

The AMERICAN DREAM

Helping Immigrants Join Mainstream America

The Merage Foundation for the American Dream was established in 2004 by Paul and Lilly Merage, both immigrants to the United States. In establishing the Foundation, Paul and Lilly Merage hope to help immigrants join mainstream America. The Foundation inspires young immigrants to achieve their American Dream. It helps immigrants become leaders in their communities and in the nation. It encourages Americans to recognize and celebrate the contributions of new Americans and their individual and collective positive impact on the nation. It fosters nonpartisan discussion of key immigration issues facing the United States. The Foundation's hope is that increasing numbers of immigrants will be able to reach their own and their family's aspirations.

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A Letter from the President



I am pleased to provide you with the latest American Dream Newsletter. This issue focuses on the sixth National Annual Leadership Awards Dinner June 2nd. The Dinner honors American citizens who were immigrants to this country and who have made a real difference in the health and well being of Americans.

This year's honorees featured in the Journal continue the wonderful history of the National Leadership Awards initiative. They are an outstanding group of American leaders. They merit our collective praise and respect

for their tremendous individual achievements. Their talent, wisdom, courage and intellect have continuously provided significant gifts to this nation and the world.

Emanuel Ax's musical genius and his mastery of the piano have enriched all our lives, Helene Cooper's brilliance and compassion as a writer and journalist has strengthened our understanding of complex economic and political problems, Dr. David Ho has expanded the frontiers of our scientific knowledge and helped extend the lives of millions of people inflicted with AIDS; Governor Madeleine Kunin exemplary political career and her immense policy contributions have opened doors for women throughout the world and made America a better more just society, Vincent Mai has made the term "good" and ethical business leader come alive through his notable success as an entrepreneur as well as his valued stewardship of

Sesame Street and his sustained and successful efforts to help rid South Africa of apartheid.

The American Dream Newsletter briefly describes the American Dreams of the wonderful new Merage Fellows, graduating immigrant students, nominated by the Foundation's partner Universities throughout the nation. Each one is destined to become an outstanding professional and a major contributor to the nation's efforts to expand freedom, justice, and individual opportunity. The early achievements of some of the Merage Fellows selected in previous years is profiled in the Newsletter.

I hope you enjoy the Journal's contents and that it contributes to your understanding of the impact immigrants have had on America.

Paul Merage
President of the Merage Foundations

A Letter from the Executive Director



President Obama has indicated that he hopes to initiate a national dialogue this summer concerning the contents of new comprehensive immigration reform legislation. The President has expressed hope that whatever emerges as proposed legislation will strike the right balance between opportunity for immigrants and security for the nation, between helping achieve the American Dream for many existing and likely new residents and the rule of law.

The Merage Foundation for the American Dream hopes that this brief Newsletter can help

inform the discussions. As Paul Merage indicates, the newsletter portrays the backgrounds of five outstanding National Leadership Award winners, each of whom were immigrants to America, each of whom, now as citizens, has given much to this country. They are legends in their own time.

The Pew Hispanic Center calls attention to the recent decline and current extent of America's undocumented immigration. A review of Dr. Henry Cisneros edited book called *Latinos and the Nation's Future* highlights the historical and projected growth of the Latino population and indicates that Latinos, given their numbers and diverse characteristics, will play a major role in shaping this nation's health and well being. Depending, in part, on the policy and behavioral choices America makes concerning mainstreaming or integration policies. Cisneros and his colleagues indicate that the Latino influence on

this nation's economic and civic future will either be very positive or the opposite.

The Foundation encourages readers to find out more about its occasional papers authored by respected scholars and practitioners on the impact of immigration on social security, jobs, fiscal health, crime and public opinion. The Foundation also encourages readers to view the award-winning DVDs portraying the lives of American immigrant leaders and the American as well as Mexican immigration experience. Both the papers and the DVDs are on the Foundation's web page—www.MerageFoundations.com. We urge you to participate in the President's anticipated dialogue on immigration reform. We welcome your comments on the Newsletter.

Marshall Kaplan
Executive Director
mkaplan@meragefoundations.com



Each year the Merage Foundation for the American Dream honors nationally and internationally respected American Leaders who came to the U.S. as immigrants. The 2009 honorees continue this tradition of excellence by having lived the American Dream and having made this country a better place for each of us.

Past National Leadership Awardees

Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski
Former U.S. National Security Advisor and Foreign Policy Scholar – National Leadership Award for Public Service

Edwidge Danticat
Author and National Book Critic Circle Award Winner – National Leadership Award for Arts & Culture

Kati Marton
Journalist and Human Rights Advocate – National Leadership Award for Media

Hamid Moghadam
Co-Founder, Chairman, and CEO of AMB Property Corporation – National Leadership Award for Business



MERAGE FOUNDATION
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Our Sixth Annual National Leadership Awards Dinner

National Press Club, Washington, DC, June 2, 2009

2009 National Leadership Award Honorees

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR CULTURE AND ARTS

EMANUEL AX – Poland
International Emmy Award-winning Pianist



Photo by J. Henry Fair

Born in Lvov, Poland, Emanuel Ax moved to Winnipeg, Canada, with his family when he was a young boy. Mr. Ax captured public attention in 1974 when he won the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Tel Aviv. In 1975, he won the Michaels Award of Young Concert Artists followed four years later by the coveted Avery Fisher Prize. Recent appearances include performing with the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, the London Philharmonic, and the Tonhalle Orchestra.

Mr. Ax has been an exclusive Sony Classical recording artist since 1987. Recent releases include Strauss's Enoch Arden narrated by Patrick Stewart; discs of two-piano music by Brahms and Rachmaninoff with Yefim Bronfman; and period-instrument performances of Chopin's complete works for piano and orchestra. Mr. Ax has received Grammy awards for the second and third volumes of his cycle of Haydn's piano sonatas. He has also made a series of Grammy-winning recordings with cellist Yo-Yo Ma of the Beethoven and Brahms sonatas for cello and piano.

Mr. Ax is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and

Sciences and holds honorary doctorates of music from Yale and Columbia Universities. He resides in New York City with his wife, pianist Yoko Nozaki. They have two children together, Joseph and Sarah.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR JOURNALISM

HELENE COOPER – Liberia
Journalist, Author and Diplomatic Correspondent for the New York Times



Photo by Leslie Cushman

Helene Cooper is the White House Correspondent for The New York Times. Before covering Washington, she had been the assistant editorial page editor since April 2006. She joined the Times in 2004 as assistant editorial page editor.

Ms. Cooper has been a reporter since 1987. She found her passion in journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Before joining The Times, Ms. Cooper had been the assistant Washington bureau chief of The Wall Street Journal. She was responsible for overseeing a group of reporters focusing on international economics and foreign policy. From 1999 to 2002, she was The Journal's international economics reporter, and before that, she worked in the newspaper's London bureau, writing about European economics and the monetary union. Ms. Cooper also worked in The Journal's Atlanta bureau, covering regional economics and politics and the Providence Journal-Bulletin.

Helene Cooper is the recipient of the Raymond Clapper Award, the Sandy Hume Memorial Award for Excellence in Political Journalism in addition to the Missouri Lifestyle Journalism Award. Most recently she was recognized by the National Association of Black Journalists' Salute to Excellence Award for her story about the civil war in Liberia.

Ms. Cooper is the author of the New York Times bestseller, *The House at Sugar Beach: In Search of a Lost African Childhood*, a memoir about growing up in Liberia.

Helen Cooper was born in Monrovia, Liberia and currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DR. DAVID HO – Taiwan
Founding Scientific Director and CEO of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center



David Ho immigrated at the age of twelve to the United States. He left Taiwan with his mother and younger brother to unite with his father. He received his Bachelor of Science from the California Institute of Technology and his Medical Degree from Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Ho is the founding Scientific Director and Chief Executive Officer of the 1991 established Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center. This world-renowned biomedical research institute is where he has been at the forefront of

AIDS research for 27 years. He has published over 350 papers, enabling the scientific community to understand the mechanism of HIV replication. The work of Dr. Ho and his coworkers unraveled the replication dynamics of HIV in infected persons; the results prompted him to champion the use of combination antiretroviral therapy. Dr. Ho helped devise the HAART (Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy), which prescribes a cocktail of drugs to treat AIDS. It has resulted in dramatic reductions in AIDS-associated mortality in developed countries since 1996.

David Ho was named Time Magazine's Man of the Year in 1996. He was the recipient of a Presidential Medal in 2001 and has 12 honorary doctorates. He is a member of the Committee of 100 and serves on the board of MIT. He has been inducted into the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Engineering, Academia Sinica, and the California Hall of Fame. Ho is married to artist Susan Kuo. They have three children.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

MADELEINE MAY KUNIN – Switzerland

Former Governor, Ambassador and Deputy Secretary of Education



Photo by Paul Boisvert

Madeleine May Kunin immigrated to the United States as a child with her mother and brother from Switzerland. They feared the holocaust. Ms. Kunin was the fourth woman to be elected Governor in her own right and the first woman to be elected for three terms.

She was elected to the Vermont legislature in 1972. She was the

first woman to chair the House Appropriations Committee. She was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1978 and elected Governor of Vermont from 1985-1991. She served as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, and was appointed by President Clinton as the ambassador to Switzerland from 1996-1999. After leaving the governorship, she formed a non-governmental organization, The Institute for Sustainable Communities. It partners with local organizations in the U.S. and around the world to create stronger democratic communities.

She is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. Governor Kunin has had appointments at several universities including Harvard, Dartmouth, Middlebury and St. Michael's College. Presently she is a Marsh Professor at the University of Vermont, a commentator on Vermont Public Radio, and a blogger on the Huffington Post.

Ms. Kunin has received more than 20 honorary degrees. She has authored several books including her most recently published and well reviewed *Pearls, Politics and Power, how women can win and lead*. She holds degrees from the Columbia University School of Journalism, the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) and the University of Vermont. She resides in Burlington, Vermont with her husband John Hennessey. They have six children and eight grandchildren.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR BUSINESS

VINCENT MAI – South Africa Businessman, Social Entrepreneur and Human Rights Advocate



Vincent Mai grew up on a farm in the Eastern Cape, South Africa and obtained his education at the University of Cape Town.

Mr. Mai is the Chairman and retired CEO of AEA Investors, one of the oldest private equity firms in the United States.

As the Chairman of the Board of Sesame Workshop, Vincent Mai helps produce children's educational television programs featured in over 100 countries. He is also the Vice Chairman and founding Chairman of the Board of the International Center for Transitional Justice, one of the leading institutions in the world in the field of transitional justice. It operates in over 25 countries advising governments on policies that promote the smooth transition from authoritarian rule to democracy. Mr. Mai also serves on the Board of The Juilliard School.

Vincent Mai has been on the Board of the Council on Foreign Relations, Chair of the Council's Africa Advisory Board and Co-Chairman of the Council's commission on Angola. Vincent Mai also served on the Board of the Carnegie Corporation. Included in his notable accomplishments is serving as the National Fundraising Chairman of the South Africa Free Election Fund. It raised funds in the U.S. that were dispersed in South Africa to promote free elections in South Africa. Mr. Mai has been honored by The National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship, The International Center in New York, Shared Interest and Global Kids. He lives in Port Washington, Long Island. He is married with three children and three grandchildren.

Past National Leadership Awardees, continued

Dr. Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa

Professor of Neurological Surgery and Oncology – National Leadership Award for Science & Technology

Francis Deng

Research Professor of International Law, Politics, and Society and the Director of the Center for Displacement Studies at Johns Hopkins University – National Leadership Award for Public Policy

Jack Rosenthal

President of the New York Times Company Foundation – National Leadership Award for Journalism

Shirley M. Tilghman

President of Princeton University – National Leadership Award for Education

Jerry Yang

Co-founder of Yahoo! Inc. – National Leadership Award for Entrepreneurship

Vartan Gregorian

President, Carnegie Corporation of New York – National Leadership Award for Education and Philanthropy

Jenny Ming

Former President, Old Navy – National Leadership Award for Business and Community Service

Cesar Pelli

Principal, Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects – National Leadership Award for Architecture and Design

Madeleine Albright

Former Secretary of State – National Leadership Award for Public Policy

Mario Molina

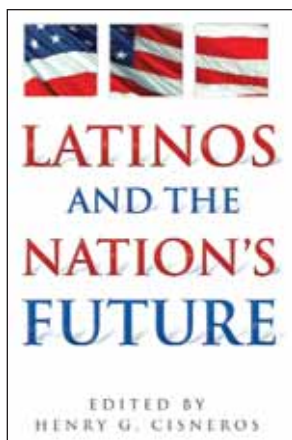
Nobel Laureate in Chemistry – National Leadership Award for Science and Education

Max Frankel

Former Editor of the New York Times – National Leadership Award for Journalism

Armando Codina

Entrepreneur – National Leadership Award for Business and Philanthropy



Lend me your Minds...a Book Review of *Latinos and the Nation's Future*, edited by Henry G. Cisneros and published by Arte Public Press, University of Houston, 2009

by Marshall Kaplan

Paraphrasing a well known song in a well known Broadway Show (Wildcat), Dr. Henry Cisneros and his colleagues in their recent book *Latinos and the Nation's Future*, urge readers to lend them their minds, their intellect and not their ideological biases. While, individually, the authors reflect minor differences on facts, collectively they present a persuasive argument that the need for a fair and effective mainstreaming policy toward Latinos need not and, perhaps should not, generate from our charitable instincts but from a studied view of and commitment to what will make America a stronger more economically and socially viable nation.

Their analysis will make sense to all but the most dulled intellect among us. The percentage of Latinos, mostly Mexicans, has increased to almost 15% of the U.S. population. By 2050 according to Cisneros and his colleagues Latinos will grow by 63 million individuals and equal approximately 25 % of U.S population. Nearly 60% of Latinos were born here and a small number trace their history back to the Mayflower.

Many of the authors point out the largest share of Latinos in America—nearly 23 million people—arrived after 1980. Close to 50% of the newcomers came legally. 10 to 12 million individuals are undocumented at the present time.

Significantly, almost 37% of Latinos are under age 20. Hispanics have the largest fertility rate among groups in the U.S. and over 4 out of 10 public school students are Hispanic.

As an interesting aside, Latinos presently compose about 36% of all residents in Orange County, California historically considered one of the most Anglo and con-

servative counties in the nation. If you count all minorities, including Asians and blacks, minorities are close to 50% of the total population. Soon minorities, the largest share being Latinos, will be the majority in Orange County. Surprisingly to many political analysts not aware of the changing demography, Obama almost won Orange County achieving close to 48% of the vote. America is changing.

Back to the book, first generation immigrants, many of whom are poor; drag down average income statistics of Latinos, particularly in the areas in which they are concentrated. But Latinos buttress the need for unskilled workers in local and national labor markets. And, according to the book's authors, they are essential to fill the future need for entry level, relatively low skilled workers in the nation.

Many pages in the book by different authors note the progress made by Latinos. Like immigrants before them, many second and most third generation families and children speak English. While the income gap between Latinos and majority society members still exist even after two or three generations, it is lessened as immigrants begin to mainstream into American culture, social and political life, and economy. Children and grandchildren of Latino immigrants who go to fine American colleges and Universities and who make their way to the top of America's political, legal, corporate and non profit ladders are no longer idiosyncrasies on the American leadership, economic and social landscape. The Latino names of outstanding bankers, CEOs, middle managers, researchers, government officials,

political leaders, professors, teachers, musicians, lawyers, scientists, while not matching in numbers the non Latino names of colleagues or the proportion of Latinos in the population, are clearly becoming more visible. A middle class is growing among Latinos.

Despite rhetoric to the contrary, no significant separatist group exists in the Latino community. No separatist leader has emerged with more than a scattered almost unidentifiable Latino constituency. Latinos, given the ability to do so, increasingly participate in America's political life and will continue to do so in larger numbers in the future. Latinos, through diverse ways—for example, service in the military, accepting jobs that others will not, struggling to support family life, overwhelming limited spaces in literacy classes, and giving their all to expand opportunity for their children—want to help secure America's and their own future.

Succinctly, while the lack of English proficiency as well as absence of a clear pathway to citizenship, quality public education, the lack of innovative culturally sensitive and encouraging institutional support and discrimination have slowed down the pace at which Latinos become part and parcel of American civic, social and economic life, the pace is picking up. The degree to which Latinos have contributed and will increasingly contribute to America's successful development is or should be clear to most dispassionate Americans. The importance we, as a nation, grant to policies directed at expanding opportunity for Latino immigrants will test our commitment as a nation to becoming a beacon among nations concerning decency, and, indeed,

“While, individually, the authors reflect minor differences on facts, collectively they present a persuasive argument that the need for a fair and effective mainstreaming policy toward Latinos need not and, perhaps should not, generate from our charitable instincts but from a studied view of and commitment to what will make America a stronger more economically and socially viable nation.”



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Lend me your Minds...a Book Review

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self interest. Even if our borders were hermetically sealed today, the number of Hispanics now living in America guarantee their importance in shaping America's economic and social future.

Put two or more academics or policy analysts in a room and you may often get many disconnected recommendations. What is surprising about Cisneros and his colleagues is their surprising agreement concerning what should be done to support the mainstreaming of Latinos, particularly low income Latino immigrants. First of all, they concur that Americans need to understand that a vast majority of Latinos want to be American, as long as being American doesn't mean, as it didn't mean historically for Jewish, Irish, Scandinavian immigrants, that they need to lose what is valuable about their Latino culture. Second, policy makers should acknowledge that mastering English is now and will be a prerequisite to integrating Latinos into America's economic and social life. Third, improving education, at the pre school, high school and college levels, is essential. Lack of a high school education is one of the key variables in

recent income studies generating the income gap between Anglos and Latinos. Similarly, the value of quality pre school programs extends the ability of Latino youngsters to compete educationally with their more affluent peers and offers the hope of better educational and more positive lifetime achievements throughout their lives. Education for Latinos at quality universities is often a prerequisite to job mobility and the hope for middle and up management positions. It will increasingly be so as the economy recovers from the recession and demands increasing skill levels for higher paying jobs, including a growing number of high tech jobs.

While none of the authors goes into detail concerning policy options, most of the authors acknowledge that undocumented Latinos need a fair and reasonable pathway to citizenship, if they are to emerge from the underground economy and fully participate and fully contribute to American life. America has a policy choice to make. If it does not support a reasonable strategy concerning

naturalization, it will condemn many Latinos to continuous poverty and limited opportunities. As important, it will short change America as a nation and condemn many of the communities in which relatively large numbers of undocumented residents reside to underachievement concerning economic growth and the quality of civic life.

Dr. Henry Cisneros and his colleagues have produced an eminently readable and important book. It should be read by Americans committed to assuring the healthy growth and development of the United States of America.

Marshall Kaplan is Executive Director of The Merage Foundations and a former Dean of the Graduate School for Public Affairs at the University of Colorado.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Established by an act of Congress in 1968, the Wilson Center is our nation's official living memorial to President Woodrow Wilson. As both a distinguished scholar—the only American President with a Ph.D.—and a national leader, Wilson felt strongly that the scholar and the policy-maker were “engaged in a common enterprise.”

The Wilson Center is a nonpartisan institute for advanced study and a neutral forum for open, serious, and informed dialogue. It brings pre-eminent thinkers to Washington for extended periods of time to interact with policymakers through a large number of programs and projects. The Center seeks to separate the important from the inconsequential and to take a historical and broad perspective on the issues.



Woodrow Wilson
International Center
for Scholars



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Each year, the Foundation selects outstanding graduating seniors from our 22 Partner Universities to be American Dream Fellows. The Fellows are selected based on their academic record, their leadership, their consistent ethical behavior, the clarity of their American Dream, and their potential to make an important contribution to America. Fellows receive a \$20,000 stipend over two years to help them pursue their American Dream.

Fellows Spotlight

2009 Merage American Dream Fellows



Angela Bixby – Colombia

University of Illinois, Chicago
Angela's American Dream is to open a clinic providing holistic health care for low income people.



Alexandra Grabarchuk – Ukraine

University of California, Los Angeles
Alexandra's American Dream is to become a classical musician and conductor.



Tulsi Patel – India

University of Georgia
Tulsi's American Dream is to become a biomedical researcher and professor regarding stem cell and degenerative diseases.



Oswaldo David Diaz – Ecuador

Columbia University
Oswaldo's American Dream is to become the American Ambassador to the United Nations.



Matin Khoshnevis – Iran

University of California, Irvine
Matin's American Dream is to become a doctor and conduct research to help recovery after a stroke and/or a traumatic injury.



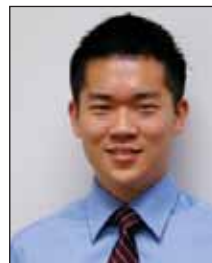
Yohan Song – Chile

University of California, Berkeley
Yohan's American Dream is to become a doctor and develop imaging tools that predict strokes.



Jessamyn Edra – The Philippines

Stanford University
Jessamyn's American Dream is to become a public interest lawyer specializing in domestic violence law.



Siamrut Patanavanich – Thailand

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Siamrut's American Dream is to start a company that provides advice on clean energy and green technology.



Emmanuelle Topiol – France

University of Miami
Emmanuelle's American Dream is to become a doctor and establish a free clinic in Miami.



2009 Merage American Dream Fellows



Leonid Traps – Soviet Union

New York University

Leonid's American Dream is to become a lawyer in business law and help reform public policy.



Xiao Jing Wang – China

New York University

Xiao's American Dream is to become a doctor and help recent immigrants secure health care.



Ying Ye – China

University of Illinois, Chicago

Ying's American Dream is to become a doctor and conduct research on cancer prevention.

The Foundation currently has 80 Fellows pursuing important career trajectories in medicine, law, public policy, psychology, business, drama, and other fields.

Unauthorized Immigrant Population Slows

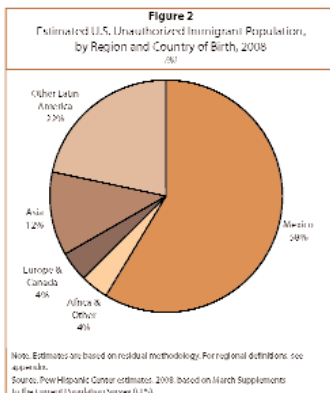
WASHINGTON - There were 11.9 million unauthorized immigrants living in the United States in March 2008, according to a Pew Hispanic Center analysis released in October 2008, "Trends in Unauthorized Immigration: Undocumented Inflow Now Trails Legal Inflow." The size of the unauthorized population appears to have declined since 2007, but this finding is inconclusive because of the margin of error in these estimates.

However, it is clear that the unauthorized immigrant population grew more slowly in the period from 2005 to 2008 than it did earlier in the decade. The inflows of unauthorized immigrants averaged 800,000 a year from 2000 to 2004, but fell to 500,000 a year for 2005 to 2008 with a decreasing year-to-year trend.

The inflow of immigrants who are undocumented also fell below that of immigrants who are legal permanent residents from 2005 to 2008. That reverses a trend that began a decade ago.

Nonetheless, the size of the unauthorized population has

increased by more than 40% since 2000, when it was 8.4 million. In 2005, the Pew Hispanic Center estimated there were 11.1 million undocumented immigrants in the United States. The most recent estimate, 11.9 million, indicates that unauthorized immigrants make up 4% of the U.S. population.



Other major findings include:

- Undocumented immigrants make up 30% of the nation's foreign-born population of more than 39 million people.
- The vast majority of undocumented immigrants –

four-in-five – come from Latin American countries.

- The number of unauthorized immigrants from Mexico, 7 million, appears to have leveled off since 2007.
- The number of undocumented immigrants from other Latin American nations has fallen since 2007.

The report is available on the Center's website, www.pewhispanic.org.

The Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center, is a non-partisan, non-advocacy research organization based in Washington, D.C. and is funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

"...it is clear that the unauthorized immigrant population grew more slowly in the period from 2005 to 2008 than it did earlier in the decade. The inflows of unauthorized immigrants averaged 800,000 a year from 2000 to 2004, but fell to 500,000 a year for 2005 to 2008 with a decreasing year-to-year trend."





John F. Kennedy, Former President of the United States: Quotes from his 1958 book *A Nation of Immigrants*

“This was the secret of America: a nation of people with the fresh memory of old traditions who dared to explore new frontiers, people eager to build lives for themselves in a spacious society that did not restrict their freedom of choice and action.”

“Immigration policy should be generous; it should be fair; it should be flexible. With such a policy we can turn to the world, and to our own past, with clean hands and a clear conscience.”



“Every ethnic minority, in seeking in its own freedom, helped strengthen the fabric of liberty in American life. Similarly, every aspect of the American economy has profited from the contributions of immigrants.”

“The contribution of immigrants can be seen in every aspect of our national life. We see it in religion, in politics, in business, in the arts, in education, even in athletics and in entertainment. There is no part of our nation that has not been touched by our immigrant background.”

American Dream Fellow Updates



Photo by: Daniel Chao

Photo: Clara Shi featured right with Kelly Bennett, research assistant.

Clara Shi – 2004 Fellow

After graduating from Stanford and Oxford with degrees in computer science, economics, and management, Clara joined Google and most recently salesforce.com (NYSE:CRM), where she helped launch and is now Director of AppExchange, an online business software marketplace named by Forbes Magazine as “one of the top innovations of the year.”

Independently, Clara developed Faceconnector (formerly Faceforce) in 2007, the first business application on Facebook. Faceconnector integrates Facebook profile and friend information into the Salesforce customer relationship management system, used by over 1.2 million professionals to manage their sales and other business contacts.

Clara is the author of a new book, *The Facebook Era* (Prentice Hall), about how online social networks like Facebook and Twitter are transforming customer-vendor relationships, and what businesses must do to adapt their sales and marketing strategies in order to survive and thrive. Clara has keynoted and spoken about social media at global conferences including Web 2.0 Expo, Social Ad Summit, Toronto TechWeek, and others.



The Foundation proudly presents the new class officers for each alumni cohort:

- 2008 - Rene Flores, President & Arman Jahangiri, Vice President
- 2007 - Aswin Sekar, President & Bao Truong, Vice President
- 2006 - Mae Bunagan & Xiaolong Zhou, Co-Presidents
- 2004 & 2005 - Yukyan Lam & Onyi Ofor, Co-Presidents



Photo by: Matt Lauterbach

Martyna Majok – 2007 Fellow

2007 Fellow Martyna Majok has seen the seven plays she’s written since graduating from the University of Chicago performed at six different American theatres. “Mouse in a Jar,” the full-length play inspired by her childhood as an immigrant living with domestic violence, is slated for professional production this autumn at Red Tape Theatre in Chicago. Martyna also evaluated new plays for the Literary Manager of Tony Award-winning Victory Gardens Theater, where she was involved with The Access Project, a writing workshop for disabled playwrights. This summer, she will be the youngest speaker ever featured in The Newberry Library’s lecture series “Chicago Playwrights and Their Plays.” She will join an impressive roster including Neil LaBute. Having just completed a third full-length play about the business of fear, Ms. Majok was just awarded a 2-week writing residency and fellowship at The Ragdale Foundation in Lake Forest, IL, to begin work on her fourth play. Her one-act play “After Hours Stan” won first place at Chicago’s Big Shoulders Fest. This fall, an elated Martyna will begin her first year toward an MFA in Playwriting at the Yale School of Drama.





“Comprehensive immigration reform legislation would include legalizing the immigration status of at least a portion of the estimated 12 million individuals now living in the country illegally.”

To Be or Not to Be: Comprehensive Immigration Reform

by *Stuart Anderson*

Immigration advocates believe a comprehensive immigration reform bill could be introduced by the Fall 2009, portending a repeat battle of the attempts to pass such legislation in 2006 and 2007. Among the unanswered questions: What will the bill look like? Will the legislation be introduced this year? And how will issues ranging from the nation's unemployment rate to drug cartel violence in Mexico affect the chances of passage?

Support for comprehensive immigration reform has come from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and other Members of Congress, including Rep. Jeff Flake (R-AZ).

After President Barack Obama met in March with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) said, “We believe that we are moving forward this year; we are going to work with the president.” (Agence France Presse, March 18, 2009). What some view as controversial worksite enforcement raids conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have provided an impetus for legislation.

Trade-Offs in a Comprehensive Immigration Reform Bill

Comprehensive immigration reform legislation would include legalizing the immigration status of at least a portion of the estimated 12 million individuals now living in the country illegally. It would also likely include tougher enforcement measures. Less clear is what Congress will do to address the “future flow” of legal workers, since one of the leading causes of illegal immigration has been the absence of temporary work visas to allow lower-skilled workers to come legally to the United States.

A major issue to watch is the extent to which the coalition for

immigration reform, outside of Congress, reemerges or changes. In the past, business groups, led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the EWIC (Essential Worker Immigration Coalition) coalition, have teamed up with pro-immigration groups that include the National Council of La Raza, the National Immigration Forum and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

The degree to which any comprehensive immigration reform measure includes new temporary work visas for lesser-skilled workers from Mexico and elsewhere could well determine whether the legislation can reduce illegal immigration. The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986 instituted sanctions against employers hiring undocumented immigrants and provided an amnesty for 3 million individuals in the U.S. illegally. However, illegal immigration increased over the next two decades because enforcement alone could not overcome the law of supply and demand in the U.S. labor market.

High Skill Immigration and Comprehensive Immigration Reform

If comprehensive immigration reform moves in Congress later this year, the business community might face an environment inhospitable to reasonable reform of employment-based immigration. For example, the Sanders amendment in the Senate-passed stimulus bill, which restricted the use of H-1B visas by financial institutions receiving bank “bailout” funds, exemplified the current climate.

The need to liberalize quotas for both H-1B temporary visas and employment-based green cards is clear. The current wait for a green card for skilled immigrants is 6 to 10 years, an unrealistic

timeframe for professionals with families. Over the past decade, except when Congress temporarily raised the H-1B quota in 2000-2003, employers have often been unable to hire skilled professionals from abroad or outstanding international students on H-1B visas—generally this was the only practical way to hire such individuals—because the quotas were exhausted before or during the fiscal year. In April 2009, new filings for H-1B visas dropped significantly from the year before, demonstrating H-1B hiring is governed by market conditions.

The business community carries certain advantages into the debate over high skill immigration. House Immigration Subcommittee Chair Zoe Lofgren is a strong supporter of skilled immigration and many Members of Congress, particularly younger members, view themselves as tech-savvy and supporting high skill immigration fits within that framework. There is seeming support for more green cards for skilled foreign nationals, though the depth of the support has not been tested in Congress. A traditional opponent of H-1B visas, IEEE (formerly the acronym for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), is on record now favoring more green cards for skilled immigrants.

A few Members of Congress have expressed concerns about stories of abuse of H-1B temporary visas and some hold a view hostile toward temporary visa programs in general. Clearly the state of the current economy will make it tougher to increase temporary visas.

In this context some observers believe an increase in green cards for employment-based immigrants may be tied to more restrictions on H-1B temporary visas. One risk of such a tradeoff is U.S. employers



To Be or Not to Be, continued

could be left with a green card regime that is only slight better than the status quo and a temporary visa system that is severely restricted, leaving companies with much less flexibility.

Success or Failure of Reform?

The Pew Hispanic Center estimates the population of those residing in the country illegally increased from 9.8 million in 2003 to 12.4 million in 2007, before dropping to 11.9 million in March 2008. While some have argued

that tighter enforcement is responsible for the recent decline in illegal immigration, many others point to the economy and worsening labor market.

It is unlikely Congress will ignore immigration for a significant length of time. A push for legislation is inevitable. At the end of the day, the success or failure of comprehensive immigration reform will rest on how confident Americans are in general—and Members of Congress in particular—about the future of the country's economy.

To succeed the bill will need to evolve from a civil dialogue, one less prone to the shouting reflected in the debate in recent years.

Stuart Anderson is Executive Director of the National Foundation for American Policy, a nonpartisan policy research group in Arlington, Va. He served as Staff Director of the Senate Immigration Subcommittee and Counselor to the Commissioner of the INS.



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*United Farm Workers strike near Oxnard, California, 1966
(California Historical Society)*



*A family of Walnut pickers from Northern California, 1983
(California Historical Society)*



Children play in a Barrio with downtown Los Angeles in the background, 1946 (USC Digital Archive)

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Merage Foundation for the American Dream

4350 Von Karman Avenue,
Fourth Floor
Newport Beach, California
92660

Phone: 949-474-5880
Fax: 949-474-5811

www.meragefoundations.com/mfad.html

Paul Merage
Founder and President

Marshall Kaplan
Executive Director,
Newsletter Editor
mkaplan@meragefoundations.com

Yesenia Velez
Program Officer,
Associate Editor
yvelez@meragefoundations.com

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