



## April 2009 Newsletter

### Information Resource Center (IRC)

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<http://damascus.usembassy.gov/irc.html>

## The London Summit 2009

### Obama Calls G20 Summit a Turning Point for Recovery



President Obama says the G20 Summit is a turning point in the pursuit of global economic recovery.

“The London Summit was historic. It was historic because of the size and scope of the challenges we face and because of the timeliness and magnitude of our response,” Obama said at an April 2 press conference following the daylong summit in London’s Docklands section along the Thames River. [Read more](#)

### G20 Pledges \$1.1 Trillion for Economic Recovery

Leaders of the world’s most powerful economies have pledged \$1.1 trillion to restore credit, economic growth and jobs in the world economy.

“Together with the measures we have each taken nationally, this constitutes a global plan for recovery on an unprecedented scale,” the leaders said in a communiqué issued April 2 at the conclusion of the G20 London Summit. The gathering of leaders was held in the Docklands, a former shipping area on the Thames River that has undergone major redevelopment. [Read more](#)

### G20 Ministers Pledge to Continue Action on Recession

#### Treasury Secretary Geithner says global crisis requires global response

G20 finance ministers and central bank governors reached a “strong consensus on the need for both recovery and for reform” to deal with the current global economic recession, says U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner. [Read more](#)

وزراء مجموعة العشرين يتعهدون بمواصلة الإجراءات الخاصة بإنهاء الركود

وزير المالية الأميركي يقول إن الأزمة العالمية تتطلب ردا عالمي النطاق

قال وزير المالية الأميركي تيموثي غابتنر إن وزراء المالية ومحافظي البنوك المركزية لدول مجموعة العشرين اتفقوا في ختام اجتماعهم بالعاصمة البريطانية على اتخاذ كل الإجراءات الضرورية لإنعاش النمو الاقتصادي وإصلاح النظام المالي العالمي والتصدي لخطر الحماية التجارية. [اقرأ المزيد](#)



وزير المالية الأميركي تيموثي غابتنر.

[أوباما يصف قمة دول مجموعة العشرين بمنعطف باتجاه التعافي الإقتصادي](#)  
[الرئيس أوباما يتشي على النتائج التي توصل إليها مؤتمر قمة مجموعة العشرين](#)  
[منظمة التعاون الإقتصادي والتنمية تتوقع هبوطا حادا في الإقتصاد العالمي](#)  
[الولايات المتحدة تسعى لحل تعاوني للأزمة المالية الراهنة](#)

## Business and Economy

### United States Economic Crisis:

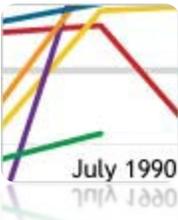
#### [Americans Continue to Decrease Spending on Entertainment and Eating Out](#) -

The Obama Administration is focused on trying to stimulate the economy and is actively encouraging spending. Americans, however, are not that inclined to spend and are still decreasing the amount they will be spending on eating out and entertainment.

[Economic System Needs 'Major Changes': Global Poll](#) - Major reform of the international economic system is needed in order to solve the current crisis, according to a new global poll of over 29,000 people carried out for BBC World Service.

### [Lessons from the Financial Crisis](#)

[Can the G-20 Save the World?](#) - All eyes are on London this week as leaders from the world's leading economies gather to find a way out of the growing financial crisis. But tensions are growing between the US, Europe and China, and a common course has so far proven elusive.



### [U.S. Recessions End With Consumer Spending](#)

There have been six recessions in the United States since 1970. Every recession ends with renewed growth in consumer spending. The two recessions before the current one were short and shallow. (In 2001, spending never fell.)

## American *Life*

### **Muslim Americans: A National Portrait**

An in-depth analysis of America's most diverse religious community

Muslim Americans: A National Portrait represents the first-ever nationally representative study of a randomly selected sample of Muslim Americans. The results shed light on one of the most diverse religious groups in the United States, reflecting the economic, racial, and political diversity within America itself. This study allows the reader to better understand the perspectives of Muslim Americans on "kitchen table" issues, from the economy to emotional well-being, while comparing them with other religious and racial groups in American society. [Download AmericanMuslimReport.pdf](#) (5484875 bytes)

## Web Chats and Web Casts



Web chats are online, text-based discussions that allow audiences outside the United States to interact with American citizens on a wide range of topics. U.S. government and private sector subject experts, academics, journalists, and everyday citizens are brought on as guests to do web chats on USINFO.

To participate, you only need a computer with Internet access and a browser. There is no special software to be downloaded.

#### **Date & Time:**

April 15, 2009 at 4 p.m. Syria Time

#### **Webcast - Energy Efficiency**

April's "In Focus" topic is "Energy Efficiency: The First Fuel." Dale Medearis spent nearly 20 years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of International Affairs coordinating international urban environmental and western European programs. In that capacity, he worked to identify, analyze and apply the best urban environmental policies from Europe to the United States. He will join us to discuss the issue of energy efficiency and what Northern Virginia is doing to tackle it.

**Guest:** Dale Medearis is the senior environmental planner for the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. He leads the commission's regional climate and energy programs and manages its international environmental partnerships, primarily through the European Network of Metropolitan Areas and Regions (METREX). In April 2008, he helped create the first formal climate and energy partnership between the 40 largest U.S. and European metropolitan regional councils.

Enter webcast: <http://www.cpcwebcast.com/state/>

No registration is needed. Simply choose "Enter as a Guest," type in your preferred screen name and join the discussion.

## Blogs *at* America.gov

Blogs at America.gov offers readers a place to join in conversation on variety of topics with experts from the United States and around the world. We encourage you to share your thoughts with our bloggers and fellow readers in the comments section of each post. Click on the title in red to go to the website.

### **First 100 Days: Following Barack Obama**

By Michelle Austein Brooks

The first 100 days is a traditional period of political accountability in U.S. democratic process. Since Franklin D. Roosevelt took office in 1933, Americans have followed closely the progress a president makes in his first 100 days. Those 100 days are viewed as a time to measure a president's character and an opportunity to see if he makes good on his campaign promises.

Readers of this blog have closely been following President Obama. How well do you think he has performed so far? And what would you like to see him do in the next 58 days?



### **Day 76: United States not at war with Islam, President Obama tells Turkey**

The Turkish press and many of that country's people are eagerly following every step of the U.S. president's trip to this predominately Muslim nation. The [Hurriyet](#) English newspaper's special section on the president's trip covers everything from Obama's policy speeches to how the president's security detail means traffic headaches for local citizens.

Media worldwide covered the speech Obama gave today to the Turkish parliament, in which he declared, "Let me say this as clearly as I can: The United States is not at war with Islam." [Add your own comment](#)

## Websites *of* Interest

[Chronicling America](#) from Library of Congress allows you to search and view U.S. newspaper pages from 1880-1910 and find information about American newspapers published between 1690 to the present

Great Political Resources:

[http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/5\\_online\\_political\\_resources\\_everyone\\_should\\_know\\_about.php](http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/5_online_political_resources_everyone_should_know_about.php)

Hundreds Of Free College Lectures From Youtube:

<http://chronicle.com/wiredcampus/article/3615/new-from-youtube-free-downloads-of-college-lectures>

## EJournal USA



### E-Journal USA:

A monthly electronic journal available in multiple languages about U.S. foreign affairs and U.S. society and culture.

**إي جورنال يو إس إيه:**

مجلة إلكترونية شهرية تصدر بعدة لغات تتناول شؤون الولايات المتحدة الخارجية والمجتمع الأمريكي وثقافته.

global issues

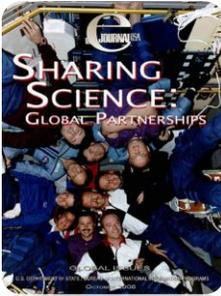


Seeking Free & Responsible Media

International Journal of the U.S. Department of State - Volume 6, Number 1, January 2003

### Seeking Free and Responsible Media

It has long been the policy of the U.S. government to support the development of open and responsible media abroad and to assist in building the infrastructure needed for a free press to operate -- legislative infrastructure, financial independence, transparency in government, and journalists trained in objective and fair reporting. Achieving a free and responsible media is a constant, challenging, vital, and ongoing activity. We must continue to work at it, adapting to new conditions and challenges. We must keep in sight the ultimate objective -- a citizenry able to make informed decisions that shape their lives. [Inside this publication](#)



### Sharing Science: Global Partnerships

This edition of eJournal USA focuses on science as an inherently international undertaking in which researchers share the results of their work with a scientific community that spans the planet, through a growing array of collaborative efforts, technical journals, conferences, the Internet, and dedicated high-bandwidth data networks for research and education. The eJournal has many examples of U.S. participation and leadership in these international undertakings. [Inside this publication](#)

## Photo Gallery and Videos

Offering an audio-visual tour of the stories and issues shaping our world, the photo gallery and videos are two of many invaluable services "America.gov" site offers for its audience. Both, the gallery and videos can be browsed by the following subjects: American Life, Economy, Global Challenges and International Relations.

**Photo Gallery:** Please visit the below galleries or go to the photo gallery direct link to see more photo collections.

<http://www.america.gov/multimedia/photogallery.html#7a78bf28-e356-4d21-a311-0c218ec8f6f8>

### Global Challenges:



[Agricultural Development Leads to Higher Incomes](#)

### American Life:



[Where We "Play Ball"](#)

### Global Challenges:



[كاريكاتور سياسي – الفساد والديمقراطية](#)

**Videos:** Please point the mouse on any picture then use "Ctrl" key and click on the link to take you to the video you want to watch or go to the link below to see all the video collection.

<http://www.america.gov/multimedia/video.html?playerId=1475282956>



[Recharging Transportation](#)  
2:08



[Rust to Renewal](#)  
2:32



[أميركا ومساعدة مرضى الأيدز](#)  
2:43

## Education

### Top University Programs: Science and Engineering



#### **North Carolina: Analytical Chemistry**

Analytical chemists determine the structure, composition, and nature of substances by examining and identifying their various elements or compounds. Analytical chemists develop analytical techniques and study the relationships and interactions among the parts of compounds. They also identify the presence and concentration of chemical pollutants in air, water, and soil.

In the top-ranked program in analytical chemistry at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (UNC), a first-year graduate student chooses an adviser and joins the adviser's laboratory, which is "like joining a family," says Royce Murray, a chemistry professor who first began teaching in the program in 1960. "You have a good student who's interested and motivated, and you get that student to a certain level of understanding of where you think the interesting questions are and you say, 'There's the laboratory. Go! — and learn how to think for yourself.'"



Related article: [North Carolina School Excels at Cutting-Edge Analytical Chemistry](#)



#### **Michigan: Nuclear Engineering**

Nuclear engineers work in a range of disciplines, from environmental science to health care.

Students studying nuclear engineering and radiological sciences at the University of Michigan, a program ranked as the very best by U.S. News and World Report magazine, focus on subject areas that include fission reactor analysis, safety and radiation transport, nuclear materials, nuclear fusion and plasma physics, and nuclear radiation measurements and imaging. More than a third of

all medical procedures in the United States use nuclear techniques to create images of the internal human body, detect and measure biological processes and provide therapy. Around the world, commercial nuclear power plants use nuclear fission — the process of breaking up or splitting the nucleus of an atom and using the resulting energy to heat water into pressurized steam that drives a turbine generator to produce electricity.



#### **Virginia Tech: Fish and Wildlife**

Seventeen percent of the graduate students in a renowned fisheries and wildlife sciences department at a U.S.

university come from outside the United States.

They come from Austria, Canada, Indonesia, Mexico, China, Thailand and Taiwan. Sometimes they research or manage birds, mammals, reptiles or amphibians. Sometimes they research or manage aquatic animals and ecosystems, including shellfish, endangered species, sport fish and aquaculture fish.

The international graduate students work with American students at Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources, specifically in its Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, one of the oldest and most highly regarded programs of its kind in the United States.

Related article: [Students Work on Fish and Wildlife Challenges Back Home](#)



### **Indian University: Environmental Affairs**

In the early 1970s, Indiana University took the pioneering step of combining environmental studies and public policy in a School of Public and Environmental Affairs. The idea was to bring people from various disciplines together to study people and their environments.

Today, Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) has a message on its Web site for students considering seeking admission to its

internationally recognized programs: "This is the place for fearless problem solvers. You care about your community, your country, your world. You want to make a difference at the leadership level and you want a career that fulfills your passion for improving the planet."

Related article: [Indiana University Leads in Public and Environmental Affairs](#)



### **Illinois: Civil Engineering**

The ancient field of civil engineering, which takes its name in contradistinction to military engineering, deals with the design, construction and maintenance of bridges, roads, canals, dams and buildings. Civil engineers built the pyramids, the hanging gardens of Babylon, the Roman aqueducts, the Suez Canal and — in modern times, with help from more specialized engineers — the world's skyscrapers.

The College of Engineering at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign is one of the world's largest and most prestigious engineering institutions, with a long history of innovation and excellence. The college's Department of Civil

and Environmental Engineering sits perennially atop the rankings of undergraduate and graduate engineering programs.

Related article: [University of Illinois Offers More than Top Engineering Program](#)

# Environment



Thousands of species struggle to survive in the face of the threats posed by shrinking habitats, illegal trafficking and a changing climate. Find out more about the animals at risk.

## Tiger

[Details](#)



## Elephant

[Details](#)



## Cheetah

[Details](#)



## Giant Panda



## Polar Bear

[Details](#)



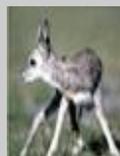
## American Bison

[Details](#)



## Tibetan Antelope

[Details](#)



## Mountain Gorilla

[Details](#)

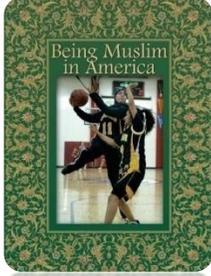


## Dolphin

[Details](#)

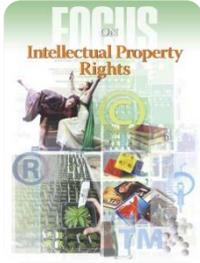


## Publications



### Being Muslim in America

The young women pictured on our cover are both Muslim. They live near Detroit, Michigan, in a community with many Arab-American residents. Each expresses her faith in her own way, with a combination of traditional and modern dress. Here, they compete fiercely on the basketball court in a sport that blends individual skills and team effort. They - along with the other men, women, and children in this publication - demonstrate every day what it is like to be Muslim in America. [Inside this publication](#)



### Focus On: Intellectual Property Rights

Essays by government, academic, and industry experts introduce intellectual property rights issues and key concepts -- patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, and new forms of IP. Articles also explain why countries need effective intellectual property systems, and what governments in each region are doing to enforce IPR. Includes a glossary of IP terms, a list of print and Internet IP resources, and a separate resource list for children and young adults. [Inside this publication](#)



### خريطة الولايات المتحدة الأميركية مع حقائق موجزة

تتضمن هذه المطبوعة الكثير من الحقائق و الإحصاءات عن الولايات المتحدة - - حكومتها، وجغرافيتها، وبيئتها، والرياضات الشائعة فيها والترفيه، والاقتصاد والعمالة، والتعليم، والنقل، والسكان. [في هذه المطبوعة](#)