

# CYBERNOTES

## State Makes the Top Ten

On Sept. 14, the Partnership for Public Service (<http://www.ourpublicservice.org/>) released its third annual list, "Best Places to Work in the Federal Government 2005." The four main foreign affairs agencies all ranked fairly high: State was 10th of the 30 agencies surveyed; Commerce, 12th; Agriculture, 16th; and USAID tied with the Labor Department for 18th.

The top five were, in descending order: the Office of Management and Budget, National Science Foundation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Government Accountability Office and the Securities and Exchange Commission. The bottom five: National Archives and Record Administration, Office of Personnel Management, Department of Education, Department of Homeland Security and, last, the Small Business Administration.

PPS put together the list with the help of American University's Institute for the Study of Public Policy Implementation and Sirota Survey Intelligence. To compile the rankings, the partnership analyzed the answers of nearly 150,000 federal employees to questions about their overall job satisfaction. Respondents were asked whether they agreed with statements such as "My job makes good use of my skills and abilities" and "I hold my organization's leaders in high regard."

The report observes that "the key drivers behind workplace satisfaction and engagement remain the same: effective leadership and a good match between employee skills and the mission of the organization." It also describes the top-rated federal agen-

cies as representing the future of the federal civil service: "highly-engaged and highly-skilled workers performing critical tasks with professionalism and efficiency," rivaling their private sector counterparts.

— *Steve Honley, Editor*

## Lifting Spirits While Making Friends

A Sept. 28 concert evening in the Library of Congress' Coolidge Auditorium explored "The Power of Great Music in the Revival of U.S. Public Diplomacy." The well-attended event featured pianist John Robilette, who back in 1982 created the Artistic Ambassador Program for the U.S. Information Agency. He was preceded by several prominent speakers involved in public and cultural diplomacy.

Robert Schadler, who long directed the USIA International Visitor Program, acted as master of ceremonies. He cited the "International Music Initiative" in advocating the revival of an expanded classic music exchange program. Senator Norman Coleman, R-Minn., a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and co-chair of the Senate Arts Caucus, strongly endorsed cultural diplomacy as a part of public diplomacy. Other speakers included Letitia Baldrige, chief of staff in the White House to Jacqueline Kennedy; Marta Casals Istomin, president of the Manhattan School of Music in New York from 1992 to 2005 and former wife of Pablo Casals and Eugene Istomin; and former Artistic Ambassador Philip Hosford, who made an eloquent case for the effectiveness of music programs as a means of reach-

ing audiences abroad.

The theme of the night was that cultural diplomacy is our nation's heart and soul, and we need the arts in troubled times. As one speaker put it: "Arts are not urgent but fundamentally important." The evening ended with Robilette playing a Paderewski nocturne and several Chopin selections to an enthusiastic response.

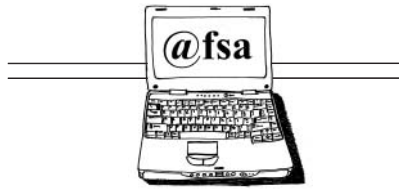
The event was a good case of effective outreach to the Hill on behalf of a stronger cultural diplomacy effort.

— *Harry C. Blaney III*  
*President, Coalition for*  
*Effective Leadership Abroad*  
*(COLEAD)*

## Katrina Draws Foreign Aid to the U.S.

The wave of worldwide assistance to the Katrina recovery effort marks a significant reversal in which the United States, a pre-eminent donor of foreign aid, has become a recipient. The State Department released a list of over 120 foreign countries that have donated money or supplies (<http://www.state.gov/katrina/53264.htm>). A number of multilateral organizations have also played a critical role in the recovery effort.

The initial delays in aid approval reflected America's lack of experience with being on the receiving end of assistance. As the confusion subsided, the federal government welcomed all foreign donations with few exceptions, and began to channel the aid to its proper destination. The outpouring of sympathy from foreign citizens and governments has, at least in the short term, caused some noteworthy changes in America's international relations.



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**F**or what can be heard around the world, in the wake of the invasion of Iraq, the prisoner abuse scandal at Abu Ghraib, and the controversy over the handling of detainees at Bagram and Guantanamo Bay, is that America is less a beacon of hope than a dangerous force to be countered.

— The Advisory Committee on Cultural Diplomacy, Sept. 29, quoted on [www.salon.com](http://www.salon.com)

In a Sept. 4 speech in Bayou La Batre, Ala., Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice — an Alabama native — praised other countries for their generosity, “People have said that America has been so generous in times like this in other places, and now it is time to be generous to America.” Rice thanked a large and diverse group of donor countries, ranging from large and powerful countries like France and China to small ones like the Bahamas and even Sri Lanka, itself still recovering from the devastating tsunami of December 2004. More of Rice’s commentary can be found at the State Department’s International Information Programs Web site (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Sep/05-187847.html>).

Close allies of the United States, like Canada, have sought to improve relations by participating during the recovery effort. To compensate for the loss in oil production along the

Gulf Coast, Canadian oil producers agreed to step up oil production to near full capacity. This is an important development given that relations between the two countries were recently soured over a NAFTA trade dispute in which the Bush administration chose to ignore a ruling to refund five billion dollars in lumber tariffs. In

another example, Israel — a longtime ally and the largest recipient of aid from the United States — is considering whether in the aftermath of Katrina, to decline a \$2.25 billion aid package intended for the Gaza disengagement plan, among other purposes. The Israeli newspaper *Ha’aretz* quoted U.S. Ambassador Daniel

## Site of the Month: Project Gutenberg

In a world where you can chat with friends or strangers, play poker, shop or take a college class without leaving your computer, a new online trend has evolved: reading e-books on your desktop or laptop.

It all started with Project Gutenberg ([www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org)), the first and largest single collection of free electronic books on the Web. Resembling its namesake, the Gutenberg press, which drastically reduced the cost of printed text and thereby made material available to the masses in medieval Europe, the digital library contains 15,000 public-domain e-books to date and continues to grow every day. Each downloadable e-book is available at no cost to anyone with a computer and Internet access, providing readers with texts ranging from fiction to analytic reports to sheet music, composed in languages from around the globe. Most e-books are the reincarnations of out-of-print texts whose copyright dates have expired; Project Gutenberg has spared them from literary extinction.

In an effort to “change the world,” founder Michael Hart developed Project Gutenberg to make literature free and accessible to all in 1971. In his mission statement, Hart explains: “Project Gutenberg is powered by ideas, ideals and idealism — not by financial or political power.” Hart typed the first text, the *Declaration of Independence*, himself, but the organization has expanded to hundreds of volunteers in the past three decades.

Hart is dedicated to minimalist bureaucracy within his organization, reflecting his anti-establishment beliefs. As he explained to an interviewer (<http://www.planetebook.com/mainpage.asp?webpageid=376>), this includes specifically opposition to copyright laws and the subsequent commercialization of information, which, in his eyes, hinder literacy and education, discriminate against the poor and, ultimately, undermine basic democracy. Hart hopes that his project will provide millions of e-books in every language to billions of people in every corner of the globe. “Project Gutenberg stands for opening, not closing, doors,” he says.

— Brooke Deal, Editorial Intern



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## 50 Years Ago...

What we have set out to do is to create an institute for the Foreign Service of the United States that in its field will compare favorably with the War Colleges of the Armed Forces, as there has never been an institute equipped to do for diplomacy what the War Colleges do for defense.

— From: "The New FSI Training Program" by Harold B. Hoskins, *FSJ*, Nov. 1955.



Kurtzer on Sept. 9, "The government may or may not decide to pursue it [the aid], in view of the fact that the costs to the American taxpayer of Katrina are likely to be enormous in the period ahead."

Traditional adversaries of the United States like Cuba, Venezuela and Iran have also offered their help. Cuba has sent 1,100 physicians, and Venezuela has donated food supplies and humanitarian relief. Less sincere is Iran's offer to provide 20 million barrels of crude oil, which is conditional on the U.S. lifting trade sanctions. The United States has rejected this and all other conditional offers.

Multilateral organizations have also provided assistance to the recovery effort. NATO's contribution is significant, both in monetary terms and as evidence of its continued transition toward humanitarian and peacekeeping missions. To provide for disaster relief, NATO has utilized the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Center, created in 1998 as the focal point for coordinating disaster relief efforts in the Euro-Atlantic partnership. Daily situation reports can be found at the EADRCC Web site (<http://www.nato.int/eadcc/2005/katrina/index.htm>), with detailed information on the contributions of donor states.

The EADRCC has also been working in close coordination with the

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to alleviate the condition of displaced people along the Gulf coast, much as it did for those affected in Asia following last December's tsunami. Reliefweb, a Web site administered by UN-OCHA, provides a wealth of documents on Katrina relief (<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc108?OpenForm&rc=2&emid=TC-2005-000144-USA>). A collection of maps can also be found of the affected areas.

Predictably, scandal has erupted alongside all of the help. CI Host, the largest private Web-hosting firm worldwide, reports that over 4,000 Katrina-related scam Web sites have been created since Sept. 1. According to their figures, 60 percent of all Katrina fundraising Web sites are fraudulent. Tips on how to avoid scam Web sites are available, among other places, at the FBI cyber investigations Web site (<http://www.fbi.gov/cyberinvest/escams.htm>).

Government agencies working with foreign donors have begun to produce tangible results. These same efforts are also being directed toward Hurricane Rita and its aftermath. Having struck only weeks after Katrina, Rita has underscored the need to learn, and institutionalize, Katrina's many tough lessons. ■

— Daniel Zussman,  
 Editorial Intern