



May, Issue 5 - 2010  
 AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER NEWSLETTER  
 U.S. Embassy Helsinki

## LOOKING AHEAD

### ARC Grant to Tuomas Koskenniemi

Mr. Tuomas Koskenniemi from the University of Helsinki was selected as the winner of the 2009 ARC Scholarship with his Master's thesis entitled "We Are All Georgians, Aren't We? The Neoconservative Reaction to the Russia-Georgia War." His prize was given out at the Maple Leaf and Eagle conference reception held at the American Resource Center on May 21st.

The American Resource Center announced the competition in September 2009 and a total of 18 applications were submitted for the ARC grant of 1000 Euros. The jury praised the excellence of the submissions and noted that the academic quality and originality made it very difficult to select one winner from the entire group. Jurors noted that this year's applications came from throughout Finland and covered such diverse subject areas as theology, political science, automation and systems technology, history, the English language, sociology, North American studies, international relations, and communications.

The jury members, Ms. Nicole Conn, Counselor for Press and Cultural Affairs (U.S. Embassy), Mr. Michael Butler, Deputy Chief of Mission (U.S. Embassy), and Ms. Terhi Mölsä, Executive Director, Fulbright Center, selected Tuomas Koskenniemi as this year's winner. Mr. Koskenniemi presented his research plan profoundly and clearly, and he convinced the jury about his capability to conduct this truly interesting and challenging research project.

[The American Resource Center grant](#) was established in 2006 to celebrate the library's 60th anniversary. So far seven Finnish students have received financial help through this grant to finish their masters' theses. To qualify, submitted papers must have America as their focal point. More details are available through the ARC website. The application period runs from September to November annually.

### PEEK INTO THE ARC'S MAGAZINE SHELF

For a full listing of the ARC's periodicals, please visit  
<http://finland.usembassy.gov/periodicals.html>



*Rolling Stone* is a United States-based magazine devoted to music, politics, and popular culture that is published every two weeks. *Rolling Stone* was founded in San Francisco in 1967 by Jann Wenner (who is still editor and publisher) and music critic Ralph J. Gleason.

The magazine was named for the 1948 Muddy Waters song of the same name. Aside from in-depth reviews of the contemporary music scene, it is perhaps best known for its 'new journalism' style of political coverage beginning in the 1970s, famously chronicled by the controversial gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson. *Rolling Stone* changed its format in the 1990s to appeal to younger readers, broadening its scope to include fashion, television and film.

(Source: Wikipedia)

### "New Energy Research - An Industry-Governmental Partnership"

You are invited to a guest lecture sponsored by the U.S. Embassy featuring **Dr. Arthur J. Ragauskas**, who will speak on "New Energy Research - An Industry-Governmental Partnership." The lecture will be held on **Wednesday, June 2, at 14:00** in the Auditorium of the National Library, Yliopistonkatu 1, 3rd floor. Free entrance!



# WEB PICKS

*Disclaimer: The views expressed on these websites are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. Government policies. These links are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or approval by the ARC or the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki, nor can we bear any responsibility for the accuracy, legality, functionality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links.*

## American Life

**College Enrollment and Work Activity of 2009 High School Graduates.** Bureau of Labor Statistics. April 27, 2010. In October 2009, 70.1 percent of 2009 high school graduates were enrolled in colleges or universities, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This was a historical high for the series, which began in 1959.  
<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/hsgsec.nro.htm>

**Government Online.** Pew Internet & American Life Project. Aaron Smith. April 27, 2010. Government agencies have begun to open up their data to the public, and a surprisingly large number of citizens are showing interest.  
[http://pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP\\_Government\\_Online\\_2010.pdf](http://pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP_Government_Online_2010.pdf)

**Language Use in the United States: 2007.** U.S. Census Bureau. April 2010. The number of people 5 and older who spoke a language other than English at home has more than doubled in the last three decades and at a pace four times greater than the nation's population growth, according to a new U.S. Census Bureau report.  
<http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/acs-12.pdf>

**National Endowment for the Arts.** NEA Arts Magazine, 2010 Number 1. Art Works—How Art is Work? [http://www.nea.gov/about/NEARTS/2010\\_v1/index.html](http://www.nea.gov/about/NEARTS/2010_v1/index.html)

**The Return of the Multi-Generational Family Household.** Pew Research Center. Paul Taylor et al. March 18, 2010. The multi-generational American family household is staging a comeback, driven in part by the job losses and home foreclosures of recent years but more so by demographic changes that have been gathering steam for decades.  
<http://pewsocialtrends.org/assets/pdf/752-multi-generational-families.pdf>

**Rising to the Challenge: Hispanic College Graduation Rates as a National Priority.** American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. Andrew Kelly et al. March 17, 2010. The report reveals that far too many four-year colleges and universities graduate less than half of their Hispanic students.  
<http://www.aei.org/docLib/Rising-to-the-Challenge.pdf>

**The State of the News Media: An Annual Report on American Journalism.** Pew Project for Excellence in Journalism, March 15, 2010. The report takes stock of the revolution occurring in how Americans get information and provide a resource for citizens, journalists and researchers to make their own assessments. <http://www.stateofthemedias.org/2010/>

**Will Arizona be America's Future?** Brookings Institution. William H. Frey. April 28, 2010. As the controversy surrounding Arizona's new immigration legislation continues, William Frey identifies a "cultural generation gap" in relation to largely white baby boomers and older citizens that may be fueling anti-immigrant sentiment in the state.  
[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0428\\_arizona\\_frey.aspx#](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0428_arizona_frey.aspx#)

## Economy and Politics

**The Economics of Organic Farming.** Energy Bulletin, May 5, 2010. Growing food locally keeps wealth in local communities and may be the best path to surviving economic hard times.  
<http://www.energybulletin.net/52697>

**Grecian Formula.** National Interest, April 27, 2010. A journalist suggests the financial debacle unfolding in Greece should be a wake-up call for the U.S. to get its financial house in order.  
<http://www.nationalinterest.org/Article.aspx?id=23312>

**Irwin Stelzer: Greece's Crisis May Become Our Crisis.** Washington Examiner, May 7, 2010. Don't look now, but the U.S. just lent nearly \$7 billion to Greece, says one columnist.  
[http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/Greece\\_s-crisis-may-become-our-crisis-92978884.html](http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/Greece_s-crisis-may-become-our-crisis-92978884.html)

**The Olympic Trade Effect.** Finance & Development, March 2010. Two economists say countries that bid to host the Olympic Games are signaling that they are open to trade liberalization.  
<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2010/03/rose.htm>

**Perils of Ponzis.** Finance & Development, March 2010. Three scholars argue that regulators must shut down fraudulent investment schemes before they gain momentum, especially in countries with weaker regulatory framework. <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2010/03/monroe.htm>

**A Third-Grade Economics Quiz.** The New York Times Freakonomics blog, January 20, 2010.

An eight-year-old pupil did pretty well on her third-grade economics quiz.

<http://freakonomics.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/01/20/a-third-grade-economics-quiz/>

## Global Challenges

**Earth Day: Smile, Don't Shudder.** USA Today, April 21, 2010

A controversial Danish climate researcher says key environmental measures are getting better. Climate change may not be the most serious problem we face.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2010-04-21-column21\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2010-04-21-column21_ST_N.htm)

**The Lure of Carbon Capture.** The New York Times, April 30, 2010.

Interest in storing carbon is growing, but the technology is very expensive, and major hurdles remain.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/04/30/the-lure-of-carbon-capture/>

**A Religious Take on Climate Change.** Los Angeles Times, May 1, 2010.

Heading off the worst effects of climate change may hinge in large part on people of faith.

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/may/01/local/la-me-beliefs-green-20100501>

**Preparing for an Ice-Free Arctic: Part 1 - China's Growing Interest in the Thawing North.** Worldchanging, April 30, 2010.

China is paying greater attention to the commercial and security implications of an ice-free Arctic.

<http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/011126.html>

**Repression Goes Digital.** Columbia Journalism Review, March/April 2010.

The Internet has become a chokepoint in the struggle for a free press.

[http://www.cjr.org/feature/repression\\_goes\\_digital.php](http://www.cjr.org/feature/repression_goes_digital.php)

**World's 18 Most Endangered Spoken Languages.** The Christian Science Monitor, April 27, 2010.

UNESCO identifies the 18 most endangered languages.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Global-Issues/2010/0427/World-s-18-most-endangered-spoken-languages>

## International Relations

**Are Women on Their Way at Last?** The Economist, April 29, 2010.

Debate is heating up in Saudi Arabia about whether or not to relax some of the country's strict religious laws, particularly those concerning women.

[http://www.economist.com/world/middle-east/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=16015562](http://www.economist.com/world/middle-east/displaystory.cfm?story_id=16015562)

**Cuba Allows Foreign Investment in Tourism.** BBC, May 5, 2010.

Cuba is opening its tourism industry to foreign investment by building golf courses and resorts in order to become a bigger draw for international travelers.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8661734.stm>

**The False Religion of Mideast Peace.** Foreign Policy, May/June 2010.

Aaron David Miller, former advisor to Secretaries of State on the Middle East, explains why the U.S. may not be able to achieve a comprehensive peace settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/19/the\\_false\\_religion\\_of\\_mideast\\_peace](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/19/the_false_religion_of_mideast_peace)

**The Next Empire.** The Atlantic, May 2010.

China is investing in infrastructure and commerce across Africa. Will this bring prosperity to Africa or is it exploitation?

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/04/the-next-empire/8018/>

**Three Weeks in a Hopeless Land.** Foreign Policy, May 4, 2010.

An investigative reporter's three-week journey around Afghanistan, uncovering the human stories of survival and sadness.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/05/04/three\\_weeks\\_in\\_a\\_hopeless\\_land](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/05/04/three_weeks_in_a_hopeless_land)

**A Turkish Tale of Two Summits.** Global Post, May 4, 2010.

Turkish policy splits the difference between the U.S. and Iran over nuclear politics. Ankara supports non-proliferation while opposing sanctions on Iran.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/turkey/100429/turkey-iraq-nuclear>

**The Voice of the Affected.** Columbia Journalism Review, April 26, 2010.

Media development teams are helping radio stations in Haiti recover from the earthquake and broadcast important information about humanitarian relief progress to the population.

[http://www.cjr.org/the\\_observatory/the\\_voice\\_of\\_the\\_affected.php](http://www.cjr.org/the_observatory/the_voice_of_the_affected.php)

**World at War Over Water.** New Statesman, March 28, 2010.

The global water crisis could lead to future wars over control of and access to scarce water resources.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/environment/2010/03/water-cyprus-pakistan-yemen>



## The Year of Mark Twain 2010

Samuel Langhorne Clemens was born on November 30, 1835 and died on April 21, 1910. The year 2010 marks the 175th anniversary of his birth, the 125th anniversary of Twain's pinnacle work, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and the 100th anniversary of his death.

America.gov features articles showcasing Mark Twain's life and work and includes links to full-text books that are freely available online.

### Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*

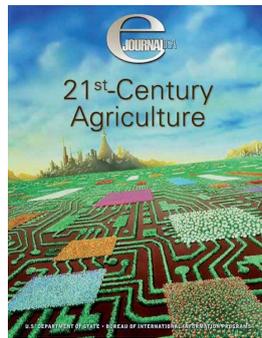
Mark Twain's internationally acclaimed novel, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885), still draws admiration and criticism for its depiction of Huck, the boy outcast, and his friend Jim, a runaway slave. More information available at [http://www.america.gov/huck\\_finn.html](http://www.america.gov/huck_finn.html).

### Mark Twain Abroad

Mark Twain visited five continents, crossed the Atlantic Ocean 29 times, and toured the world "talking and reading from his own rich humor." More information available at <http://www.america.gov/mark-twain-abroad.html>.



## IIP Publications: Resources for Teachers and Students



The U.S. State Department's International Information Programs (IIP) provides dozens of resources for teachers, students, and anyone interested in learning more about the United States. The ARC carries some of these publications - feel free to come visit us and get familiar with the wealth of information provided to you free of charge!

The publications are also available online. To access eJournal USA publications, which are published about once a month on a current and interesting topic, please visit <http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa.html>. The eJournal USA topics include American Life, Economy, Global Challenges, and International Relations.

To access IIP produced **books**, which include *the Outline* and the *In Brief* -series as well as handbooks and various publications on history, arts & literature, diversity, civic life, and economy, please visit <http://www.america.gov/publications/books.html>.

### The latest eJournal USA: 21st-Century Agriculture

Humanity's longest struggle has been to feed itself. This eJournal USA explores how 21st century technical prowess and agricultural skills hold the key to feeding growing populations of the future.

Cover (see above): Vast gardens surround a futuristic city in a 21st-century landscape imagined by artist Kauko Helavuo. © Getty Images



## The American Resource Center

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9-20, Sat 9-16; Reference service: Mon-Fri 9-17

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<http://twitter.com/ARCHelsinki>

