Students listening to Dr. Mekonen speak.*

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## Seminar Explores Responsible Reporting on National Security Topics

With the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS), PAS Addis Ababa co-hosted a seminar on "Media and Security" on November 7. The two-hour seminar for journalists and ACSS members featured a presentation on media-military relations in democracies by Cliff Bernath, a former Pentagon Public Affairs Officer. In addition to discussing techniques for successful press interviews, Mr. Bernath addressed the

rights and responsibilities of media and individual journalists. He talked about the influence of media on public opinion and vice versa, citing the United States debate surrounding the Vietnam War. As a former soldier, journalist and government spokesperson, Mr. Bernath was able to tackle from various angles the balance between information sharing and protecting national security. Following the presentation,

discussion touched on topics such as how the media-government relationship changes in times of war and government and media roles in educating the public about national interests. ♦

## East Africa Conference on Integrated Development Urges Cooperation to Overcome Challenges of Population Growth

Along with His Excellency President Girma Woldegiorgis, state ministers, and visiting experts, Ambassador Yamamoto spoke at the opening of the conference "Population, Health and the Environment: Integrated Development for East Africa" at the United Nations Conference Center in Addis Ababa on November 14, 2007. Ambassador Yamamoto's brief remarks addressed rapid population growth and its effects on biodiversity. He stressed that these challenges are manmade and man must work to solve them. Ambassador Yamamoto called for cooperation to address the challenges of population growth and environmental degradation and to ensure sustainable economic development, job creation and prosperity.

The conference, sponsored in part by USAID, brought together experts from 24 countries around the world to share ideas and create solutions on integrating population, health and environment development for East Africa. The conference focused on the interconnectedness between people and their environment and on cross-sectoral collabora-

tion and coordination. Although the conference placed particular emphasis on the population, health, and environment sectors, its underlying philosophy was one of integration, leaving room to accommodate other sectors, such as agriculture and education, and be successfully applied to achieve a range of development goals, from poverty reduction to food security to gender equity.

USAID Mission Director Glenn Anders captured the importance of integration in his remarks to close the conference on November 16. He said, "Integrated programs touch more lives, improve program efficiency, and strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration. We see better, measurable results from an integrated approach and that is something we certainly all want." ♦



*Ambassador Yamamoto and other panel members open the conference.*



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## Economic Progress in Africa Focus of Secretary Paulson's Trip

*By Charles W. Corey  
USINFO Staff Writer*

**Washington** -- Economic progress in Tanzania, South Africa and Ghana -- including infrastructure development and job creation -- will be the focus of U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr.'s trip to the emerging market countries November 13-19.

While in Africa, the Treasury secretary also will deliver a major address to the Corporate Council on Africa's U.S.-Africa Business Summit in Cape Town, South Africa, and attend a G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors, according to Ahmed Saeed, deputy assistant secretary of the treasury for Africa and the Middle East.

Briefing reporters on Paulson's trip November 9 at the U.S. Foreign Press Center in Washington, Saeed identified Tanzania, South Africa and Ghana as places where "sound governance and good economic policies have, over the last half decade and longer, had profound positive economic consequences."

All three countries are enjoying "robust track records" of economic growth dating back at least five years, he explained. After implementing positive economic reforms, they exemplify the "good financial and economic news stories that are now emerging from Africa," he said.

There are parts of Africa, Saeed said, "where there has been real

poverty alleviation -- particularly in those countries [Tanzania, South Africa and Ghana] that have done the right thing when it comes to economic policy."

Along with the good news on Tanzania, South Africa and Ghana, he cautioned that there are still "numerous challenges" in today's Africa that "we all know" and of which we must remain aware.



*Women individually manufacture automobile parts in a South African factory. (USAID)*

Saeed said the continent is seeing its "highest growth rates and the lowest inflation levels in 30 years." The growth in economic policy management "seems to be quite widespread," he said, with 23 of 48 countries seeing record high growth levels that seem to be trickling down.

"The last four years we have seen average per capita income growth of 3.8 percent, and ... the [International Monetary Fund] is projecting 4 percent per capita income growth for this year," he added.

While in Africa, Paulson is expected to talk about issues that are directly related to economic and financial performance. "He is going to talk about the critical role played by infrastructure ... the importance of having a sound and robust financial structure" and of spreading the benefits of growth and sustainable development, Saeed said.

While in Tanzania, Saeed said, Paulson is expected to travel to a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) farm outside Arusha that is a sustainable community focused on land conservation. He also will hold talks with the Tanzanian finance minister that will include discussion of a \$698 million Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact that Tanzania is expected to sign with the United States early next year, Saeed said.

Before leaving Tanzania, Paulson also is expected to meet with East African Community (EAC) finance ministers from Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and Kenya to talk about regional capital market integration and how that could foster further economic development across the region. Paulson also will visit the A to Z Textiles mosquito net factory, which is generating jobs and participating in President Bush's anti-malaria initiative for Africa.

In South Africa, Paulson will be the keynote speaker at the Corporate Council on Africa's U.S.-Africa Business Summit in Cape Town. While in that country, he also will meet with local bankers, participate in a G20 meeting and visit the

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## U.S. Ship To Host Multinational Experts off African Coast

*By Jacquelyn S. Porth*  
*USINFO Staff Writer*

**Washington** -- The USS Fort McHenry arrived off the coast of West Africa in November to lead an international team of experts that will train African sailors to confront the daily challenges of illegal fishing, piracy, drug trafficking and oil smuggling.

The amphibious ship is the centerpiece of the new Africa Partnership

mon goals through partnership and collaboration," he said.

The Fort McHenry's commanding officer, Commander Martin Pompeo, said his crew and partners will work "together to help the western side of Africa ... prosper."

The West Africa program is modeled on a successfully completed Global Fleet Station mission in the Caribbean that helped promote port security and stronger borders in Be-

list with specialists from France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain and officers from Nigeria, Cameroon and Ghana. Denmark, Italy and Portugal are also providing military staff support.

The training teams will be working together to form what Admiral Henry "Harry" Ulrich has described as "a center of excellence" that will provide customized training. Ulrich, who heads the U.S. naval forces in Europe, says primary emphasis will be on the following maritime concerns:

-- Domain awareness: Can you see what is out there?

-- Professionalism: Do you have the right people to support maritime security and safety?

-- Infrastructure: Is there the right mix of equipment and training to support it?

-- Enforcement: Are trained professionals ready to intervene if needed?

Ulrich said the idea is to import the best practices used elsewhere and set up "a system of systems" so that Africans will have the full range of skills "to patrol and maintain their own exclusive economic zones."

The initiative is supported by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the U.S. departments of State and Homeland Security.

African students will be ferried between their home ports and the Fort

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*USS Fort McHenry arrives in Senegal for onboard maritime security training during a seven-month deployment to the region. (U.S. Navy)*

Station (APS) initiative. During its seven-month deployment, it will serve as a floating platform in the strategically important Gulf of Guinea, where it will promote regional maritime safety and security.

The APS task group commander, Captain John Nowell, said the Fort McHenry can be used as a base "to bring together many nations" to achieve a shared vision through joint engagement. The floating school "will help us achieve com-

mon goals through partnership and collaboration," he said.

The vessel will make numerous port visits, beginning with Senegal, where it will conduct engineering training and focus on small boat handling for coastal security organizations. Additional stops are scheduled in Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, and Sao Tome and Principe. En route to the region, the Fort McHenry augmented its passenger

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## Presidential Proclamation on World Freedom Day, 2007

**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**Office of the Press Secretary**  
(San Antonio, Texas)  
November 8, 2007

### World Freedom Day, 2007

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### *A Proclamation*

On World Freedom Day, we commemorate the fall of the Berlin Wall and reaffirm our conviction that freedom is the inalienable right of every man, woman, and child.

On November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall fell -- a triumph of freedom over those who denied hope and opportunity to millions. The collapse of this barrier signaled the demise of the Soviet empire and ushered in

a new era of liberty for much of Central and Eastern Europe. In the end, tyranny was overpowered by ordinary people who wanted to live their lives freely, worship God freely, and speak the truth to their children. With moral clarity and courage, brave individuals can change the course of history.

Our Nation remains committed to the advance of freedom and democracy as the great alternatives to repression and radicalism. America calls on every country that stifles dissent to end its repression, to trust its people, and to grant its citizens the liberty they deserve.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United

States, do hereby proclaim November 9, 2007, as World Freedom Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, reaffirming our dedication to freedom and democracy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

GEORGE W. BUSH

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)*◆

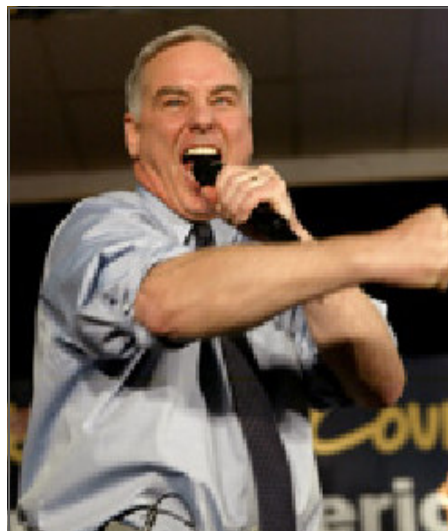
## Front-Running Presidential Candidates Face High Expectations

*By Eric Green*  
*USINFO Staff Writer*

**Washington** -- Front-runners in the race for U.S. president face a paradox: the advantage in leading their competitors might also be a disadvantage.

As Republican consultant Craig Shirley told USINFO, the inherent danger for presidential front-runners is that the "higher up the flagpole the candidate gets, the more people can see your backside."

Shirley, who heads the Virginia-based Shirley and Banister Public Affairs consulting firm, told USINFO that presidential front-runners enjoy



*Howard Dean, a Democratic presidential hopeful in 2004, yells after learning he had placed third in the Iowa caucuses.*  
*(AP Images)*

more media attention and attract more campaign contributions and volunteers "because people naturally gravitate toward winners."

Shirley said the downside, however, is that more people "take potshots at you." Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton, he said, is "finding that out right now," as is Rudy Giuliani, the Republican leader in most public opinion polls.

"The increased scrutiny of a candidate" offers the increased chance for "potential embarrassment," said Shirley.

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## Front-Running Presidential Candidates Face High . . .

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Shirley said the "marketplace" determines the front-runners, which comes in the form of financial contributions, the candidate's position in the polls, the amount of support the candidate receives from interest groups and the extent of media coverage.

Leading the presidential race "obviously helps in fundraising because so much money is driven by name identification" and from being the front-runner, said Shirley.

Lower-rung candidates have a much more difficult time raising money, drawing crowds and getting media attention, he said. This results, he said, in the circular reasoning that voters say they cannot support such candidates "because nobody's supporting them."

### HOWARD DEAN'S "SCREAM"

Democratic consultant Tony Welch told USINFO that presidential front-runners must stay wary of media who "become all too interested in knocking" the leaders from their "perch."

Welch, from the Dewey Square Group in Washington, said a prime example of a front-runner experiencing free fall occurred in 2004 when Democrat Howard Dean uttered what was considered a primal scream after he finished third in the Iowa caucuses to Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, the Democratic Party's eventual nominee, and the second-place finisher, John Edwards.

Following that incident, said Welch, the media "literally picked" Dean apart, despite the fact he long had

been considered the national front-runner for the party's nomination.

"We'll never know" if that scream ended Dean's presidential hopes, said Welch, a former newspaper reporter in Florida. Welch said much of the former Vermont governor's demise can be attributed to how media outlets repeatedly aired the "Dean Scream."

Welch, also a former press secretary for the Democratic National Committee, said Dean's candidacy might have achieved success if, in fact, he had been running from behind. Under that scenario, Dean might have "weathered the storm better" with less attention paid to his mistakes, said Welch.

### GEORGE ALLEN'S SLUR

Fritz Wenzel, director of communications for the Zogby International public opinion polling firm in Washington, told USINFO that the advantage for presidential front-runners is that their strengths are "magnified," but that any weaknesses also are magnified with such Internet Web sites as YouTube, Dailymotion, and Google Video repeatedly showing the candidate's faux pas.

Wenzel said, however, that American voters "always give a candidate the benefit of the doubt because they know everyone makes mistakes." He added that it is how the candidate "responds to the mistakes" that "makes or breaks you."

He pointed, for example, to incumbent Virginia Senator George Allen, who uttered in 2006 what was considered a racial slur during his cam-

paigned for re-election against the ultimate winner, Democrat James Webb.

Better handling of that situation probably would have meant that the incident not have been fatal to Allen's political career, said Wenzel.

But Allen's "fumbling around" after he uttered "macaca" showed "much more about his personality



*Following Election Day in 1948, President Harry Truman displays a newspaper that mistakenly announced his defeat. (AP Images)*

and character than the incident itself," said Wenzel.

Wenzel said Clinton is now trying "to backtrack" from a perceived mistake in an October 30 Democratic candidates debate in Pennsylvania. Her attempts to recover, said Wenzel, conjure up the political equivalent of trying to escape from quicksand -- "the first step in getting out of a hole is to stop digging."

### THE TRUMAN-DEWEY RACE

Perhaps the most publicized case in recent American political history of a supposed front-runner losing occurred in the 1948 election between incumbent Democratic President Harry Truman and his Republi-

*(Continued on page 13)*

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## U.S. Ship To Host Multinational Experts off . . .

(Continued from page 10)

McHenry on a high-speed Swift boat. In a port call to Limbe, Cameroon, in December, 100 Cameroonians will embark for a two-week session for leadership and personnel training.

### SHARED VISION THROUGH JOINT ENGAGEMENT

"We're looking forward to working with our partner nations in the Gulf of Guinea, exchanging ideas ... and further strengthening our ties," Nowell said. Passengers also will conduct community outreach by renovating local schools and medical clinics.

David Zimmerman, chief of security cooperation for the U.S. Coast Guard, told USINFO that its training will focus on port security, maritime law enforcement and small boat operations. Expertise in small boat tactics is particularly valuable, he

said, for river and port security and coastal border patrol.

The Coast Guard will be providing a rotating team of four trainers and a staff officer. The continuous presence of the Fort McHenry will allow them, and other trainers, to reinforce what they have taught students with follow-up training.

Lieutenant Commander Peter Niles, a Coast Guard training manager, told USINFO that most of the countries the Fort McHenry is visiting already have an ongoing partnership with the Coast Guard through U.S. security assistance programs.

NOAA will train 30 Ghanaians in the spring to improve scientific data collection and the monitoring of fish catches. The training also will focus on endangered species, such as sea turtles, that should not be caught.

NOAA spokeswoman Monica Allen

told USINFO that her agency has scientific and safety equipment on-board, but the trainers will join the ship in 2008. She said its activities support an important goal of the National Fishery Conservation Act calling on the agency to enhance international fishery cooperation.

USAID's personnel are not sailing with the ship, but will team up when it visits countries where there is a mission, such as Liberia, Senegal and Ghana. USAID plans to hold a bird flu conference in Ghana, and there are tentative plans to donate veterinary lab equipment.

See video ( <http://www.wvec.com/video/military-index.html?nvid=184813> ) of crew from the USS Fort McHenry in training before Gulf of Guinea deployment.

(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

## Front-Running Presidential Candidates Face High . . .

(Continued from page 12)

can challenger, New York Governor Thomas Dewey.

Almost all polls and pundits declared Dewey the easy winner, with an infamous Chicago Daily Tribune headline before the polls closed erroneously pronouncing him the new president.

Shirley attributes Dewey's loss to Dewey running a "terrible campaign," and his premature halt to campaigning when he believed he

would win easily. Meanwhile, Truman campaigned aggressively and convinced the American people that Dewey was part of a Republican-led "do-nothing Congress." Both Shirley and Wenzel said Americans voted for "stability" with Truman instead of "change" as represented by Dewey.

Wenzel says that polling methods in 1948 were far less sophisticated than today, when new technology and daily tracking polls result in much more accurate forecasts. Wenzel indicated the political world

was taken by surprise in 1948 because the final polls, taken several weeks before the election, missed the fast-moving surge in voter sentiment for Truman.

For related stories, see U.S. Elections ( <http://usinfo.state.gov/politics/elections/> ).

(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

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## Record Numbers of U.S. Students Are Studying Abroad

By Jeffrey Thomas  
USINFO Staff Writer

**Washington** -- The number of Americans studying abroad -- which has risen 150 percent in the past decade -- continues to set records, rising 8.5 percent in 2005-2006, according to the Institute of Interna-



*Michigan State University senior Xinh Pham studied in Tanzania in 2006.  
( AP Images)*

tional Education's (IIE) 2007 report on international education exchange.

"The opportunity for more young Americans to study abroad is a goal shared by the president, the secretary of state, and leaders in Congress, industry and academia," IIE President Allan E. Goodman said in issuing the report, *Open Doors 2007*.

A record number of U.S. students studied in other countries during the 2005-2006 academic year, according to *Open Doors 2007*. In 2005-2006, some 223,534 U.S. college students received credit for studying in other countries, an 8.5 per-

cent increase from the 2004-2005 academic year, the report says. In 1995-1996, some 90,000 U.S. students studied abroad.

"A wide range of successful activities sponsored by the U.S. Department of State help U.S. students to gain access to substantive international experience," said Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Karen Hughes, citing as examples the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, the Gilman Scholarships for undergraduates and the new National Security Language Initiative programs focused on language learning.

Hughes expressed special pride in the Gilman scholarships -- named for former House International Relations Committee Chairman Benjamin A. Gilman -- because, "by reaching out to students of more modest means, it has produced truly remarkable gains in the numbers of U.S. citizens from minority communities who now can aspire to the life-changing experience of study abroad."

The National Security Language Initiative (NSLI), which President Bush launched in 2006, is an effort by government agencies to increase dramatically the number of Americans learning critically needed foreign languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Hindi, Persian and others through new and expanded programs from kindergarten through university and into the work force. The NSLI intensive language study scholarships "show America's respect for other cultures ... while demonstrating our commitment to building language skills for our citizens," Hughes said.

The president requested \$114 million in fiscal year 2007 to pay for

the NSLI effort. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/Archive/2006/Jan/06-841144.html> ).)

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said that studying these languages, "expands young people's opportunities, enriches their lives, and demonstrates our respect for other cultures."

The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) funds the annual *Open Doors* study, which is based on a survey by IIE of nearly 3,000 accredited U.S. educational institutions. IIE is a nonprofit educational and cultural exchange organization based in New York City.

IIE reports in *Open Doors 2007* that, while Europe remains the most popular destination for U.S. students, the strongest growth took place in other regions: the Middle East (up 31 percent), Asia (up 26 percent), Africa (up 19 percent) and Latin America (up 14 percent).

Top destinations for U.S. students remained the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, France and Australia. The study found double-digit increases in the number of U.S. students studying in seven of the top 20 destinations, including China (up 38 percent), Costa Rica (up 13 percent), Greece (up 32 percent), Argentina (up 42 percent), Czech Republic (up 14 percent), Brazil (up 17 percent) and Ecuador (up 27 percent).

The study also found noteworthy increases in students studying in India (2,115, up 20 percent), Israel (1,981, up 22.5 percent), Peru (1,135, up 31 percent), South Korea (1,267, up 32 percent), Belgium

*(Continued on page 23)*



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## Foreign Students Enhance Global Outlook at U.S. High School

*By Lauren Monsen*  
*USINFO Staff Writer*

**Washington** -- Every year, high schools across the United States welcome foreign-exchange students into their classrooms, but at Washington International School (WIS), the student body itself is a microcosm of the global community -- and WIS exchange students further enhance the cosmopolitan mix.

An independent, private institution that educates children from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, WIS draws "about 50 percent" of its students from "families that are longtime residents of the Washington area," according to Kate Meenan-Waugh, director of global initiatives and service learning at WIS. The rest of the students mostly are the children of diplomats or World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank officials, she told USINFO.

Students, parents and faculty at WIS represent a total of 99 countries, so the students are accustomed to meeting and interacting with people of different backgrounds, said Meenan-Waugh. WIS also brings in two foreign-exchange students annually, recruited through the American Secondary Schools for International Schools and Teachers (ASSIST) program.

ASSIST, a nonprofit educational and cultural exchange organization, accepts applications from outstanding students all over the world, "and we request students from certain regions that are not usually represented" at WIS, Meenan-Waugh said. For the 2007-2008 academic year, WIS has enrolled foreign-exchange students from Moldova and China.

### INTERPLAY OF CULTURES AND TRADITIONS

WIS exchange students enter the 11th grade when they arrive, and they live with host families whose children attend the school. Typically, the exchange students have not visited the United States before, so their WIS experience is usually their introduction to American life



*Students at Washington International School celebrate Africa Day, with help from visiting Masai tribesmen. (Photo courtesy of WIS)*

and the U.S. education system, Meenan-Waugh said.

"Most of them adjust very well," she said. "They come with a certain eagerness; they're open to new environments and experiences." Because they are academically accomplished and can speak English, "they hit the ground running" once they begin classes at WIS, she observed. The exchange students follow the same curriculum as their WIS peers, and they contribute to the lively interplay of cultures, traditions and ideas for which the school is known.

The foreign-exchange program benefits everyone at WIS, said Meenan-Waugh. Students who have been attending an international school for years "can become very complacent and smug, thinking that

they already know what it means to be from somewhere else," but they inevitably learn a great deal from their new classmates. And exchange students often find that their preconceived notions about the United States -- and about Americans -- are inaccurate.

"One [exchange] student assumed that the math course would be easy because she'd heard that math is not too rigorous" in U.S. schools, Meenan-Waugh recalled. However, the Socratic approach to lessons at WIS -- which involves posing thoughtful questions that help students develop critical thinking skills -- disconcerted the girl "for the first couple of months. But once she got used to it, she loved it."

Because WIS has fewer than 900 students, "our class sizes are relatively small," Meenan-Waugh said. The largest classes generally have no more than 20 students, and some English classes have only four or five students. As a result, students receive plenty of individual attention from teachers, which is a novelty to foreign-exchange students accustomed to crowded, impersonal classrooms, said Meenan-Waugh. WIS exchange students "tell us that they enjoy getting to know their teachers and having close friendships with them. They're surprised to see teachers coaching sports teams and being very involved in the life of the school."

### EDUCATION OF "WELL-ROUNDED INDIVIDUALS"

Many exchange students develop lasting friendships with their peers at WIS and with their host families.

*(Continued on page 22)*

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## International Education Week

**U.S. Department of State  
And U.S. Department of Education**  
November 13-17, 2007

### INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK FACT SHEET

International Education Week (IEW) was first held in 2000 and today, is celebrated in more than 100 countries worldwide. The Departments of State and Education initiated IEW as part of their efforts to move ahead on the issue of implementing U.S. international education policy.

IEW is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This joint annual initiative is part of an effort to promote international understanding and build support for international educational exchange, as well as encourage the development of programs that prepare Americans to live and work in a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study in the United States.

Exchanges are critical in developing mutual understanding and respect, building leadership abroad, fostering

an appreciation for the U.S., and investing in the future relationship between Americans and citizens around the world.

International education prepares U.S. citizens to live, work, and compete in the global economy.

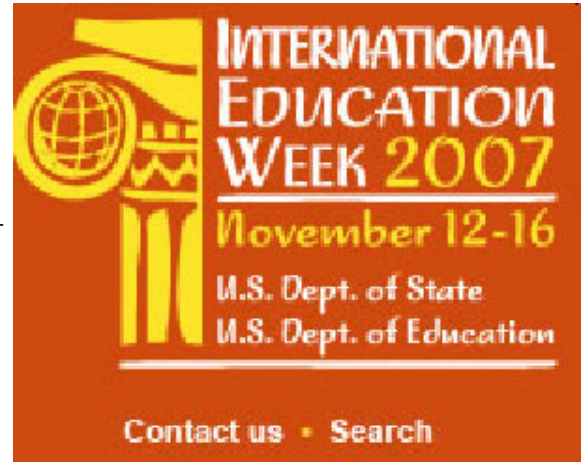
More than 565,000 international students from over 200 countries study in the U.S. each year.

International education is also a vital service industry, bringing more than \$13 billion into our country annually.

88% of American college students believe international education will give them a competitive advantage in the workplace.

Almost 90% of American college students believe having international students on campus enriches their own learning experience.

The more than 32,500 students, scholars and other exchange partici-



pants that the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs supports are in the vanguard of the hundreds of thousands of students and scholars who come to the U.S. each year and the 191,000 Americans who study abroad.

International cooperation on education contributes to education reform and education solutions for the U.S. and for our partner nations.

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)*◆

## Statement on November 6 Terrorist Attack in Afghanistan

**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**Office of the Press Secretary**  
November 6, 2007

### STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The terrorist attack today in Afghanistan is a despicable act of

cowardice and it reminds us who the enemy is – extremists with evil in their hearts who target innocent Muslim men, women and children. The President expresses his sorrow for the grieving families of the victims, and he is committed to working with the Government of Afghanistan and our NATO allies to

fight the terrorists who use murder to advance their hateful ideology.

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)*◆

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## Promoting Human Rights in North Korea Requires Attention, Action

*By Deidra Avendasora*  
*USINFO Staff Writer*

**Washington** -- Advancing the human rights of the North Korean people will require the free nations of the world to continue taking an interest in promoting those rights, says Christian Whiton, the president's deputy special envoy for human rights in North Korea.

In an address to the Transatlantic Institute in Brussels, Belgium, November 6, Whiton catalogued abuses that often go unnoticed by



*South Korean students pass by a picture showing security guards arresting a North Korean asylum seeker in Beijing.*  
*(AP Images)*

the world due to North Korea's isolation and asked countries to support relevant U.N. resolutions, provide assistance to North Korean refugees and support radio broadcasts of accurate information.

"With North Korea," he said, "there is so much attention paid to nuclear issue that often human rights gets only a passing mention. Many people are generally aware that North Korea is a closed-off nation where human rights are abused systemati-

cally. But what exactly are we dealing with?"

Whiton said the latest State Department human rights report documents the fact that the Pyongyang regime engages in extrajudicial killings and is responsible for disappearances and arbitrary detention. "Prisoners in North Korea face life-threatening conditions, torture, forced abortions and infanticide," he said. "There is a complete denial of fair trial, freedom of speech, press, and assembly. The practice of faith and religious belief is suppressed. There is no freedom of movement or emigration. Prisoners are sentenced to death for such ill-defined offenses as 'ideological divergence,' 'opposing socialism,' and 'counterrevolutionary crimes,'" Whiton said.

As many as 200,000 North Koreans are detained in political concentration camps, Whiton said. "Some people are there for no reason other than being related to someone accused of disloyalty. Many of these prisoners are not expected to survive their internment."

According everyone, inalienable human rights "is a worthy end in and of itself," Whiton said, but it also enhances regional security. "Even repressive regimes without stated ambitions of conquest and expansion cause problems for their neighbors. For example, the illegitimate, unelected junta that runs Burma, in addition to creating an economic and humanitarian black hole in the heart of Southeast Asia, has caused a refugee crisis that puts serious strains on its neighbors," he said.

Whiton urged all nations to do more than simply talk about human rights concerns. He encouraged countries

to acknowledge the existence of serious abuses by backing U.N. resolutions that condemn such abuses.

"These resolutions have passed with good margins in years past, and we hope to see support grow again this year," he said.

Whiton also asked neighboring countries, particularly China, to assist North Korean refugees.

"Many thousands of North Koreans have fled to China, especially beginning after a famine in the mid-90s, which is believed to have killed 1-2 million North Koreans," Whiton said. "[The refugees] are unable to appeal to authorities in China and some of the other countries where they are present -- making them susceptible to exploitation, such as being trafficked into servitude, or blackmailed."

Whiton also recommended radio broadcasts as the most promising method for providing accurate information to the people of North Korea.

"Veterans of repressive regimes in Eastern Europe and elsewhere have spoken of the positive effect that accurate information from the free world had on them," he said. "One consequence of the regime's control of information and improbable message is that it takes but a glimpse of the outside world and reality to open eyes to the truth about North Korea."

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)*◆



## U.S. Humanitarian Assistance for Displaced Iraqis

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**Office of the Spokesman**  
November 9, 2007

### FACT SHEET UPDATE

United States Humanitarian Assistance for Displaced Iraqis

The U.S. Government has increased humanitarian assistance for Iraqis from \$43 million in 2006 to almost \$200 million in 2007.

Since 2003, the U.S. Government has been the single largest contributor of humanitarian assistance for Iraqis.

The U.S. Government contributed \$39 million to the \$130 million United Nations Education appeal, which aims to enroll an additional 150,000 Iraqi children in Jordanian and Syrian schools.

Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) Ellen R. Sauerbrey has led efforts increasing support to UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) responding to humanitarian needs of Iraqi refugees in the region.

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) programs support thousands of internally displaced persons (IDP) and other at-risk beneficiaries inside Iraq through activities such as provision of emergency relief supplies, water systems, and infrastructure rehabilitation for host communities, small-scale livelihood activities, and support for mobile medical teams and emergency health.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice appointed Ambassador James Foley as the Senior Coordinator for Iraqi Refugee Issues. He is working with the Iraq Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Task Force, which is chaired by Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky, and other government agencies to continue expanding our response.

### U.S. GOVERNMENT Funding for Humanitarian Assistance – 2007 (in millions)

State Department/Near Eastern Affairs Bureau supplement to the Department Scholar Rescue fund grant; USAID support to Jordanian government to reinforce ongoing



*Hussein Shawkat and his wife Khayriya Shallal, both refugees from Fallujah, drink tea in their makeshift home in Baghdad. More than 150 families displaced by sectarian violence and war took refuge at the barracks. (AP Images)*

health and education programs in communities affected by large numbers of Iraqi refugees

### Refugee Processing for Iraqis

Since February 2007, the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) expanded processing for Iraqi refugee applicants in Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Lebanon.

UNHCR announced its intention in February to refer approximately 20,000 Iraqis to resettlement countries during calendar year 2007, with over half that number to the USRAP. In February, the U.S. Government had virtually no refugee processing infrastructure in the two major asylum countries, Syria and Jordan. Since then, USRAP entities have established processing facilities, hired and trained local and international staff, and prepared cases for presentation to adjudicators from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

UNHCR and U.S. embassies have referred more than 13,000 Iraqis to the USRAP for resettlement consideration. Additionally, in Jordan and Egypt, direct access to the USRAP is available to direct-hire employees of the U.S. Mission in Iraq and interpreters/translators working for the U.S. Government or U.S. Government contractors.

The Department of Homeland Security's Citizenship and Immigration Services (DHS/USCIS) completed interviews of approximately 4,500 Iraqis during FY 2007. Interviews are continuing at an accelerated pace in FY 2008, with the cooperation and support of host governments.

During FY 2007, 1,608 Iraqi refugees arrived in the U.S. for permanent resettlement.

The total number of Iraqi refugee arrivals in FY 2007 represents an eight-fold increase over the number of arrivals in FY 2006.

With necessary USRAP facilities

*(Continued on page 22)*

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## Discovery Mission Readies Station for International Partner Labs

*By Cheryl Pellerin*  
*USINFO Staff Writer*

**Washington** – With the International Space Station's Harmony module set for docking by the European and Japanese laboratories, and sections of the station's truss and solar arrays moved and working, Space Shuttle Discovery's crew returned to Earth November 7, the shuttle glinting in Florida's midday sun.

The 15-day, 10-million-kilometer STS-120 mission, which began October 23, continued construction of the orbital outpost by delivering the Harmony module, relocating a truss and completing four spacewalks – including an unexpected foray by astronauts Scott Parazynski and Doug Wheelock outside the station to repair a torn solar array.

"The whole agency had to pull together for this particular mission," Discovery Commander Pam Melroy said in a briefing from the runway next to Discovery. "We did a pretty amazing EVA [extravehicular activity] and that was very exciting. It was a thrilling day for both the space shuttle and the space station programs, vindicating both programs and their purpose and their flexibility in space."

"Having determined that it is important to expand the human range of capability through human spaceflight on this new frontier," NASA Administrator Mike Griffin said during a post-landing briefing, "it's a special kind of achievement to watch people tackling a contingency problem, planning on the fly, on the ground and in the air, to be

able to cope with problems and watching them come out ahead of the game."

Discovery also delivered to the space station astronaut Daniel Tani, who joined the Expedition 16 crew, replacing Clay Anderson. Anderson returned to Earth aboard Discovery after nearly 152 days on the station. He launched with the STS-117 crew on Atlantis in June. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=June&x=20070609110202cniellePO.8280756>).

The European Space Agency's (ESA) laboratory module Columbia will arrive at the space station in December aboard Atlantis, and the Japanese experiment logistics module Kibo will arrive early in 2008.

### UNEXPECTED REPAIR

Using a few pieces of aluminum and a little wire, mission specialist Scott Parazynski repaired a damaged solar array on the space station during a seven-hour, 19-minute spacewalk.

Parazynski and astronaut Doug Wheelock left the station and spent 90 minutes riding the station's robotic arm out to the torn array – about 50 meters down the station's truss and just over 27 meters up to the damage.

Once there, Parazynski cut a snagged wire and installed homemade stabilizers to strengthen the array's structure and stability near the damage. Wheelock helped from

the truss by keeping an eye on the distance between Parazynski and the array.

They completed the repair then stood back to watch for complications as flight controllers on the ground finished deploying the array. Fifteen minutes and 13 computer commands later, the array was extended, and Parazynski and Wheelock then made their way back to the station's airlock.

### ATLANTIS LAUNCH

On November 10, three days after Discovery's landing, Atlantis will roll out to the launch pad at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Atlantis is targeted to launch December 6 to deliver the European Space Agency (ESA) Columbus science module during the 11-day STS-122 mission.

Steve Frick will command Atlantis' seven-member crew, which includes pilot Alan Poindexter; mission specialists Rex Walheim, Stanley Love, Leland Melvin and ESA astronauts Hans Schlegel and Leopold Eyharts.

Eyharts will replace Expedition 16 flight engineer Daniel Tani and remain aboard the station as a member of the Expedition 16 crew. Tani will return to Earth with the STS-122 crew.

In November, the space station crew will conduct three spacewalks and robotically move two components to prepare for Columbus' arrival.

*(Continued on page 21)*

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## International Health Ministers Plan for Global Preparedness

*By Cheryl Pellerin  
USINFO Staff Writer*

**Washington** -- As the human toll from avian influenza grows and the threat of bioterrorism rivets world attention on emergency capacities of medical systems everywhere, health officials from eight nations are planning a more secure future.

The Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI) is an informal, voluntary partnership whose members met in Washington November 1-2 to review preparedness initiatives for responding to threats of biological, chemical and radio-nuclear terrorism; pandemic influenza; food and product safety; and other public health emergencies.



*An Indonesian official throws a slaughtered chicken, culled to stop the spread of bird flu, into a hole to be burned. (AP Images)*



*A cleanup crew waits to shower during a 2001 anthrax decontamination of a Florida building where one worker died. (AP Images)*

Members are health ministers from Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom; health secretaries from Japan, Mexico and the United States; and the European Union (EU) health commissioner. The World Health Organization serves as an expert adviser to the GHSI.

"Today, we completed a risk analysis to focus the priorities toward the most pressing threats in health security," Mike Leavitt, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said during a November 2 press briefing. "Based on that analysis, we agreed on a strategic plan that includes specific objectives and actions that we'll take over the next 12 months."

According to a Ministerial Statement released November 2, the members agreed to:

Maintain strong technical cooperation on common risks and threats;

Identify emerging issues and coordinating policy-development processes to address chemical, biological and radio-nuclear threats;

Strengthen risk-communication strategies within and among members;

Address threats through research and development of novel medical countermeasures and explore options for expanded access to needed countermeasures; and

Strengthen the partnership as a forum for discussing global health security and public health issues of common concern, such as pandemic influenza.

"The European Commission believes this initiative is very important in its own right," said EU Commissioner for Health Markos Kyprianou. "It's an important forum and it offers an opportunity to discuss common threats and responses to these

threats, which to be effective, have to be coordinated."

The GHSI originated after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the subsequent anthrax attacks, when the U.S. government called for a regular opportunity for the health ministers of major industrialized nations to meet and exchange ideas.

Chemical, biological and radio-nuclear terrorism was the initial focus, but in 2002, in conjunction with WHO and other international organizations, the GHSI added pandemic influenza to its list of global threats.

In the ministerial statement, GHSI members reinforced the importance of sharing flu viruses quickly and transparently, as called for by the revised International Health Regulations. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng-lish&y=2007&m=May&x=20070514163238lcnirelep0.4197657> ).)

The members, Leavitt said, "affirmed the conviction that sharing flu samples in a free and open way is an important and critical part of fighting disease generally, and restated our support" for the Global Influenza Surveillance Network.

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)*◆



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## Discovery Mission Readies Station for International . . .

(Continued from page 19)

With Atlantis' December launch, 12 shuttle missions remain to complete the International Space Station before the shuttle is retired in 2010. The fifth and final servicing mission for the Hubble Space Telescope, an international cooperative project between NASA and ESA, is scheduled for September 10, 2008.

### BACK TO THE MOON

On October 30, NASA announced the agency centers that will be responsible for specific work to enable astronauts to explore the moon, and a plan to establish a new lunar science institute.

The new assignments cover elements of the lunar lander and lunar surface operations. The agency also announced work assignments for Ares V, a heavy-lift rocket for lunar missions.

"NASA's Constellation Program is making real progress toward sending astronauts to the moon," Rick Gilbrech, NASA associate administrator for Exploration Systems, said in a statement. "Work on our new fleet of rockets and spacecraft, Ares I and Orion, is already well under way. With these new assignments, NASA will launch the next

phase of its exploration strategy – landing crews and cargo on the surface of the moon."

NASA's Constellation Program is working to send astronauts to the



*Space shuttle Discovery lands at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida November 7 after a 15-day mission. (AP Images)*

moon, where they plan to set up a lunar outpost to prepare for human exploration further into the solar system.

The first crewed flight of the Orion spacecraft, aboard an Ares I rocket, is scheduled for 2015. Astronauts are scheduled to return to the moon by 2020.

For NASA's new Lunar Science Institute, operations are expected to

begin March 1, 2008. The institute will augment established NASA-funded lunar science investigations by encouraging the formation of interdisciplinary research teams that are larger than those now at work in lunar science.

The latest information about the shuttle mission ( <http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle> ) and the space station ( [http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/station/main/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html) ) is available on the NASA Web site.

For additional information on international partnerships in space, see Science and Technology ( [http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/scitech.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/scitech.html) ).

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## Foreign Students Enhance Global Outlook at U.S. . . .

*(Continued from page 15)*

"They often stay in touch," said Meenan-Waugh.

"Some will apply to U.S. universities, too," even if they must rely on financial aid to pursue a U.S. degree, she added.

WIS offers a liberal-arts education designed to produce "well-rounded individuals," described by the school as "athletes who perform in the school musical, artists who excel as scientists, calculus students who read Cervantes in the original language."

A commitment to intellectual curiosity, global citizenship and reciproc-

ity starts early, according to Meenan-Waugh. In addition to hosting annually two 11th-grade foreign-exchange students for the entire academic year, WIS has developed a short-term exchange program for its middle-schoolers. "Our 8th-graders spend 10 days in exchanges in target countries, where they speak the languages they've been studying in school," Meenan-Waugh explained. "Later, the kids will host a student from one of the families they stayed with."

Foreign-exchange students have been overwhelmingly positive in assessing the WIS program, and their presence reinforces the school's international focus. "These students," said Meenan-Waugh,

"are an essential part of our school community."

More information ( <http://www.wis.edu/home/> ) about WIS is available on the school's Web site. To learn about the application process for student and teacher exchange programs ( <http://www.assist-inc.org/> ), visit the ASSIST Web site.

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## U.S. Humanitarian Assistance for Displaced . . .

*(Continued from page 18)*

and personnel now in place, we expect that the number of Iraqis admitted to the United States as refugees should increase significantly.

The U.S. Government is aiming to admit as many as 12,000 Iraqi refugees over the next fiscal year between October 1, 2007, and September 30, 2008 (FY08). As we have noted earlier, the number of arrivals each month will fluctuate.

In October 2007, the first month of FY08, 450 Iraqi refugees arrived in the United States.

Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) and Immigrant Visas (IVs) for Iraqis

Apart from these refugee admissions numbers, in FY 2007 the United States issued immigrant visas for more than 2,300 additional Iraqis.

821 of these were special immigrant visas through our special admissions program for translator and

interpreters who assisted the United States. This number includes 429 principal applicants and 392 family members.

The other 1,520-plus Iraqis were issued other types of immigrant visas that permit them to move permanently to the United States.

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**Economic Progress in Africa Focus of Secretary . . .**

*(Continued from page 9)*

Khayelitsha Cookie Company, which is creating important job opportunities, especially for women.

In Ghana, Paulson will visit the Ghana Stock Exchange and participate in a round table discussion with bankers from Ghana and elsewhere in the region. He also will meet with President John Kufuor to review Ghana's economic progress and then travel to Akosombo Dam, where he will talk about the critical role infrastructure plays in the African development process.

"Akosombo Dam is the source of more than 50 percent of Ghana's energy," Saeed reminded the reporters, and, as such, is an important source of economic development.

The overarching theme of Paulson's trip, Saeed concluded, is to "shine a light on those changes that are taking place in Africa, have been taking place for some time in terms of implementing fundamentally sound economic policies, and those changes which are now bearing fruit ... and talking about how we can partner with those who have a real commitment to reform."

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**Record Numbers of U.S. Students Are Studying . . .**

*(Continued from page 14)*

(1,126, up 28.5 percent), Dominican Republic (922, up 27 percent), Hong Kong (915, up 22 percent), Tanzania (557, up 19 percent), Turkey (694, up 53 percent), Vietnam (390, up 13 percent) and Jordan (309, up 81 percent).

Most U.S. students studying abroad participated in programs of eight weeks or less, 37 percent in programs lasting an entire semester, and 5.5 percent in programs lasting an entire year or longer, the study said.

While the largest U.S. universities (led by New York University) are the largest senders of students for study abroad in terms of sheer numbers, 18 smaller institutions

send more than 80 percent of their students on such programs: Austin College, Centre College, Colby College, Colorado College, DePauw University, Dickinson College, Earlham College, Elon University, Hartwick College, Kalamazoo College, Lee University, Lewis and Clark College, Linfield College, Luther College, St. Olaf College, Transylvania University, Willamette University and Wofford College.

The top three majors of U.S. students studying abroad are the social sciences, business and management, and humanities, according to Open Doors 2007.

Open Doors was released at the beginning of the eighth annual International Education Week, which is sponsored jointly by the Depart-

ment of State and the Department of Education. The purpose of International Education Week, according to Rice, is "to highlight the critical role of education in our efforts to secure a bright future based on international partnership and understanding."

For additional information on studying in the United States, see the ECA's EducationUSA ( <http://www.educationusa.state.gov/> ) Web site.

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