

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STATE

M A G A Z I N E

DUSTY-ROAD DIPLOMACY

APRIL 2007

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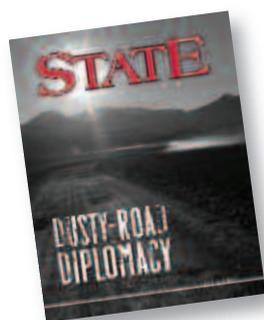
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Photograph by Corbis



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New FSI Distance Learning Opportunities

I was delighted to recently open the Foreign Service Institute's fifth Distance Learning Showcase. This event provided an excellent occasion to view the newest products FSI has developed. FSI has made a fantastic array of distance learning courses available to our State Department employees and eligible family members throughout the world. When visiting posts, I make it a special point to inquire about the use of distance learning by post personnel and encourage everyone to take advantage of these many course offerings.

Distance learning covers a wide range of subjects, including language, leadership, tradecraft, security and life abroad. FSI has made enormous progress in increasing the number of available distance learning offerings—FSI purchases passwords to the commercial courses, called FasTrac, and to the language resource Rosetta Stone and has produced almost 100 courses uniquely based on the needs of the foreign affairs community.

The Office of Management and Budget has designated FSI as one of only five authorized federal service providers under the President's Management Agenda e-Government initiative, and FSI is successfully collaborating on a number of interagency ventures, including with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Training—and particularly distance learning—has been one of the Secretary's and my top priorities. Moreover, providing first-class training to a workforce dispersed worldwide is an increasingly critical element in FSI's strategic plan. More members of our workforce are becoming self-directed learners who continuously update their skills and knowledge.

I am delighted to see the steady increase in the number of our employees taking advantage of distance learning. In fact, there were nearly 12,000 distance learning enrollments in 2006—a fivefold increase in just the past five years.

Our workforce is scattered throughout 20 time zones, and the convenience of self-paced learning cannot be underestimated.

FSI's Internet-based LearnCenter makes training accessible around the clock, from work or from home. It tracks progress, records successful course completions and serves as an interactive hub, hosting chat



rooms and bulletin boards for online mentoring or collaboration among our dispersed community. FSI provides learner-centered curricula and continua outlining independent study options or key Web sites and other online resources.

FSI has developed language and culture training with a broad spectrum of innovative custom distance learning products, some of which employ video and voice recognition for a truly interactive learning experience. Offerings range from Introductory and Express language courses for beginners to mentored training programs for advanced learners. A new area studies series teaches "Cultural Interactions and Connections" for specific foreign countries.

FSI is rapidly expanding its tradecraft course portfolio. Employees will find practical and relevant training such as updated contracting or grants courses. I provided FSI funds to produce distance learning courses covering some of the WebPASS software after having heard how much this

was needed. I am pleased to say that FSI will release nine WebPASS courses this year.

Other courses cover topics such as intellectual property rights, world trade issues and examining passports. Security issues are covered in the Domestic Emergency Management, the Emergency Radio Skills and the Cybersecurity Awareness courses, which everyone on OpenNet+ must take annually. Finally, the commercial FasTrac program offers a wide range of information technology training courses available to end users and professional IT staff, some leading to industry standard certifications.

One new online course relevant to all of us is "Transformational Diplomacy Overview," which provides a clearer look at the meaning of the concept and offers real-world case studies of transformational diplomacy in action.

FSI has developed training continua, which are available on its Web site to aid you in planning your training and development. These guides include information on distance learning courses that are cone-specific and offer road maps of FasTrac courses linked to specific topics.

One of our biggest challenges is finding time. I encourage leaders and supervisors to review the distance learning offerings and agree on setting aside time at work so employees can complete those job-related courses in an uninterrupted way. I also ask all of you who have completed distance learning courses to become office or post champions and help those who may be just starting out.

I believe that every member of our State Department family has a vital role to play in carrying out our nation's foreign policy. Distance learning encourages lifelong learning to support that role.

I strongly urge everyone to take advantage of the opportunities offered by FSI to become an engaged learner and acquire or expand your skills. To learn about all the latest offerings, visit FSI's OpenNet Web site at <http://fsi.state.gov> and click on "Distance Learning." The State Department family can register online. See you there. ■

Promotion Process

The article “One-Two-Three” in the February issue on the promotion process could have been written verbatim in the early 1990s. Strategic advice re assignments and tactical advice on EERs were the same back then. Yet, notwithstanding how good and consonant with those principles an FSO and his or her EERs were, promotions were skewed by managerial considerations. The Department was whipsawed by “reinventing-government” downsizing, budgetary strictures and gender- and minority-preference legal pressures such that limited promotion slots had to be made available for some at the expense of others.

One tactic the Department used was to arbitrarily redefine multifunctionality standards so as to deny perfectly well-qualified officers their earned opportunity fairly to compete in that cone. Those were tawdry times for management. One hopes that such distortion of merit principles is past, but the Department should be on guard against recurrence.

D. Thomas Longo, Jr.
*Retired Foreign Service officer
Delmar, Md.*

Legendary Gratitude

Words cannot adequately express my appreciation and gratitude for the article “Dr. Jessie Colson, Legend,” which appeared in the February issue. It is so nice to be called a legend while one can hear it.

It means a lot as a former teacher to know that I made an impact on my students at the Department. The ladies who wrote the article, some now retired, collaborated from posts as far away as Rome and Lomé—all to my complete surprise. I appreciate them today as I did when they were students, and I remain so proud of their achievements.

During more than 25 years at State, I had the opportunity to work with some of the most professional and supportive employees in the world. The Department gave strong support to training and upward-mobility opportunities to employees at all levels. It provided the space, equipment and budget, while supporting our objectives for the program and my efforts. An example of that is the fact that I had the opportunity to travel to more than 25 overseas posts to enhance my own professional knowledge and skills.

People say that timing is everything. I still remember vividly the day Ambassador

Carl Rowan conducted a faculty seminar at Morgan State College, where I was then an assistant professor. He suggested that I come over to Washington and explore the possibilities of joining the Foreign Service. I came within the week, was interviewed and the rest of my Department of State career is history.

Now in “retirement,” I remain an avid traveler, a lover of people, an active participant in life and a strong believer that with self-confidence, determination, ability and opportunity, all things are possible.

Jessie Colson
Retired Foreign Service officer

Colonoscopy

I was very pleased to read of David Ollman’s success in running marathons and battling colon cancer (February).

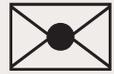
In 2001, I attended a Department noon-time health care briefing about diabetes and afterward consulted my physician. He had urged me months earlier to get a colonoscopy, given my family’s cancer history. I had put it off, but now decided to get one, my first.

The results showed that I had a growth

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the size of a half-dollar coin on the wall of the ascending colon. Fortunately, there was no malignancy. However, the surgeon informed me that the growth was on its way to turning precancerous. I had dodged a bullet. I have had two subsequent colonoscopies at three-year intervals, and they have shown that everything is healthy.

One other benefit from the first colonoscopy and surgery: I lost weight and started a regular workout routine that I continue. The experience was a wake-up call. I have urged other family members to get colonoscopies, and they have done so with happy results.

Colon cancer is not an old person’s disease. While the preparation is the most unpleasant part of it, the actual colonoscopy with anesthesia is “a piece of cake.” I urge anyone with a family history of cancer to get a colonoscopy. Even people with no family history should have a “benchmark” colonoscopy after consulting their physicians. I can thank the Department’s regular health lecture series for motivating me to do so in the nick of time.

Bruce K. Byers
Retired Foreign Service officer

Reaching Out to the Retired and Retiring Community

As with many other federal agencies, the Department of State is facing a potential wave of retirements over the coming years due to the aging of the baby boomers. Approximately 17 percent of the Department's workforce is currently eligible to retire. In five years, that number will increase to 35 percent, and in 10 years, more than half of the current workforce will be retirement eligible.

At State, we recognize that there is a lifetime relationship between our retirees and the Department. We have taken steps to help maintain that relationship through RNet, the Retirement Network Alumni Organization for the U.S. Department of State. RNet recognizes that retirees are an integral part of State's talent pool. It introduces a completely new perspective on retirement and reemployment.

In November, the Department won the President's Award for Management Excellence for RNet as a Talent Management System. Administered through the President's Quality Award Program, this is the highest award given to Executive Branch agencies for management excellence. The Department of State was the only agency cited for Strategic Management of Human Capital, a significant part of the President's Management Agenda.

Critical information on retirement issues, such as retirement eligibility and credit for service, is now available through the Internet to employees and retirees alike on the Office of Retirement's Web site, www.RNet.state.gov. We have now incorporated AskRNet into the Web site, where employees and retirees alike can search for

answers to frequently asked questions.

The site also includes complete packages of the retirement application forms required for both Foreign Service and Civil Service employees. Timely submission of application forms is essential to timely pro-



cessing. Employees should note that they must submit applications 90 days in advance of their planned date of retirement.

RNet delivers real services to retirees from all seven foreign affairs agencies, including RNet bulletins on important changes that affect benefits. Retirees can change their tax withholding or make their own address and banking changes, as well as view their online annuity statements and 1099Rs (for tax purposes) through www.employeeexpress.gov. Importantly for

the Department's talent management, RNet may also serve as a door to reemployment for State retirees.

Through secure accounts, retirees can send inquiries to the Office of Retirement, create a professional profile and indicate their interest in employment opportunities by registering for the WAE Global Employment registry and also the Operational Readiness Reserve and Standby Response Corps. Retirees must have an EP+ profile on record; they can update this profile either before retirement through HROnline, or postretirement through their RNet account.

The RNet Web site delivers retirement information to current foreign affairs agency employees, making AskRNet and the forms for retirement available to all. In the near future, we will establish an electronic application process for Department employees, with forms that can be filled out online and sent electronically to HR/RET. We will issue a Department Notice and guidelines once we are ready to begin this paperless phase.

RNet has created an efficient method for rapid and frequent communication with our retiree community. In short, it has completely changed the way we do business, relate to retirees and search for talent.

Given the changing demographics, we all need to view the world of work through a new lens. RNet is a real manifestation of the future. Working together, our colleagues in the Retirement and Executive offices have delivered a best-in-class, innovative product that serves as a model for the entire Executive Branch. ■

“RNet has completely changed the way we do business, relate to retirees and search for talent.”

NEWS

Promoting Global Road Safety

Did you know that more than 3,000 people are killed each day in road traffic accidents around the world, according to the World Health Organization's World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention? That equates to 1.2 million traffic deaths a year and one traffic death every 30 seconds.

The human toll and economic burden from road traffic deaths and injuries, especially in developing countries, is enormous and expected to increase. There is a move afoot within the U.S. government, among private organizations and on the international stage to intervene and reverse this trend.

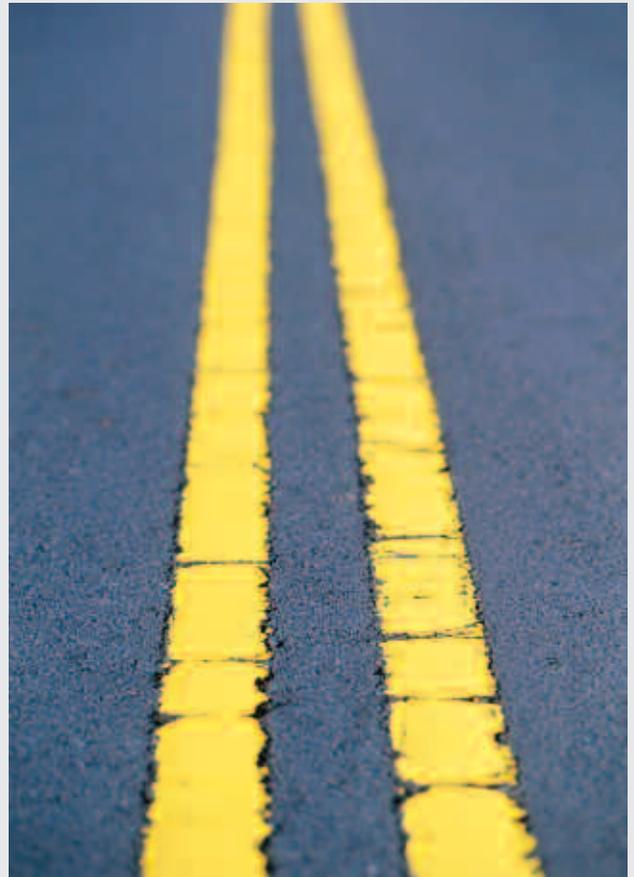
How does the Global Road Safety focus affect the Department? Traffic accidents are the number one cause of nonnatural death of American citizens abroad, including those under Chief of Mission authority. The Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs now chairs a government interagency working group on Global Road Safety.

The Overseas Buildings Operations' Safety, Health and Environmental Management Division provides technical support

to the chair, with the Bureau of Consular Affairs providing additional insight on the issue through its tracking of American citizen deaths from traffic accidents abroad. The International Information Program will work with missions and posts abroad to stimulate outreach and public awareness programs on global road safety. The interagency working group will coordinate U.S. government activities on international Global Road Safety to ensure a cohesive foreign policy agenda.

The United Nations has declared the week of April 23–29, 2007, Global Road Safety Week, with a focus on vulnerable young road users. As the lead for the Global Road Safety interagency working group, the Department of State

will be involved in a number of awareness programs to get the word out on the importance of Global Road Safety.



Around the world, road traffic accidents kill one person every 30 seconds.

PLUS >>> KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE IN ISTANBUL + IMMIGRANT VISA PROCESSING RETURNS TO PHNOM PENH + TRUST HELPS FSOS EXPAND COMMUNITY SERVICE + DEPARTMENT TECHNOLOGY BOLSTERS FIELD CONSULAR ACTIVITIES

Keeping History Alive in Istanbul

As Mark Twain said, history may not repeat itself but sometimes it rhymes. America's alliance with Turkey in the fight against terrorism was presaged, 176 years ago, by an agreement between the United States and the Ottoman Empire to combat the scourge of piracy—the terrorism of its day. Commodore David Porter, America's first diplomatic representative to the Sublime Porte, signed the treaty in Istanbul on October 3, 1831. A bronze tablet commemorating the event was affixed to Palazzo Corpi, which served as the United States Legation and residence beginning in 1882, as the embassy and ambassador's residence starting in 1906 and finally as the consulate general from 1937 until the opening of the new consulate general in 2003.

In honor of Commodore Porter and the long-standing U.S.-Turkish relationship, current Consul General Deborah K. Jones had the tablet removed from the now-vacant Palazzo Corpi and installed on a plinth in front of the new consulate general building. Ambassador Ross Wilson presided over its unveiling and rededication at a ceremony on February 7, 2007. In his remarks, Ambassador Wilson characterized the tablet as a fitting testament to the depth and endurance of U.S.-Turkish relations. Consul General Jones noted the appropriateness of the tablet's finally joining the most important element earlier transferred from Palazzo Corpi: the dedicated and talented locally employed staff. The tablet reads as follows:



Consul General Deborah Jones joins Ambassador Ross Wilson at the February rededication of the historic tablet.

*In Honor of Commodore David Porter, U.S.N.
First Diplomatic Representative of the United States of America
accredited to Turkey.*

*Commodore Porter and the Reis Affendi exchanged ratifications
of the first treaty between the United States of America and
the Ottoman Empire at Candilli,
October 3, 1831.*

*This tablet was dedicated by Americans in Constantinople
Fourth of July 1922.*

Trust Helps FSOs Expand Community Service

Say Egypt or Giza, and most people likely think first of the pyramids, one of the world's great wonders. The pyramids, however, border an area of Cairo that bustles with commerce, including an extensive transportation system that depends primarily on animal power.

Without the transport provided by these animals, many Egyptians would lose their livelihood. Yet most have little to no cash to properly support their animals, and may not have information about their options for maintaining animal health and welfare.

In April 2006, the Egyptian Society of Animal Friends opened a large animal clinic within its new animal shelter in Giza. This clinic was opened to serve working animals—the horses, donkeys and mules that work and travel on the streets of Cairo. Low- and no-cost veterinary services are now offered, with the intent of improving the health and welfare of local animals and to educate owners about humane animal treatment and care.

ESAF sought aid for the project from several partners. One partner, the J. Kirby Simon Foreign Service Trust, provided a grant that allowed ESAF to purchase the veterinary tools and equipment needed to work with large animals. Grants like these are awarded to Foreign Service officers to expand and support community service efforts in their host countries. ESAF received this award through the efforts of

Information Resource Officer Carla Higgins, a member of ESAF during her tenure in Cairo (2001–2005).

Through grants such as the J. Kirby Simon Trust, FSOs can work in meaningful ways with their communities. Host country citizens also benefit by collaborating with individual Americans to build better understanding and work for a common good.



A veterinarian prepares to treat working animals at the ESAF Large Animal Clinic in Cairo.



U.S. Ambassador Joseph A. Mussomeli and Embassy Consular Chief Anne W. Simon, right, present Ms. Sun Dalis the first immigrant visa to be issued in Phnom Penh in more than five years.

Immigrant Visa Processing Returns to Phnom Penh

U.S. immigrant visa processing officially returned to Cambodia on February 5, 2007, with the issuance of the first such visa at the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh in more than five years. The recipient of the visa was Ms. Sun Dalis, who qualified for immigrant status through a petition filed by her U.S. citizen fiancé. The U.S. ambassador to Cambodia, Joseph A. Mussomeli, was on hand to personally present the visa to Ms. Sun.

U.S. immigrant visa processing for Cambodian citizens was handled by the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok from December 2001 until January 2006, when the opening of the new U.S. embassy building in Phnom Penh made it feasible to return such processing to Cambodia. To resume processing immigrant visas, the consular section had to hire and train new local staff and transfer the paperwork for more than 6,000 cases from Bangkok to Phnom Penh.



Department Technology Bolsters Field Consular Activities

The U.S. Embassy in Singapore's Consular Chief, Julie Kavanagh, left, and Nonimmigrant Visa Officer Tracy Brown kick off a Web chat about the launch of the embassy's online visa appointment system. The new online appointment system is one of many CA efforts to improve services for visa applicants throughout the world. The U.S. Embassy in Singapore was the first post in the East Asian and Pacific Affairs region to use the Department's Content Management System Web chat platform.

STATE

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The submission deadline for the July/August 2007 issue is June 1. The deadline for the September issue is July 15.



Students in Pyatigorsk, located in the North Caucasus, prepare for a Connect with English lesson.

Connecting with English

MULTIMEDIA TOOLS BOOST PUBLIC DIPLOMACY OUTREACH **BY BRIDGET GERSTEN**

Baseball: The American pastime. Rebecca steps up to the field, eyeing the small crowd of children squirming around the pitcher's mound. She coaches a teenager:

Rebecca: Okay, watch me. You keep your eye on the ball, then get your body behind the glove, then scoop it up, like this, okay?

Rebecca (starting to pitch): And bobble the ball so it won't get past you.

Young ballplayer: Wow, Ms. Casey, you're pretty good!

Rebecca: They used to call me "Mighty Casey." (to the children playing ball): Do you know the poem "Casey at the Bat"?

Children: Noooo.

The scene is from Connect with English, an English-teaching video series that the Public Affairs section at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow has been piloting in classrooms and American Corners and Centers throughout Russia since 2006. Little did we realize the tremendous mileage available from this soap-opera-style series that follows the life of Rebecca Casey, an aspiring singer from Boston who gets accepted to music school in San Francisco.

Pooling the resources of our five English Language Fellows, we added this product offered by the Office of Broadcast Services—Video Acquisitions to our public diplomacy toolkit, reaching out to teachers, youth and the general public even in the most remote, multiethnic republics of the country: Bashkortostan, Tatarstan, Buryatia, Kalmykia, Tuva, the Jewish Autonomous

Republic, Karelia and Komi. We also used it to reach Muslim audiences in the North Caucasus, including Chechnya and Dagestan.

In each episode, viewers watch as Rebecca's life takes many turns in her journey across America in pursuit of her dreams. The story touches on life's important issues: leaving home, parenting, education, work, love, success and loss. The cast of characters represents American diversity, and the series lends itself well to the discussion of topics relevant to youth and adults alike. Each episode has a discussion section where learners can make cross-cultural connections.

DIVERSITY IN AMERICA

Russian teachers say the series helps them develop their own English skills and refine their teaching methods at the same time,



- * 1: Technology and a good story grab the attention of these Ufa students.
- * 2: Group discussions like this one in St. Petersburg lead to a deeper and more realistic understanding of American culture.
- * 3: English teachers use Connect with English materials to develop their English skills and refine their teaching methods.

while learning about American life and values.

“We have a chance to listen, to watch, to discuss and to exchange opinions with other teachers,” said Lyudmila, a teacher from Yekaterinburg.

Svetlana likes to try new approaches to teaching. “I’ll use the technique of predicting what will happen next and the method of comparing what happens in the film with our own life experiences,” she said.

At the crossroads of European and Eurasian Russia, English Language Fellow Danai Long has noted how English teachers she works with can’t wait until the next episode.

“Teachers and students love watching the program,” she said. “They are eager to see what will happen next and to learn new English slang and phrases. They like to see the American lifestyle and everyday language use.

“The series dispels myths that movies about America portray, for example, that all Americans have loads of money. They see

how some people live paycheck to paycheck and how saving is part of our culture. One class was surprised at the cost of used cars in America: in a prediction activity, they guessed that a used car would cost about \$50 and were then shocked when costs averaged in the thousands.”

In St. Petersburg, Senior English Language Fellow Sally Barrett uses the series at the Future Leaders’ Corner and the American Center during monthly seminars open to alumni and the general public. Feedback from the field demonstrates the connections made with the series.

One teacher noted that students like to hear native speech, and they like that it’s a real story. Another noted the friendly atmosphere at the seminars and vowed to continue using the series in class.

“For teachers, the program is a valuable resource for those who don’t meet native speakers often and lack motivating materials that demonstrate contemporary language and culture in context,” Barrett said.

TELEVISION + ENGLISH TEACHING

Harnessing technology for public diplomacy outreach is particularly important in a place like Russia, a country with a population of more than 142 million people spanning 11 time zones and home to 41 indigenous peoples. Post’s three consulates continue to explore new media outlets, following the successful television broadcast of the series in St. Petersburg, Vladivostok and the remote, volcanic Kamchatka peninsula, just 1,000 miles from Alaska.

The series has a handy, online program synopsis available at www.learner.org/resources/series71.html, together with episodes available for viewing on the Web. Post has started distributing an easy-to-use handbook that includes teaching tips, idioms and cultural pointers created by our Fellows to posts worldwide. It is now available for downloading in PDF format online at <http://www.usembassy.ru/english>. ■

The author is the public diplomacy officer at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

Goodwill in Kuwait

ART IN EMBASSIES ARTIST LINDA TOUBY SPREADS AMERICAN CULTURE ABROAD

BY MONA FAROUKI



Several abstract expressionist works by artist Linda Touby are on prominent display in the ambassador's residence in Kuwait.

New York artist Linda Touby was a hit among members of the Kuwait art community and public during a five-day visit sponsored by the ART in Embassies Program. Touby is a successful American painter whose work in the abstract expressionist style is characterized by vibrant colors, bold statements and evocative moods.

During her visit to the Gulf state in December, Touby gave workshops to students, met with a large number of Kuwaiti artists and art patrons and made media appearances during which she spoke about her work, the New York art scene and the

Department of State's ART in Embassies Program.

Six of Touby's paintings have been on display at the residence of Ambassador Richard LeBaron since he and wife Jean arrived in Kuwait in 2004. Touby's visit, funded by ART in Embassies and arranged on the ground by the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait's Public Affairs section, was an opportunity for visitors who have enjoyed her artwork for the past two years to meet the artist in person. Her visit also was a chance to promote American-Kuwaiti goodwill through a cultural exchange.

Touby's visit began with a reception hosted by Ambassador and Mrs. LeBaron at the ambassador's residence. The artist and her colorful paintings were the glittering centerpieces of an evening for Kuwaiti artists and art patrons, who were introduced to Touby and invited to view her work. During his remarks, Ambassador LeBaron expressed how delighted he was to finally meet Touby, since he and Mrs. LeBaron had been living with her creations for two years.

"I cannot tell you how much we have enjoyed having these artworks in our home," he said. "Jean and I consider ourselves very

fortunate to be able to live with these wonderful paintings and also to share them with our many Kuwaiti guests.”

INSTANT BONDS

At workshops in schools and studios, Kuwaiti student artists bonded readily with the artist. Many noted Touby’s friendliness, openness and her New York style, which sparked an instant connection among fellow artists. At the Kuwait University Women’s College, for example, Touby spoke of New York’s vibrant art scene and the latest trends there. She also talked about her development as an artist from a child painter in her native Florida to her schooling in New York and her many exhibitions at galleries and museums in the United States and overseas.

At these lectures, aspiring artists learned Touby’s daily routine as an artist. Each day begins with a 20-block walk to her studio in New York’s “Hell’s Kitchen” neighborhood. Once at her studio, she clears her head with music and then paints, usually producing a series of work because no one painting can contain the idea she wishes to express. Touby concluded many of her sessions with advice for the students: Be brave, expand horizons, experiment with different art mediums and find their own true calling in art and life.

The positive response from the students was overwhelming; many of them swarmed Touby following her lectures, invited the artist to view their work and asked for autographs and contact information to maintain

a relationship as friends or to seek her mentorship. Touby’s art became a universal language, transcending culture and language barriers.

Another highlight of her tour was a field trip to the outdoor beach area of the Kuwait Scientific Center, which Touby arranged for students from the sketching class at the American University of Kuwait. This adventure was the first time many of the students had sketched outdoors.

Shortly after they began to draw, security guards notified Touby that the large group would require a permit. However, the guards were so impressed by Touby and by the students’ sketches that they decided to allow them to continue their work undisturbed.

At visits to galleries and other cultural centers, Touby again connected readily with her Kuwaiti counterparts. She received invitations to visit the homes of several prominent Kuwaiti art patrons. At these social visits, Touby viewed unique art collections and met and spoke with even more Kuwaiti artists and art lovers.

One lunch included a group of six young female artists. Following their discussion on the New York and Kuwait art scenes, the students promised to contact Touby on their next trip to New York. One seasoned gallery owner invited Touby to return and exhibit her paintings in 2008.

MESSAGE OF UNDERSTANDING

The Embassy Public Affairs staff arranged for Touby’s message of understanding

through the arts to reach the Kuwaiti public through targeted media appearances. These included an exclusive interview with *Kuwait Review*, a local art and literature monthly magazine, as well as appearances on two popular television programs: “Good Morning Kuwait,” a morning talk show, and “Raikum Shabab” (“Your Opinion Youth”), a trendy evening program.

Her television appearances included clips of Touby with her artwork filmed at the home of the ambassador. Capping off the media outreach were photographs and stories about her welcome reception and her tour of Kuwait that appeared in the local Arabic- and English-language press.

One workshop student asked the locally dubbed “ambassador of art” how she knows when a painting is finished.

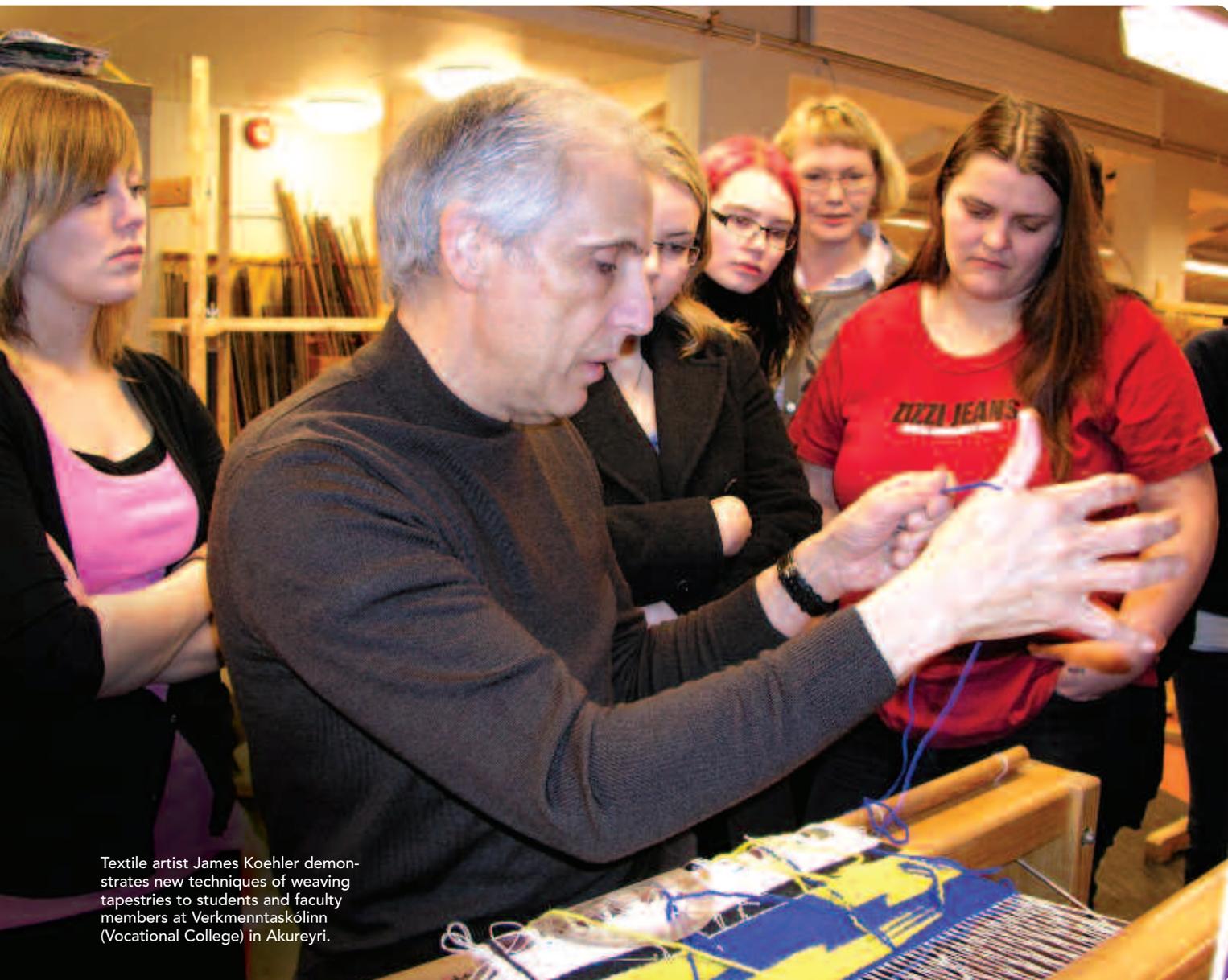
“A painting is really never finished,” Touby replied, “until we are all finished. This is the beauty of art. It is eternal, for all times, all people and all seasons.”

The bonds of friendship the American artist formed with hundreds of Kuwaitis could also be eternal; they will have an impact for a very long time. Touby, through her art, made a distinctive and lasting impression on all who interacted with her. Her efforts proved that even in difficult times in a troubled region, the common bonds of humanity run far deeper than the differences. ■

The author is a cultural affairs specialist at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.



Above: Artist Linda Touby conducted several workshops during her tour, including this one with art students from Kuwait’s Public Authority for Applied Education and Technology. Right: Ambassador Richard LeBaron expressed delight with Linda Touby’s artwork on display in the residence and with the ART in Embassies Program that made it possible.



Textile artist James Koehler demonstrates new techniques of weaving tapestries to students and faculty members at Verkmennaskólinn (Vocational College) in Akureyri.

dream weavers

SANTA FE TEXTILE ARTIST SHARES EXPERTISE WITH ICELAND'S FUTURE WEAVERS BY SALLY HODGSON

Under the auspices of the American Artists Abroad Program, textile artist James Koehler, of Santa Fe, N.M., shared his professional techniques with Iceland's future weavers during a January 2007 visit to Iceland. His audiences included students from Verkmennaskólinn (Vocational College) in Akureyri, and from a home economics school in Reykjavik.

During two and a half days of workshops at Verkmennaskólinn, Koehler showed students how to "dress" a loom prior to weaving, offered valuable tips

about how to dye wool so it remains colorfast and explained other processes he has developed over his 30-year career as a leading textile artist in the United States. He showed students how a weaver can vary the shades of a color in a textile piece by dividing the wool into smaller and smaller strands and then weaving the thinner strands next to each other.



James Koehler and Ásgerður Búadóttir, Iceland's most famous textile artist, pose in front of one of Mrs. Búadóttir's tapestries, which incorporate wave-like designs similar to those found in the American artist's work.

Koehler also demonstrated how to weave a circle by holding a transparency of the circle at the back of the loom and marking the design with a felt-tipped pen. When the artist weaves, using the dots as a guide ensures that the circle appears smooth, without zigzags.

Earlier in the week, Koehler spoke to 25 students and faculty members from the home economics school in Reykjavik, and met with Iceland's most famous weaver, Ásgerður Búadóttir, whose tapestries are similar to Mr. Koehler's in their use of wave-like patterns.

Koehler's tapestry, *Harmonic Oscillation XXXV*, was among the art pieces selected by Ambassador Carol van Voorst to decorate the ambassador's residence in Reykjavik. Koehler was the featured artist at the Ambassador's ART in Embassies reception in January. More than 100 textile artists, weavers, painters and others representing the visual arts community in Iceland attended the reception.

The workshops were featured in two major newspapers, *Fréttablaðið* and *Bláðið*, and by nationwide broadcasters RÚV Radio and TV, which reach 40 percent of the population. An interview with the textile artist is also scheduled to appear in *Hús*,

a home design magazine. ■

The author is the Public Affairs Officer for the U.S. Embassy in Reykjavik.

EXTENDING VISUAL DIPLOMACY BY ART IN EMBASSIES STAFF

Created in 2002, American Artists Abroad is a global education initiative of the U.S. Department of State's ART in Embassies Program that sends some of its lenders, mostly artists, overseas for short-term cultural exchanges. Nominated participants travel to the country where their work is currently on exhibit at the residence of the U.S. ambassador or chief of mission. There they engage in a series of public programming activities—lectures, workshops, studio visits, etc.—with local artists, students, educators and

members of the cultural community. As of February, 36 AAA participants have done programming on five continents.

According to Anne Johnson, director of the ART in Embassies Program, the mission of AAA is "to extend the visual diplomacy of ART in Embassies beyond the walls of diplomatic residences into local communities. It is this sort of exchange that promotes understanding between cultures, no matter how diverse."

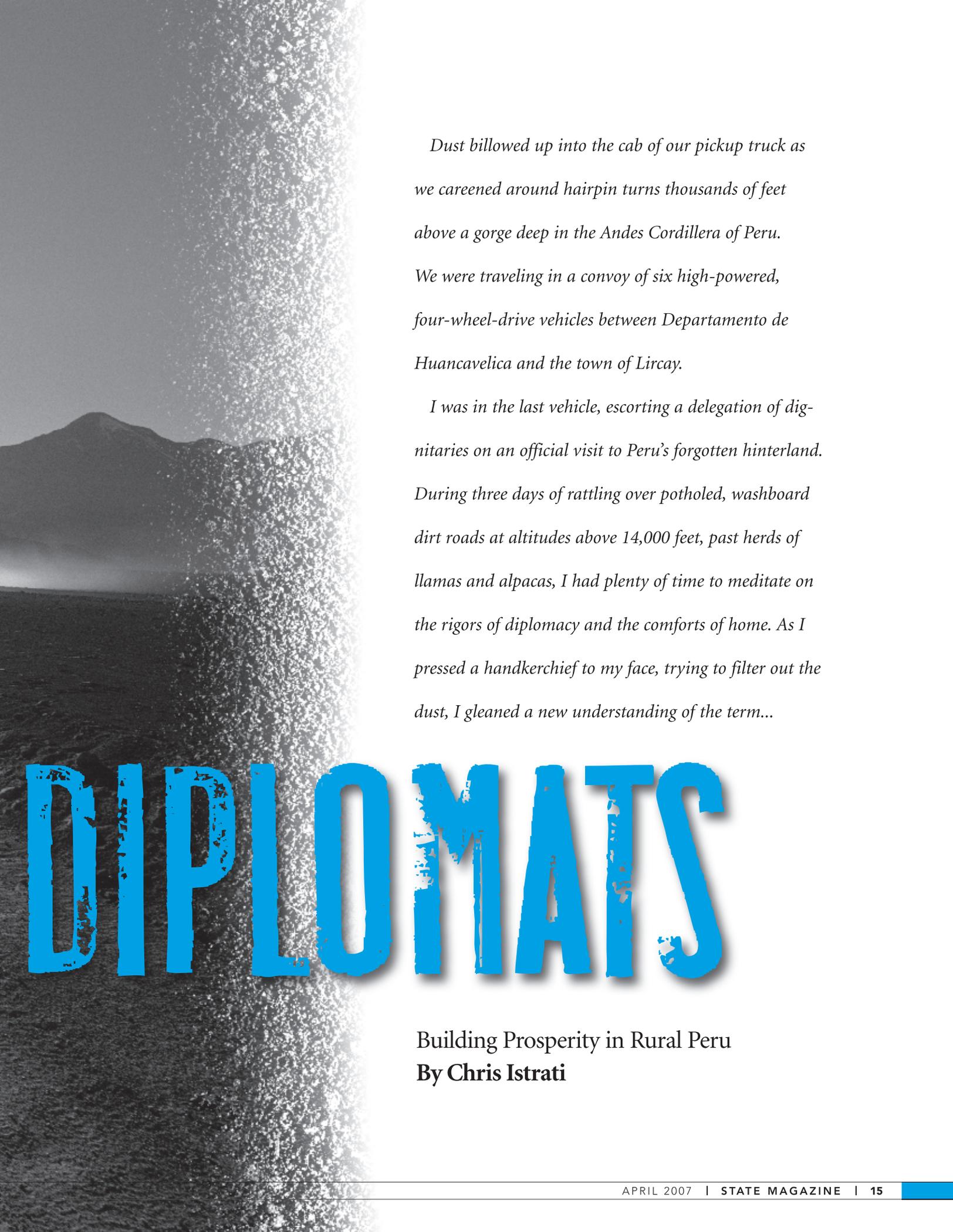
Since 1964, the ART in Embassies Program has been exhibiting original

works of art by U.S. citizens in the public rooms of American diplomatic residences worldwide. These exhibitions, with art loaned from a variety of public and private sources, play an important role in our nation's public diplomacy. They provide international audiences with a sense of the quality, scope and diversity of American art and culture through some of our most important and perceptive citizens, our artists. You can learn more about the ART in Embassies Program at <http://aiiep.state.gov>.





DUSTY-ROAD



Dust billowed up into the cab of our pickup truck as we careened around hairpin turns thousands of feet above a gorge deep in the Andes Cordillera of Peru. We were traveling in a convoy of six high-powered, four-wheel-drive vehicles between Departamento de Huancavelica and the town of Lircay.

I was in the last vehicle, escorting a delegation of dignitaries on an official visit to Peru's forgotten hinterland. During three days of rattling over potholed, washboard dirt roads at altitudes above 14,000 feet, past herds of llamas and alpacas, I had plenty of time to meditate on the rigors of diplomacy and the comforts of home. As I pressed a handkerchief to my face, trying to filter out the dust, I gleaned a new understanding of the term...

DIPLOMATS

Building Prosperity in Rural Peru
By Chris Istrati



Ambassador Struble participates in the celebration ceremonies marking the return of the famed El Retablo de Challapampa to its home.

I had come across the expression just prior to my trip in something Thomas A. Shannon Jr., assistant secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, had written.

“I am what is known as a ‘dusty-roads’ diplomat,” he said. “I have dedicated myself to countries in transition—countries that have struggled to make democracy real for their people, and to provide the prosperity and security necessary for human development.”

He told me later he had inherited the term in 1984 from Richard Dols, who at that time was serving as the director of the Office of Pacific Island Affairs and advised him about making a career of the Foreign Service.

LESS-TRAVELED PATHS

“The decision you have to make is pretty simple,” Dols told him. “If you enjoy what Washington has to offer, especially its comforts and culture, then stay put. However, if what you like to do at the end of a day is to walk down a dusty road, poke around open-air markets, listen to the chatter of foreign languages and realize that you are far away from all that is familiar but right in front of all that is exciting and interesting, then the Foreign Service is for you.”

Those words came back vividly as we descended into the beautiful valley of Lircay at the end of a kidney-killer ride.

Peru is a country in transition, both politically and economically. The presidential elections last July revealed underlying social and political strains. Alán García won by a narrow margin with support from the coastal regions, while Ollanta Humala, the populist candidate, gained votes in the mountains, jungles and the poorer southern region.

The benefits of economic growth have yet to trickle down to more remote areas, and more roads need to be built to get goods to market. Clearly, Peru’s government has work to do, leaving room for a partnership with dusty-road diplomats to help build up the country’s stability and prosperity.

Our delegation—consisting of Curt Struble, U.S. ambassador to Peru; Gaston Benza Pflucker, director of Sierra Exportadora, a Peruvian initiative to engage highland farmers in international trade; Roque Benavidez, general manager of Buenaventura Mining Company; a security detail; U.S. Agency for International Development project coordinators; reporters; and me, acting as the embassy press secretary—was scheduled to visit export-producing

projects in Huancavelica, considered one of the poorest departments in Peru.

GROUNDBREAKING INVESTMENTS

On the way, we had visited an artichoke farm; here in Lircay, we were to visit a trout farm.

A sign at the entrance to the valley welcomed us to the “Lost Paradise of Lircay.” A river of glacial melt roared down the middle of fields ripe with crops indigenous to the Andes: potatoes, maize, quinoa and kiwicha (amaranth)—as well as new products destined for export.

Peru’s agro-industry has invested heavily in nontraditional export products such as coffee, asparagus, paprika, artichokes and trout. Many jungle products such as maca, a root with reputed health and aphrodisiacal benefits, are beginning to find their way into global markets. Textiles made of pima cotton and alpaca wool have also successfully penetrated international markets.

The Sumaq Challwa (“pretty fish” in Quechua) trout farm is one of several joint projects of USAID’s Poverty Reduction and Alleviation Project. PRA is implemented under a contract with Chemonics International, an international development consulting firm.



Left: Ambassador Struble admires one of the products produced by the trout farm in Departamento de Huancavelica. Below: Ambassador Struble, right, joins Huancavelica's mayor Dr. Edgar Ruiz, left, and Roque Benavidez, director of a private mining company that contributed more than \$1 million to establish an Economic Service Center.

The trout farm manager told us that Shining Path terrorists had bombed their enterprise and it was abandoned for many years, until the regional government gave a concession to a private investor to rebuild and manage the farm. Sumaq Challwa has become an excellent model for public-private/local-international cooperation.

In 2002, as part of a partnership between the U.S. government and the private sector, the Buenaventura Mining Company contributed \$1.1 million to establish an "Economic Service Center" for Huancavelica. The center provides technical assistance to develop small businesses in the region.

These businesses have produced sales of \$2.5 million in Huancavelica alone. The creation of 1,250 jobs in one of the most impoverished regions of the country may be the single most important benefit of PRA's work.

The highlight of this trip was the signing of an agreement to continue the partnership between USAID, the Buenaventura Mining Company and the Peruvian government.

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

Ambassador Struble interacted with the local population that greeted us at various

projects. At the trout farm, he was asked to hold a live fish, break a bottle of champagne on a rock and stand with an endless line of well-wishers wanting their picture taken. Eating the local fare and rattling across mountain roads at high altitudes didn't seem to faze him.

Other junior FSOs made frequent trips into Peru's forgotten regions. Abby Gonzalez traveled to Departamento de Puno to make arrangements for the return of El Retablo de Challapampa, a 17th century altar stolen from a church and found in an art gallery in New Mexico. During Peru's presidential elections, Pablo Valdez crossed the Ticlio Pass—at 16,000 feet, Peru's highest paved road—to report on the political landscape and assess anti-American feelings in the provinces. In Ayacucho, a central transit zone for the illegal coca industry and seat of the Shining Path movement, Valdez met a reformed terrorist who was running for mayor.

Ambassador Struble believes that getting out of the capital can complement other transitional diplomacy initiatives such as virtual presence posts and e-diplomacy. He remembers a local official at a ceremony calling him "the most important visitor to Puno since 1964."

After the trip to Huancavelica, a Peruvian investigative journalist introduced a TV report with this question: "What happens when the ambassador of the most powerful nation on earth visits the poorest region of our country? It's truly an encounter of two cultures. Luckily this encounter will benefit our compatriots in Huancavelica."

Score another public diplomacy point for "dusty-road diplomats." ■



The author is a consular officer at the U.S. Embassy in Lima.



Just Measures

STATE HELPS THE WORLD
REMEMBER THE HOLOCAUST
BY KRISTEN BUNTING

“Help the world remember us,” requested an elderly Holocaust survivor in Berlin. He and Christian Kennedy, the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, were attending a meeting of the board of the German foundation that by May 2007 will have paid nearly 5 billion euros to former slave and forced laborers of the Nazi regime and to certain other Nazi victims.

Remembrance and securing a measure of justice are the daily work of the Department’s Office of the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues 60 years after the cataclysm that nearly destroyed European Jewry. From April 17 to 19, the U.S. Congress and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, joined by many around the country, will organize remembrance events intended to honor both victims and survivors of the Holocaust.

PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT ABRAMS, UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM



Jewish children working in a locksmith's workshop in the Lodz, Poland, ghetto.

an informal group of 24 nations that supports and cofinances projects designed to support Holocaust education by training educators, promoting remembrance through memorials and commemorations, and encouraging academic research and study.

Property Restitution: During World War II the Nazis seized property from organizations and individuals. Much property in Western Europe was returned during the postwar period, but it was only after the collapse of communism that it was possible to restitute property in the former Iron Curtain countries. Working closely with Jewish nongovernment organizations, OHI encourages Eastern European countries to adopt and implement laws and practices to restitute private and communal property.

Art Restitution: The Nazis confiscated thousands of works of art, many of which the Allies returned to countries of origin after the war. But others were not immediately identified, and ownership issues have arisen. At the 1998 Washington Conference on Nazi Era Assets, 44 nations adopted principles to guide claimants and holders of disputed art. The Washington Principles remain the standard by which museums, collectors, dealers and claimants deal with disputed ownership issues.

Payments and other Compensation: Over the past decade, the United States has facilitated several agreements by foreign governments and foreign companies to provide a measure of justice for Holocaust survivors. Under these agreements nearly \$8 billion has been paid to Jewish and non-Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. These supplement the various payment and compensation programs adopted by Germany in the postwar era, which have resulted in payments of more than \$60 billion to survivors, approximately \$100 billion in today's values.

Opening Holocaust Archives: The United States has taken the lead in opening Holocaust archives, declassifying millions of pages of archived material since the 1980s. We are now working with other countries to open the archives of the International Tracing Service for researchers and historians. ITS archives 30 million pages of WWII and postwar concentration, labor and displaced persons camp records. Seventeen million names appear in these archives.

For more information about OHI activities, please visit the Web site at www.state.gov/p/eur/rt/hlcst. ■

The author is an intern in the Office of Holocaust Issues.

The views or opinions expressed in this article, and the context in which the images are used, do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of, nor imply approval or endorsement by, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

A group of survivors and their children will meet in the Department on April 20 to discuss the meaning of the Holocaust in their own lives. OHI and the Office of Civil Rights have partnered to bring this educational event to State.

Remembrance and education are important ways to honor victims, expose the unthinkable consequences that hatred and bigotry can lead to if unchecked and help ensure that such tragic events are not forgotten—and never repeated.

The Office of Holocaust Issues focuses on:

Education: OHI works with The Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research,

The surf breaks gently at a beach west of Dili.



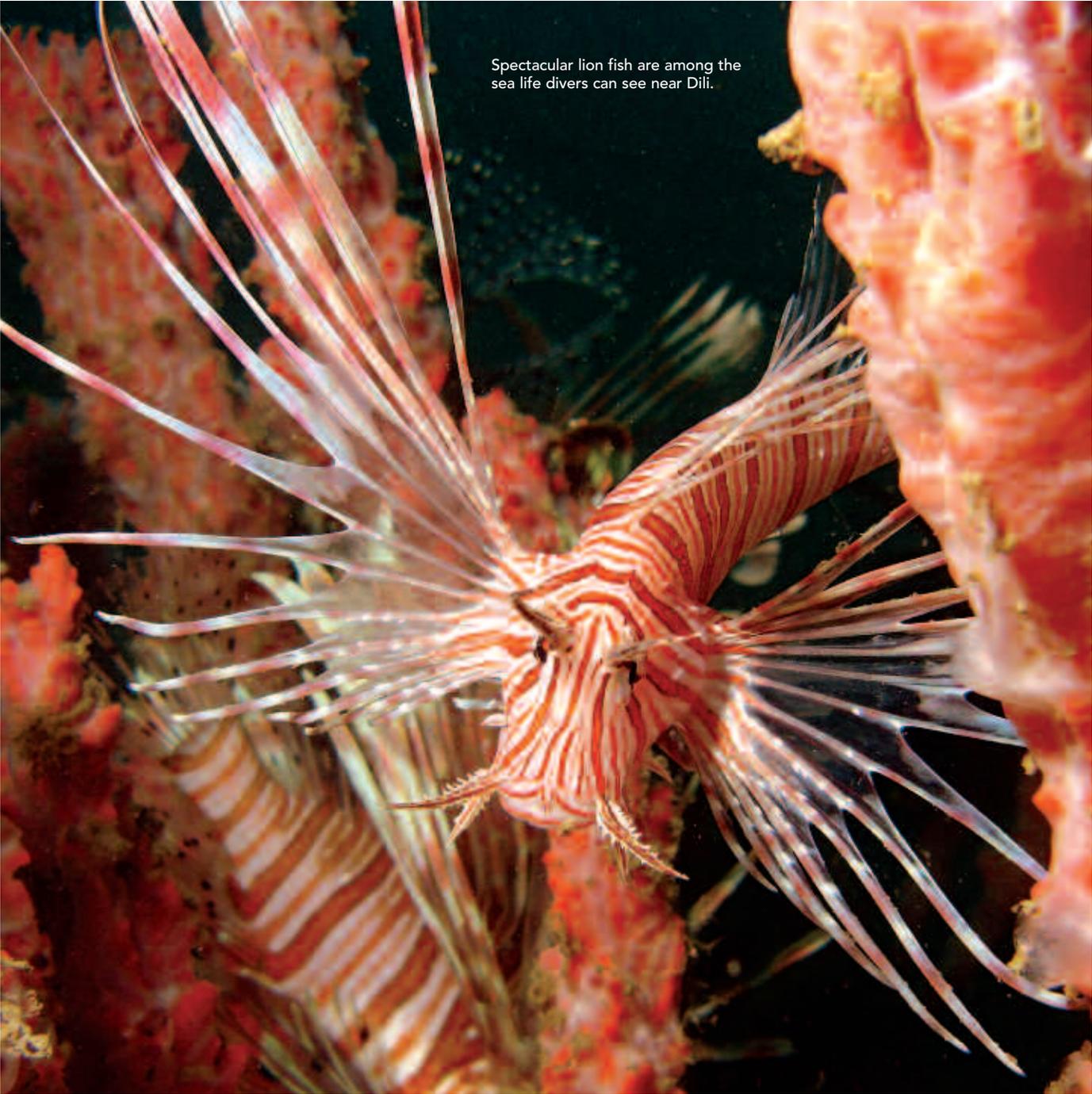
PHOTOGRAPH: U.S. EMBASSY IN DILI



East Timor

U.S. Helps a New Nation
Find Its Footing

By Seiji Shiratori and Aaron Forsberg



Spectacular lion fish are among the sea life divers can see near Dili.

U.S. officials posted to Dili grapple with the same challenge East Timor itself faces: How to guide one of the world's newest nations along the path to success.

Mission officials say that each person posted to Dili deals with front-burner issues every day and has the opportunity to make a real difference.

The 10 direct-hire Americans at this small post represent State, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Department of Defense. The mission also employs more than 120 Locally Employed staff, including local guards.

BEAUTY AND CONFLICT

According to legend, the island of Timor first came into being as a crocodile. It differs from the volcanic islands to the west in Indonesia. Composed mainly of limestone, Timor is on part of the continental shelf that has been pushed up as the Australian tectonic plate slides over the Eurasian plate to the north. Below the sea are rich deposits of oil and gas.

Timor is in the dry tropics. Outdoor sports enthusiasts find the rugged environment inviting. Despite severe deforestation, the island's varied landforms and vegetation offer spectacular natural beauty. Untouched coral reefs teeming with marine life make for prime scuba diving.

The first inhabitants were Austronesian peoples. Subsequent Asian migrants introduced agriculture. The first Europeans were the Portuguese, who established a colony in the 16th century comprising the eastern half of the island plus the enclave of Oecussi. The Dutch occupied West Timor, which later became part of Indonesia. Chinese merchants conducted most trade.

The Portuguese ruled East Timor until 1975, and Portuguese is one of two official languages, along with the indigenous and widely spoken Tetum. Bahasa Indonesia and English are working languages.

On Nov. 28, 1975, East Timor declared independence from Portugal. Nine days later the Indonesian army invaded. The Timorese fought unsuccessfully against annexation. This struggle cost the lives of more than 10 percent of the population and reaffirmed the Timorese identity apart from Indonesia.

The people of East Timor voted for independence in a United Nations-

AT A GLANCE: EAST TIMOR



Capital
Dili

Total area
15,007 square kilometers

Approximate size
Slightly larger than Connecticut

Government
Republic

Independence
November 28, 1975 (from Portugal)
May 20, 2002 (from Indonesia)

Population
1.1 million

Languages
Tetum, Portuguese, Indonesian, English and indigenous languages

Religions
Roman Catholic, Muslim and Protestant

Currency
U.S. dollar (USD)

Per capita income
\$800

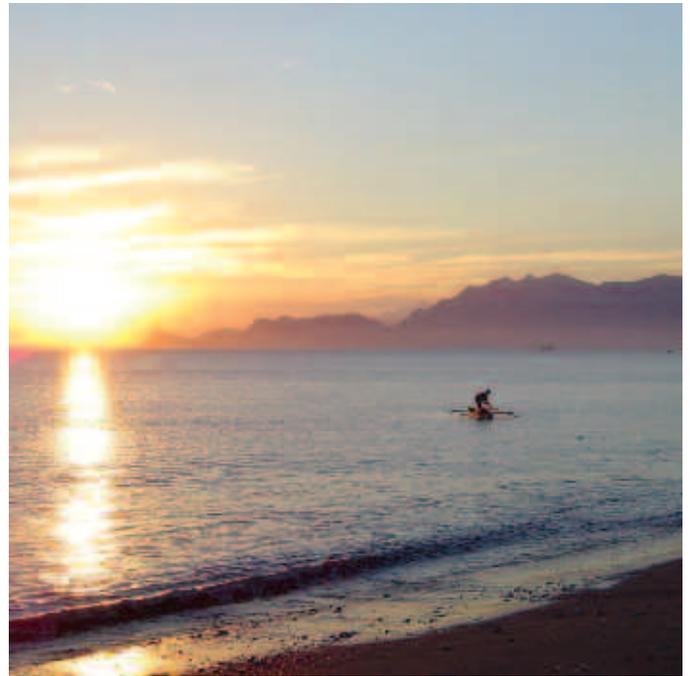
Population below poverty line
42 percent

Imports
Food, gasoline and kerosene

Exports
Coffee, sandalwood and marble

Internet country code
.tl

SOURCE: CIA World Factbook 2007



Upper left: USAID Director Flynn Fuller helps unload a Food for Progress donation destined for internally displaced persons. Upper right: The sun rises over Cristo Rei. Lower left: Water buffalo can be seen from the road between Dili and Baucau. Lower right: Darragh Paradiso and Elizabeth Wharton, wearing floppy hats, pose with their guides during a climb of Mt. Matebien, which is spiritually important to the Timorese.

supervised poll in August 1999. The ensuing wave of violence captured the world's attention. Indonesian troops and the Timorese militias they backed killed hundreds and laid waste to the country's infrastructure before international peacekeepers arrived in September.

LAUNCHING A NATION

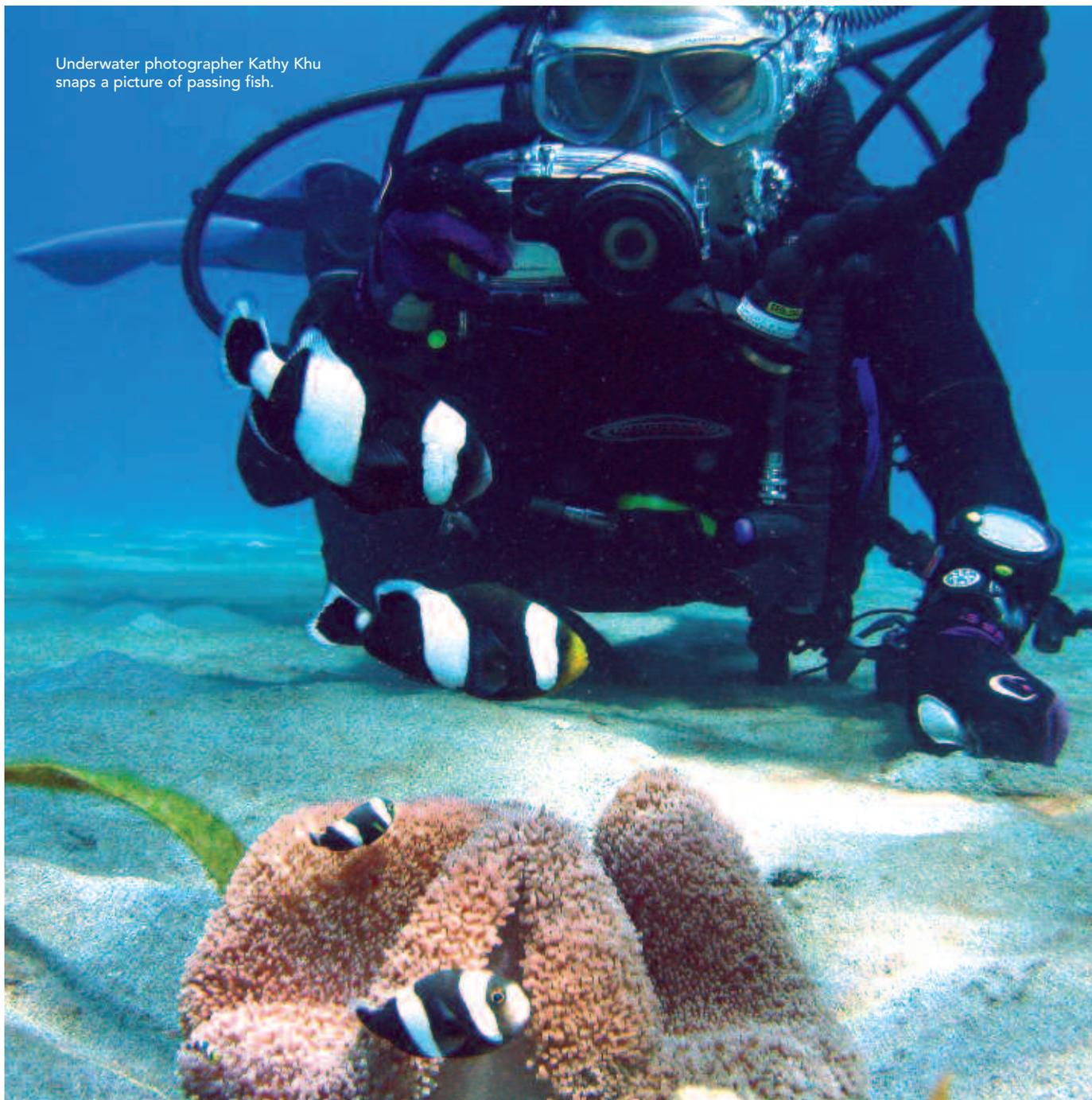
The United States established a liaison office in the capital of Dili in 2000 and has assisted the Timorese in building their new nation.

"The United States hopes East Timor can strengthen its nascent and democratic institutions and wisely use its rapidly growing petroleum revenues to become an example of stability in the region," says Chief of Mission Gary Gray.

Most Timorese live on the land and practice subsistence agriculture. With USAID assistance, the country has begun selling niche agricultural products, most notably organic coffee, to international buyers such as Starbucks.

Still, East Timor is one of the poorest nations in the world and

Underwater photographer Kathy Khu snaps a picture of passing fish.



has a high rate of unemployment. Oil and gas revenues now flow into a petroleum fund the government established to preserve the wealth for future generations. The country's future depends heavily on how its leaders invest these funds, because its petroleum resources will eventually run out.

Since independence, Timorese leaders have faced immense challenges in making the government apparatus work, defining a national identity and accommodating the many conflicting demands of the Timorese people. In the words of Prime Minister José Ramos-Horta, "Building a state, from almost zero, is a Herculean task."

Finding places in independent East Timor for veterans of the

resistance, the Catholic Church and other institutions has been particularly contentious.

"In dealing with all of these challenges," says Gray, "there isn't any real alternative to success. If East Timor does not succeed, the country could fall into long-term internecine strife and violence."

Embassy employees saw firsthand what the future could look like when internal divisions in the army sparked a national crisis in 2006. Early in the year, soldiers from the western districts of the country alleged discrimination by military leaders, who came mostly from eastern districts. These soldiers abandoned their posts and, in March, the commander of the armed forces dismissed about one-third of the army for absence from duty.



The U.S. embassy sits on a beachfront lot.

Protests against this decision inflamed previously mild divisions between easterners and westerners.

Clashes in Dili among demonstrators, the army and police in April and May claimed the lives of about 30 people and led to the collapse of public order. More than 150,000 Timorese fled their homes, mostly to camps for internally displaced persons. International security forces led by Australia intervened to restore order at the request of the government in May, and the U.N. Security Council established a new mission in East Timor in August.

The challenge now is to get East Timor back on track. The immediate focus is on the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for this year.

“We hope that East Timor has free and fair elections and that all parties accept the results,” says Gray. “We hope the military and the police will emerge from this crisis and develop into professional institutions under civilian control that fully respect human rights.”

Longer term, the U.S. government has been working to promote democratic governance, private sector-led growth and investment in the health and education of the people.

LIFE AT POST

Dili’s population is about 200,000, but the city feels smaller. American citizens number about 100. Many more Australians,



Upper left: Candlenut is processed at a USAID-funded facility near Baucau. Upper right: A garden on the side of Mt. Matebien features limestone formations. Lower left: USAID Director Flynn Fuller and AID administrative assistant Celestina da Fonseca survey the ruins of da Fonseca's family home, which was destroyed in the May 2006 violence. Lower right: The Portuguese left a reminder of their religious faith in this statue, which overlooks Dili.

Portuguese and other expatriates work for U.N. agencies, non-governmental organizations and the international security forces. Several well-stocked grocery stores and international restaurants cater to the expatriate community.

Many employees live within walking distance of the embassy, and the commute for all is short. The embassy compound is widely known as the nicest facility in town. Its spacious beach-front lot contains the chief of mission's residence, a small chancery, a gym, a playground, a tennis court and a new swimming pool.

The embassy has a small health clinic and a locally hired physi-

cian. Two international schools provide education through eighth grade. On weekends, children can enjoy the pool or the beach while parents take a break snorkeling, cooking outdoors or just relaxing at one of Dili's many restaurants.

"Despite its being among the Department's highest differential posts," says Management Officer Steve Hunt, "we've really worked hard to make Embassy Dili into a place that can support Foreign Service families." ■

Seiji Shiratori is the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Dili. Aaron Forsberg is the Indonesia and East Timor desk officer.

MUST-SEE TV

POST VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE ON BNET
BY JAN FISCHER-BACHMAN

BNET is now showing empty rooms—bathrooms, kitchens, living rooms, commissaries, stores, embassy offices and school classrooms—and even the proverbial kitchen sink.

Why? The Overseas Briefing Center and BNET have partnered to make top-quality post videos more accessible to employees all over the world. Post videos are an important tool in helping viewers bid on and prepare for places that meet their needs.

Videos meeting BNET standards are broadcast 30 times over a period of two weeks to allow for viewing in different time zones. The schedule is at <http://bnet.state.gov/weekly/>.

For those in the U.S. and at a small number of overseas posts, the growing collection of post videos is available anytime on BNET on Demand at <http://obc.bnet.state.gov>.

More than 1,000 audiovisual materials in the OBC Information Center at the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center in Arlington, Va., can also be viewed from the comfort of home. Videos, CDs and DVDs can be checked out for two days at a time.

In addition to post audiovisuals, the OBC collection includes training materials such as video recordings of Transition Center workshops—“Traveling with Pets,” “Managing Rental Property” and many more. The complete listing is on the Transition Center Web site, <http://fsi.state.gov/fsi/tc>. Choose “Overseas Briefing Center,” then “Audiovisuals.”

Not every post can create a broadcast-quality product, but in today’s digital world, coming up with a CD of informational photos or an amateur video of life at post is not difficult. OBC offers guidelines for everything from reducing photo size and placing photos into a Word or PowerPoint document to meeting BNET’s DVD standards. OBC’s online audiovisual section has details.

In addition, the annual KidVid contest offers Foreign Service children ages 10–18 the chance to share what life is like at post. This year’s deadline is April 16. Contest rules are in the OBC audiovisual section.

While experienced foreign affairs community members recognize the value of seeing post videos to fine-tune their bid lists and preparations, the DVDs are indispensable for those newer to the community. OBC staff members often see someone leave a viewing room saying, “I could live there.” ■

The author is a writer/editor in the FSI Transition Center of the Overseas Briefing Center.





Peace in His Time

FRIENDS, FAMILY REMEMBER AMBASSADOR ROBERT FROWICK
BY GAILYN McCLUNG AND DAN SAINZ

More than 150 friends and family members gathered at the Department Feb. 14 for a memorial service honoring retired Ambassador Robert Frowick, who died in January at the age of 77. They remembered a distinguished diplomat whose career spanned the Cold War, which he helped bring to a peaceful conclusion.

Frowick was also remembered for his role in helping realize the Helsinki Accords and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as his willingness to come out of retirement in the 1990s to help prevent further interethnic conflict in the Balkans.

Under Secretary for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns recalled Frowick's quiet determination and charm, noting that Frowick's definition of diplomacy as "the art of letting the other guy have your way" should be included in international relations textbooks.

Bosnian Ambassador Bisera Turkovic paid tribute to Frowick's work heading the Bosnia Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as his two missions in Macedonia. Turkovic recalled that while organizing Bosnia's 1995 elections, the first after the Dayton Accords, Frowick removed from the ballot Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who had been indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, a move deemed risky at the time but ultimately vindicated.

Assistant Secretary for European Affairs Daniel Fried recalled Frowick as a role model for Foreign Service officers, emphasizing the key role Frowick played in drafting and ensuring implementation of Helsinki Final Act provisions that gave birth to the democratic movements that brought down the Iron Curtain. Fried said Frowick would be remembered for saving lives, rebuilding countries and leaving a legacy of a Europe "whole, free and at peace."

Friends described Frowick's rare combination of personal grace, strong moral compass and steady leadership. Former Under Secretary for Political Affairs Marc Grossman attributed to Frowick lessons, such as the centrality of strong alliances to



A photo of Ambassador Frowick graced the stage at his memorial service.

advancing U.S. strategic interests, that stayed with him throughout his own career. Grossman also praised Frowick's organization of the 50th-Anniversary NATO Summit, which helped hold the alliance together during the difficult period of Operation Allied Force in Kosovo, and saw the expansion of the alliance to former Warsaw Pact countries.

Frowick's son, Foreign Service officer George Frowick, closed the service with touching memories of his father as a tremendous role model and loving father. ■

Gailyn McClung is a program assistant and Dan Sainz is the principal deputy director in the Office of South Central European Affairs.

BY JOHN BENTEL

Swing Dancers Help Kick Off the New Year

The Foreign Affairs Recreation Association and the State of the Arts Cultural Series kicked off the new year with a performance by Gotta Swing, and also presented classical pianist Jeanette Fang.

Tom Koerner, Debra Sternberg and their energetic group of dancers kicked up their heels doing the jitterbug and Lindy Hop. Tom and Debra teach classes and have won many swing competitions. The term “swing dancing” refers to a family of dances that evolved

from the 1920s Charleston into the Lindy Hop—also known as the jitterbug—and its progeny. The Lindy Hop uses the movements and improvisation of African dances, along with the formal eight-count structure of European partner dances. The audience couldn’t seem to get enough of these talented dancers.

Jeanette Fang, 22, wowed the audience with her phenomenal

piano artistry. She is a student of Yoheved Kaplinsky, attends Juilliard and has won many competitions. She has performed at prestigious venues such as Alice Tully Hall, Weill Recital Hall and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She performed Rachmaninoff’s étude *Tableaux*,

op. 33, no. 6 and Schumann’s *Sonata no. 1 in F# minor, op. 11*. Her interpretation revealed a sensitivity rarely seen in someone her age. An appreciative audience applauded resoundingly. ■

The author is a computer specialist in the Executive Secretariat.



Members of the Gotta Swing dance group give it their all.



APRIL 11

William and Mary Players, David Montgomery, conductor

APRIL 25

Frank Conlon—Pianist, Memorial Concert for Emerson Myers

MAY 09

State Department and Montgomery College Piano Recital

MAY 23

Korean Costumes and Dancers

JUNE 06

To Be Announced

JUNE 20

Piano Prodigies

Performances are on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Dean Acheson Auditorium.



KNOW WHAT TO DO
BY TERRY CARRAWAY

Lightning Kills

Statistically, a person is more likely to be struck by lightning than to win \$100 playing the Powerball lottery. In an average year, about 100 people are killed and 1,000 are injured by the approximately 20 million cloud-to-ground lightning strikes in the United States.

More people are killed and injured by lightning than by tornadoes and hurricanes combined. Lightning is second only to floods in causing weather-related deaths.

So what can you do to avoid being struck by lightning?

WATT POWER

Lightning is simply a very large electric spark, one with about a trillion watts of power. By contrast, a bright lightbulb produces 100 watts of power. The electrical power contained in lightning heats the adjacent air to more than 36,000 degrees Fahrenheit, or about three times the temperature of the surface of the sun, causing the air around the strike to literally explode. This produces the sound of thunder.

Check the weather forecast before planning any outdoor activities. The best way to prevent being struck by lightning is not to be outdoors when it occurs. When you go out, take a radio along.

When you see lightning, count the time until you hear the thunder. If it is less than 30 seconds, the lightning is close enough to be dangerous, so seek shelter immediately. Even if you don't see the lightning, hearing the thunder means you may still be close enough to be struck, because lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the cloud that generates the strike. Stay in the shelter for at least 30 minutes after you see the last lightning strike.

The best shelter is indoors in a substantial building. An open structure, such as a picnic shelter, does not provide adequate protection. Avoid using electric appliances and stay away from water and pipes, swimming areas, bathrooms and showers.

If a building is not available, the second best shelter is a car with the windows rolled up. Be sure to avoid touching any metal parts. The car protects you because the metal body directs the electrical current around the outside of the car, protecting those inside.

HEIGHT HURTS

If no shelter is available, go to lower ground. Stay away from tall, isolated objects such as lone trees, poles and towers. Also stay away from metal objects.

Once lightning strikes, it can spread and strike other objects, including people, up to 60 feet away from the initial point of contact. Separate yourself by several body lengths from other people and avoid wide-open spaces.

As a last resort, use the lightning crouch to protect yourself: Squat low to the ground, place your head between your knees and put your hands over your ears. This will make you the smallest possible target. Do not lie flat on the ground; this will make you a larger target.

If someone is struck by lightning, seek medical attention immediately. Call 911 and, if trained, perform rescue breathing or CPR, if needed. Check for burns at the points where the lightning entered and exited the body and treat the victim to minimize the onset of shock.

Remember Ben Franklin's experiment? He produced an electrical spark by flying a kite with an attached key into a strong electrical field. If lightning had struck his kite, he probably would not have survived to tell the story and later to become the young country's first diplomat. So take thunderstorms and lightning seriously. ■

The author is an industrial hygienist with the Safety, Health and Environmental Management Division.



Charles Andrew Breitenbach, 85, a retired Foreign Service officer, died Dec. 23 in Calabasas, Calif. He began his Foreign Service career in 1949 and joined the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1961. He retired in 1981. As an agronomist, he helped develop new crop varieties—wheat, corn, cotton, sorghum and rice—in Paraguay, Cuba, Guatemala, Thailand, Brazil and the Philippines. He also served in Uruguay and El Salvador.



Carl R. Fritz, 83, a retired Foreign Service officer, died Feb. 4 in Chapel Hill, N.C., after a long illness. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He worked for both State and USAID and served overseas in India, Sri Lanka, East Africa, Vietnam and Thailand. After retiring in 1976, he worked as a consultant in Indonesia and Bangladesh. He was active in civic affairs and coordinated an international conference on health, education and development.

Henry L. Heymann,

86, a retired Foreign Service officer, died Feb. 8 of cancer in Washington, D.C. He served in the Army in World War II. He joined the Department in 1950 and served overseas in Stuttgart, Hamburg, Naples, Jakarta and Surabaya. An ardent conservationist, he took the lead for State in completing the Convention on International Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora. He retired in 1975 and was active in wildlife and population organizations. He enjoyed tennis, squash and running.



Hawthorne "Hawk" Mills, 78, a retired Foreign Service officer, died Feb. 3 of bone cancer in Havelock North, New Zealand. He served overseas in Israel, Athens, Amsterdam, Tehran, Vietnam, The Hague, Salzburg and Afghanistan, where he was chief of mission during the first two years of the Soviet occupation. His autobiography, *The Time of My Life*, was published in 2004.



Covey T. Oliver, 93, a retired ambassador, died Feb. 22 at his home near Easton, Md. He worked for State on international conferences involving post-World War II settlements before becoming a professor of international law. He was named U.S. ambassador to Colombia in 1964 and also served as assistant secretary for Inter-American Affairs, U.S. coordinator of the Alliance for Progress and U.S. executive director of the World Bank. He was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and served as president of the American Society of International Law.



John D. "Jack" Rendahl, 75, of Greenville, S.C., a retired Foreign Service officer, died Feb. 10. His overseas postings included Durban, Stockholm, Vienna and Dublin. He helped create the U.S.-Iran Claims Settlement Office in 1981. After retirement, he was a consultant to the Department's inspector general and taught international relations at Florida State University.



Ruth Mortenson Sowash, 86, widow of Foreign Service officer William B. Sowash, died January 31 of a stroke in Bath, Maine. She accompanied her husband to overseas postings in Madrid, El Salvador, Guatemala, Buenos Aires and Honduras. She participated in many volunteer efforts and enjoyed travel, current and cultural events, and many artistic pursuits.



Laura Ponnone Wiggins,

80, a retired Foreign Service communications officer, died March 6 in Falls Church, Va. She joined the Department in 1958 and served in Jakarta, where she met and married FSO Frontis B. Wiggins Jr. They

served together in Italy, Malta and Australia. An accomplished entertainer and cook, she also enjoyed gardening, mahjong and volunteering.

Correction

The photo of Benjamin Blue was inadvertently omitted from his obituary in the February issue, so we are reprinting it with the photo.



Benjamin Thomas "Ben" Blue,

66, a Civil Service employee, died Dec. 11 in Falls Church, Va., from pulmonary fibrosis due to Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam. He served with the Air Force from 1960 to 1980.

He joined the Department in 1987, where he served with the Travel Division and, since 2004, the Office of the Inspector General. He was active in his church and enjoyed working on cars.

In the Event of a Death

Questions concerning employee deaths should be directed to the Office of Casualty Assistance at (202) 736-4302. Inquiries concerning deaths of retired employees should be directed to the Office of Retirement at (202) 261-8960.

*retirements

FOREIGN SERVICE >>>

Bailey, Stephen M.	Mitchell, Sally J.
Bray, Bessy T.	Moos, Brenda H.
Brown, Linda Marie	Moreau, James O.
Cabral Jensen, Doris E.	Moseley, James R.
Del Vecchio, Patrick L.	Praster, Thomas A.
Dickens, Charles Edward	Revere, Evans Joseph
Escobedo, George L.	Rober
Griffith, Oliver William	Rollman, David
Gutierrez, Lino	Alexander
Hunt, Donald E.	Rouse, Julia Cardozo
Krage, Fred W.	Scott, Donna J.
Martin, Cheryl Ann	Sears, Gregory Russell
McIntosh, Brian H.	Sequeira, John S.

CIVIL SERVICE >>>

Allen, S. Bernadette	Hamner, Charlene E.	Richmond, Marlene
Aseneta, Vicente Arango	Heflin, Patricia Lynn	Harkless
Blades, Catherine M.	Hickerson, Annett P.	Roca, Sebastian
Blocker Jr., Frank	Jackson Jr., Charles G.	Shipp, Kathleen M.
Bonard, Bonna L.	Jefferson, Ernest G.	Short, Margaret H.
Boyd, Antoinette Yvonne	Jenkins, Robert Michael	Stickels Jr., Richard G.
Casper Jr., Charles Ray	Johnson, Crystal Ann	Stottlemeyer, David P.
Clements, Janice	Kalamets, Gloria J.	Taylor, Vonzella Lee
Singleton	Keller, Cecilia A.	Tsukayama, Robert A.
Dorian Jr., Cornelius E.	Labrie, Barbara Ann	Turner, Marsha E.
English, Mattie E.D.	Lenet, Jan E.	Uytingco, Angel G.
Fearwell, George A.	McCorkle, Nettie D.	Van Buren, Lester M.
Green, Renee L.	McNeil, Lattice Ivey	White, Irma L.
Halter, K. Steven	O'Brien, John Joseph	White, Keith M.
Hammonds, Eileen M.	Perez, Pearlina T.	Workman Jr., Clarence E.

Power, Grace and Style

This issue features diplomats and colleagues practicing their craft around the world in very different venues and with widely disparate tools. Let's join our colleagues as they travel down dusty roads in Peru, experience the good will generated by American artists in Kuwait and Iceland, marvel at the latest technology that makes teaching English to Russian children fun and wonder at the awesome responsibility assumed by the Office of the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues.

In Lima, Foreign Service officers often find themselves far from the comforts and culture of cosmopolitan cities. They follow the path described by a long-ago mentor to Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Thomas Shannon as the "dusty road" where FSOs wander through local open-air markets, revel in the music of different languages and embrace the diversity in front of them as the exciting and interesting *raison d'être* of life in the Foreign Service.

American culture frequently plays a prominent role in diplomacy, and the ART in Embassies Program is the Department's Visual Diplomacy instrument charged with acquainting international audiences with the quality, scope and diversity of American art and culture. Through its American Artists Abroad program, ART in Embassies

sent abstract expressionist artist Linda Touby to Kuwait and textile artist James Koehler to Iceland for some hands-on diplomacy. Their lectures, workshops and



media appearances earned much goodwill for American art, culture and diplomacy.

Teaching English in American schools is hard enough, but teaching it through the vastness of modern Russia challenges the resources and ingenuity of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. Fortunately, a new English-teaching video series produced by the Office of Broadcast Services—Video

Acquisitions proved to be a big hit in a pilot program run in classrooms and American Corners and Centers throughout Russia since 2006. Public diplomacy professionals in Moscow used the series to reach out to teachers, students and the general public even in the most remote, multiethnic republics of the huge country. The series focuses on real Americans using everyday English in real life situations, and in true soap opera fashion, always leaves the audience waiting for the next episode.

The Office of Holocaust Issues is officially charged with many worthy responsibilities, but none so telling as the request from an elderly Holocaust survivor: "Help the world remember us."

Last but not least, a final salute to our colleagues en route to their final posting: *Charles Andrew Breitenbach; Carl R. Fritz; Robert Frowick; Henry L. Heymann; Hawthorne "Hawk" Mills; Covey T. Oliver; John D. "Jack" Rendahl; Ruth Mortenson Sowash; and Laura Ponnone Wiggins.*

Rob Wiley

Rob Wiley
Editor-in-Chief

COMING IN MAY

- State's Youngest Diplomats
 - The World's Oldest Republic
 - Calgary's High Energy Consulate General
 - IIP Office Thrives on Creativity
- ... and much more!

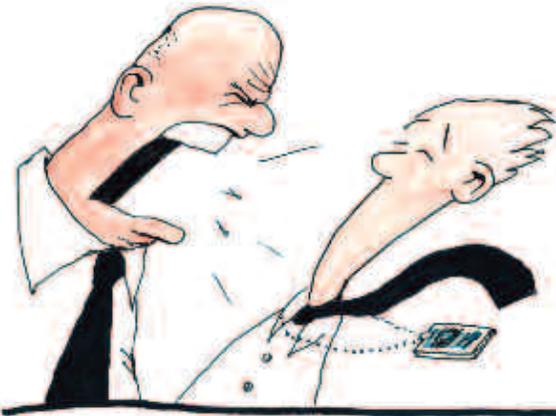


Questions? Comments?
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LYING IN STATE: THE POETIC DIPLOMACY INITIATIVE!

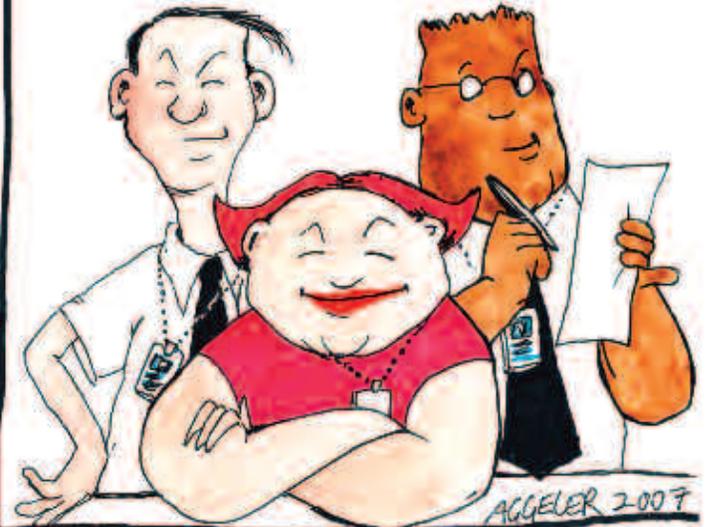
The Daring DCM

Fearless the would-be Deputy
To Ambassador J. Hyrum Creamer
Post reports may not tell
But it is known well
Ambassador Creamer's a screamer



The Clearance Not Given

Mangling memos with glee
Witless mischief may be.
"Happy to glad"
Is the value we add.
But without our clearance
Your memo won't move,
So to beg for our blessing
It would you behoove.



Ode on a Hard-to-Staff Post

Have you a jones
To live without phones
And spy the rare green rhino slug?
A job waits for you
(And any rank will do)
At Embassy Oomboombaloo!



Do Not Go Gentle Into That Foggy Bottom Cafeteria

Hanker for frozen yogurt you may
But beware grave perils along the way.
At you salad bar looms Roscoe
Who still hates you from Moscow.
In line for pizza is Mike from Kabul,
Not the good Mike - the one who's a tool.
Yikes! Getting home fries is maudlin June
That woeful wet blanket from back in Rangoon.
And there's that giggling guy from Bucharest.
Laying low in your office really seems best.



APR. 2007

R E M E M B E R

Foreign Affairs Day

M A Y 4 , 2 0 0 7

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