



**December 2009
Issue 6**

The U.S. Information Resource Center (IRC) of the American Embassy in Athens is happy to provide you with *Latest on Humanities*, a bulletin focused on American society and culture. This publication is a bi-monthly compilation of recent articles from a wide range of authoritative journals and periodicals. Internet sites related to cultural themes and current issues of interest are also included. By organizing and disseminating one more thematic publication about the United States, IRC seeks to promote better understanding of the principles and institutions that shape American values.

1. Google and the New Digital Future

By Robert Darnton

(*The New York Review of Books*,
December 17, 2009, pg. 82)

On November 9, 2009, in the district court for the Southern District of New York, the Authors Guild and the Association of American Publishers were scheduled to file a settlement to resolve their suit against Google for alleged breach of copyright in its program to digitize millions of books from research libraries and to make them available, for a fee, online. Not comparable to the fall of the Berlin Wall, you might say. True, but for several months, all eyes in the world of books—authors, publishers, librarians, and a great many readers—were trained on the court and its judge, Denny Chin, because this seemingly small-scale squabble over copyright looked likely to determine the digital future for all of us.

2. American Hwangap

By Sharon Begley

(*American Theatre*, December, 2009, pg. 61)

Lloyd Suh's comedic drama about a fractured Korean-American family plus an interview with the playwright David Henry Hwang. David Henry Hwang's plays

include *M. Butterfly* (Tony Award, Pulitzer finalist,) *Golden Child* (OBIE Award, Tony nomination) *Yellow Face* OBIE Award, Pulitzer finalist) and *FOB* (OBIE Award).

3. Savannah Metal

By David Peisner

(*Spin*, December 2009, pg. 64)

With bands like *Baroness*, *Kylesa*, and *Blacktusk* leading the charge, the schizo Southern burg made famous in *Midnight in Garden of Good and Evil* now boasts the most promising heavy rock scene in the U.S.

4. Outsider Art

By Ian Volner

(*The International Design Magazine*,
December 2009, pg. 26)

A vacant city lot turns into a temporary outdoor gallery with an overall design to flexible enough to accommodate rotating installations.

5. Where the Heart Is

By Abigail Rasminsky

(*Dance*, December 2009, pg. 58)

Survivors find hope in the healing powers of dance. For decades choreographers have been making work with or about victims of disease or war; and teachers and dance therapists have been using

dance to help people heal from trauma, torture, and abuse.

6. Pandemic 2.0: Can Information Technology Help Save the Planet

(*Environment*, December 2009, pg. 20)

Our increasingly connected world remains governed by fragmented institutions that struggle to deal with the unwanted impacts of global environmental change. In such a fragmented and multi-actor context, mechanisms for rapid information sharing are vital. The World Health Organization's evolving response to emerging infectious diseases demonstrates what Internet-based collaboration can achieve for sustainability governance.

7. The Stories You Missed in 2009

By Joshua E. Keating

(*Foreign Policy*, December 2009, p. 10)

Sometimes is the page A14 stories—the ones that never see the light of cable news or take on a second life in the blogosphere—that tell you the most about what happened during any given year.

From a naval alliance that could shift the military balance of power on two continents to a troubling security gap in the U.S. passport system to a brand-new way to circle the globe, these are the stories that never got the attention they deserved in 2009 but could dominate the conversation in 2010.

8. Double X Films

By James Parker

(*The Atlantic*, December 2009, pg. 36)

Not just chick flicks, the movies of Nora Ephron and Nancy Meyers defy categorization and provide sentimental education for everyone.

NOTE: Latest on Humanities is available to subscribers only. You may contact us through telephone, fax or e-mail to order the requested material. Full text of articles will be faxed to you as soon as possible. Please send your comments and remarks to AthensIRC@state.gov

Please visit our selected web pages at the following electronic addresses:

- ❖ **The Academy of American Poets**
<http://www.poets.org>

The Academy of American Poets support American poets at all stages of their careers and fosters the appreciation of contemporary poetry. Its well designed site promotes the National Poetry Month, the Academy Book awards, and maintains a poetry audio archive.

- ❖ **Sociological Tour Through Cyberspace**
<http://www.trinity.edu/mkearl/>

Developed by Michael C. Kearn (Trinity Univ., San Antonio), this site is an invitation to thoughtful exploration and research in sociology. It supports both undergraduate and graduate sociology programs because of its excellent selection of useful links.

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