

World/Nation

► **Press disgrace:** A phone-hacking scandal reaches the highest levels of British public life. **A2**

► **Afghan attack:** Gunmen kill a legislator and a close adviser to President Hamid Karzai. **A3**

► **Oversight:** President Obama chooses a former Ohio attorney general to head a new consumer protection agency. **A5**

► **Debt limit:** Lawmakers agree they need to make a budget deal, but no deal is at hand. **A5**



Sporting Green
Martin Meissner / Associated Press
► **Exultation:** The Japanese women are overjoyed after edging the United States to grab the World Cup title. **B1**

Bay Area

► **Police shooting:** Man killed in S.F. was sought in a Seattle slaying. **C1**

► **Hammer time:** Hip-hop veteran is a bobblehead hit at A's game. **C1**

Business

► **Tarnished brand:** What Netflix must do to recover from outrage over its new pricing structure. **D1**

Datebook



◀ **What I Do:** When it comes to creative hat design, this guy is tops. **E1**

► **Sense and sensibility:** UCSF prof's book helps us "make sense" of personality types. **E1**

► **Taking flight:** TheatreWorks unveils "Fly by Night," a dazzling musical about '65 blackout in New York. **E1**

► **Grand finale:** The final "Harry Potter" film smashes box office records. **E2**

SFGATE.COM | Monday, July 18, 2011 | PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

San Francisco Chronicle

California's Best Large Newspaper AS NAMED BY THE CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION | \$1.00 ★★★★★



Photos by Liz Hafalia / The Chronicle
Jacob Weiler (left), Caitin Schoenfelder and Rachel Niederman are Aspire teacher residents in Oakland.

EDUCATION

Charter program lures new teachers

School chain offers master's, credential to harvest its own crop of instructors

By Jill Tucker | CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Recent college graduate Yael Villar knew she wanted to be a teacher. What she didn't want was up to \$100,000 in student loan debt for a master's degree and a teaching credential — money she would have had to pay back on a new teach-



Yael Villar (left) and Helen Chen Abrams work on a teaching plan.

er's \$40,000 salary. And that's if she even could find a job. So, the 23-year-old turned down Stanford University. She spurned Mills College and then her undergraduate alma mater, UC Berkeley. Instead, Villar hitched her teaching career to a charter school chain, Aspire Public Schools, which offered her a

Aspire continues on A6

MICROFINANCE

Lender invests in promising students

By Nanette Asimov
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

An innovative method of helping students pay for college in Latin America has landed in the United States — and 15 California students serve as its willing guinea pigs. "For me, it's absolutely wonderful," said 20-year-old Alex Jasiulek of Oakland, who has been president of his class for two years at Columbia University in New York.

He's one of thousands of students across the country who have taken out as many loans as they are eligible for, who may get financial aid and who work part time — yet still fall short of covering their tuition. For Jasiulek, the gap has been about \$5,000 a year. A company called Lumni USA pays that bill. Founded in Chile in 2002 by finance wizards Felipe Vergara and Miguel



James Patrick Cooper / Special to The Chronicle
Alex Jasiulek of Oakland is using Lumni USA funds to help pay for his education at Columbia University.

College continues on A7

LABOR

Low-wage workers cheated

Unscrupulous bosses often take advantage of most vulnerable

By John Coté
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Li Shuang Li waited tables six days a week in a San Francisco Chinatown restaurant where workers were yelled at for carrying only one pot of tea in each hand. She had no health insurance, sick days or vacation. There were three servers for a restaurant that sat 80. Shifts could last 10 hours. For that, the mother of two says she was paid \$900 a month — less than \$5 an hour. Li counts herself among the lucky ones. "Some families are in a much worse situation," Li, 42, said in Cantonese through an interpreter. "There were workers who were not paid wages for three to 10 months." It's part of a national scourge known as wage theft. More than two-thirds of low-wage workers reported some type of pay-related law violation, according to a 2009 report by the National Employment Law Project, which interviewed 4,387 front-line workers in Chicago, Los Angeles and

Wages continues on A7

HEALTH

Scientists place new focus on cure in AIDS research

By Erin Allday
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Shortly after Timothy Ray Brown moved to San Francisco in January, he was invited to attend a meeting for AIDS activists to talk about scientific research — specifically, research into a cure. Brown had a special interest in the topic. In 2007, while living in Berlin, he became the first, and so far only, person to have been cured of HIV and AIDS. But he was at the meeting just to listen, and he was a little surprised when one of the organizers asked if Brown would mind being introduced to the whole group. "He pointed to me and asked me to stand up, and he said, 'This is Timothy Brown — the Berlin Patient,'" said Brown, 45. "I think I turned completely red. But afterward, all these people kept

AIDS continues on A6

Only in The Chronicle

► Stories with this logo in today's Chronicle can be found only in The Chronicle's print edition, e-edition and new iPad app. Download the app at www.sfgate.com/ipad, and buy e-editions at www.sfgate.com/ZKFB.

Index

Auto Dealers ...B7	Crosswords E4-E5	Movies.....E3
Bridge.....E5	EditorialsA9	ObituariesC6
ChessE5	HoroscopeE4	OpinionA8
Comics.....E4-E5	Lottery.....A2	TelevisionE2

Weather

Morning fog, partly cloudy. Highs: 61-85. Lows: 52-60. **c8**

THE WOODEN DUCK
Furniture Made from Reclaimed Wood

Summer Sale

UP TO 50% OFF

BERKELEY
1823 Eastshore Hwy
Berkeley, CA 94710
510-848-3575

Now thru Sunday, July 24th
www.thewoodenduck.com

MARIN
1848 Fourth Street
San Rafael, CA 94901
415-453-0345

FROM THE COVER

SPACE
NASA
astronauts
leaving
in drovesBy Marcia Dunn
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAPE CANAVERAL — NASA's mighty astronaut corps has become a shadow of what it once was. And it's only going to get smaller.

It's down to 60 from an all-time high of 149 just a decade ago, with more departures coming once the Atlantis returns this week from the very last space shuttle voyage.

With no replacement on the horizon for the shuttle, astronauts are bailing fast, even though the International Space Station will need crews for at least another decade.

The commander of Discovery's last flight back in March, Steven Lindsey? Gone to a company whose proposed commercial spacecraft resembles a mini shuttle; his last day at NASA was Friday.

The skipper of the Endeavour's last mission in May, Mark Kelly? Retiring in another few months to write a memoir with his wounded congresswoman wife, Gabrielle Giffords.

Uncertain future

After spending her childhood wanting to be an astronaut — and achieving that goal in 1996 — Atlantis astronaut Sandra Magnus now has to figure out what the next chapter holds.

"Now that I'm an astronaut, the whole idea of what I want to do when I grow up comes back full circle," said Magnus, a former space station resident who has flown in space three times.

These days, chief astronaut Peggy Whitson finds herself in overdrive, working hard to keep up the morale at Houston's Johnson Space Center, astronaut headquarters. After all, she's got a space station to staff.

Two Americans usually are among the six people living on the orbiting lab at any given time, hitching rides up and down on Russian Soyuz capsules. Private U.S. companies hope to take over the taxi job in three to five years, freeing NASA up to explore true outer space. First the goal was the moon, now it's an asteroid and Mars.

"It's a very dynamic time, and a lot of folks aren't real comfortable with all the uncertainties," Whitson said. "None of us are."

Evaluating staffing

Whitson — herself a two-time space station resident — figures she needs 55 to 60 active astronauts. She has to account for absences because of injury, illness, pregnancy, even maxed-out exposure to cosmic radiation.

The National Research Council is evaluating just how many astronauts the United States really needs. Depending on the findings, NASA may start taking applications soon for a new, albeit small, astronaut class.

No matter the size, there will be plenty of applicants, all eager to join the exclusive club. Only 330 Americans have been chosen by NASA to become astronauts, beginning with the seven original Mercury astronauts in 1959. The number of applicants over the decades: almost 45,000.

Program
lures new
teachers

Aspire from page A1

package deal: a free graduate degree in education, a credential, a laptop, a year of classroom training and ultimately a full-time job with benefits.

After watching new teachers getting handed pink slips year after year in public schools, the offer was just too good to pass up, Villar said.

"There wasn't enough security in those other programs," she said.

Worthy investment

Aspire will spend about \$35,000 on Villar even before she takes over a classroom at one of its 30 charter schools across the state. During a year-long residency, she'll get a stipend and full health benefits.

The nonprofit charter chain, the largest in California, partnered with the University of the Pacific to offer the one-year master's and credential program. Participants take four weeks of courses over the summer and in the fall take primarily online courses while co-teaching at an Aspire school.

If she teaches for three years, the charter chain will reimburse her for the \$10,000 in tuition costs she has to pay up front for her master's degree.

Aspire officials believe it will be money well spent to grow their own crop of teachers.

"Highly effective teachers are going to make the

most difference," said Jeff Starr, Aspire's coordinator of teaching and learning.

They are considered "residents," spending a year at a school working with an experienced teacher before taking on their own class, an idea modeled after medical programs that offer hands-on, supervised experience for future doctors.

"Having a master's degree doesn't make you a great teacher," Villar said. "To work in an urban school is a daunting and intimidating thing. We should get more support, like a doctor."

Villar will co-teach high school math with a lead teacher this fall at Aspire California College Preparatory Academy in Berkeley while earning her master's and credential.

Tracking progress

The Oakland Aspire charter chain serves 10,000 mostly low-income students across 30 schools in the Bay Area, Los Angeles and the Central Valley.

The schools promote a "college for certain" culture at every school and use a detailed data system to track student progress.

Teachers adhere to the Aspire way, learning specific lesson-planning techniques and ways to address classroom discipline.

Its schools generally outperform their tradi-



Liz Hafalia / The Chronicle

Amanda Hayman (center) works with others in the teacher residency program as part of her training at Aspire California Preparatory Academy in Oakland.

tional counterparts, and many have posted impressive gains on state standardized tests.

Charter school critics argue the alternative public schools too often cherry-pick students and suck funding out of school districts, which are left to serve the most disadvantaged or disabled students. And research has shown that most charter schools do about the same or worse than their traditional counterparts.

Chains like Aspire, however, are the exception to that rule, in general posting higher scores and modeling successful teaching techniques, Starr said.

"I think that Aspire has made a name for itself in terms of innovating in public education," he said.

Yet it's clear that traditional public schools, without the help of outside private or nonprofit funding, won't be able to follow in Aspire's footsteps in developing their own teaching corps.

All told, it will cost about \$700,000 annually to produce about 20 teachers, money that comes from nonprofit

"To work in an urban school is a daunting and intimidating thing. We should get more support, like a doctor."

Yael Villar, Aspire Public Schools teacher resident

foundation grants.

Aspire had 18 residents in the first year of the program in 2010 and 19 this year, attracting recent college grads as well as career changers. The program had about seven applicants for every spot.

Critical thinking

Each resident will get "Aspiratized," learning the Aspire way to teach, evaluate and motivate students.

While teaching the skills and knowledge that appear on standardized tests is a big part of the Aspire way, there's also a big emphasis on critical thinking.

"Doing well on the test is not going to prepare you to be successful in college," said Jessica Rigby, who is helping

teach the residents' summer courses as a University of the Pacific affiliate professor. "I think it's a hard balance."

One of the residents, Valeria Sedillo, said it's about finding a way to connect basic skills to the bigger picture.

For example, you can show students how to tell time and tell them they need to know how to someday get to work on time, Sedillo said during a recent master's summer course at Aspire's California College Prep campus.

But then you make it personal, putting students in charge of the classroom clock.

"We need to know how to tell time so we can go to recess," she said. "You give them the opportunity to need it."

Sedillo said she's looking forward to starting her career this fall.

"I love working with kids, watching them grow," said Sedillo, who will be assigned to one of the chain's Sacramento schools. "I'm helping them and showing them they have options."

E-mail Jill Tucker at jtucker@sfgchronicle.com.AIDS emphasis
shifting to cure

AIDS from page A1

coming up to me and shaking my hand, and wanting to have their picture taken with me.

"People tell me I give them hope. That if this happened to me, it could maybe happen to everyone."

Brown is the proof of principle to scientists, patients and AIDS activists alike. His cure — a stem cell transplant — is a risky procedure and too expensive and difficult to pull off to work for everyone. But if even one man can be cured, researchers say, it means that a universal cure may be possible.

Grants

Last Monday, the National Institutes of Health announced that it was throwing an additional \$70 million toward research into an AIDS cure over the next five years — a 75 percent increase over previously planned spending.

The grants will go toward projects involved with the Matin Delaney Collaboratory, a collection of major American research laboratories focused on an AIDS cure. The group is named after a longtime San Francisco AIDS activist. At least \$10 million of that money will go to Bay Area institutions.

Other areas of AIDS science, such as research into vaccines and other prevention tools, still draw the majority of U.S. funding, but doctors and activists say this new infusion and new emphasis on a cure is a major

first step in a new direction of research.

"The first era, from 1981 to 1996, was just understanding how HIV causes disease. Then there was 1996 to 2011, when we tried to perfect the therapy. And now we're entering a new era: It's all about the cure," said Dr. Steven Deeks, a professor in the UCSF division of HIV/AIDS at San Francisco General Hospital, and one of the lead researchers working on a cure.

AIDS research has dramatically changed since the first cases were reported 30 years ago. Today, there are more than 30 drugs available to treat HIV infection, and people on antiviral therapy can expect to live decades, not months or years.

But while the current therapies are undoubtedly impressive, they aren't a cure. Patients have to take them for the rest of their lives, and while the drugs dramatically improve their life expectancy, people still face long-term health risks associated with the HIV infection and the drugs themselves.

Plus, millions of HIV-infected people, mostly in developing countries, have no access to the drugs. It's impractical and impossible to expect government and nonprofit agencies to fund a lifetime of expensive medications for everyone infected with HIV.

"For a long time, we were just trying to get people to the state where we could treat them and they could live better lives," said Dr. Anthony



Noah Berger / Special to The Chronicle

Timothy Ray Brown of San Francisco is known as the Berlin Patient, the only known person to have been cured of HIV and AIDS. Researchers and activists say his success gives hope that a cure for all is possible.

Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the NIH. "But you can't continually be putting people and sustaining them on therapy. The cure, together with prevention, is really going to turn the epidemic around."

The brunt of the cure research focuses on defining and attacking what's known as the HIV "reservoir" — the pockets of cells where the virus hides, quiet and deactivated, while antiviral drugs kill off the vast majority of HIV infection. These reservoirs can lie dormant for years or even decades, but they can be reactivated and they can start reproducing as soon as patients stop taking antiviral medications.

Molecules, mechanisms

So any cure will need to include both the current regimen of antiviral drugs, plus some yet-to-be-discovered therapy that finishes off the reservoir of latent HIV.

Researchers at San Francisco's Gladstone Institutes are hunting for molecules and mechanisms that could be used to draw out the hidden HIV infections so they can be killed. At UCSF, scientists will be trying to both define the reservoir

— where and how big it is, and why it's formed at all — and study how that reservoir is connected to the body's immune system.

'Nature of the beast'

"I'm really interested in understanding the nature of the beast," said Dr. Mike McCune, chief of the UCSF division of experimental medicine. "We want to get rid of HIV. That's the goal. But this epidemic has been going on for 30 years, and we still don't even know how to count the number of cells that could be infected by HIV."

Researchers say it's impossible to know when — or even if — a cure may be found. At one time, scientists had hoped antiviral drugs would provide the cure, and the fact that they didn't was a bitter disappointment for many doctors and patients.

Meanwhile, research into a vaccine to prevent HIV infection has stalled many times over. The past two years has produced new and promising research into preventing HIV infection with antiviral drugs, but that's expensive and impractical on a global scale.

Even with new funding and dozens of top researchers now focused on

a cure, it's going to be a "tough task," said Dr. Warner Greene, head of virology and immunology research at Gladstone. "Make no mistake, we're setting a high bar."

Patient advocates say the new funding is a monumental step in the right direction. But more money, and more scientists, still need to be funneled toward cure research, said Stephen LeBlanc with the AIDS Policy Project, which has been spearheading advocacy efforts toward finding an AIDS cure.

LeBlanc was the one who introduced Brown at the cure conference this year — and he points out that the Berlin Patient has been an inspiration to more than just those infected with HIV. Two or three years ago, before Brown's case became widely known, it was difficult to get scientists to acknowledge that a cure was possible.

"They had a lot of buzzwords to avoid saying 'cure,'" LeBlanc said. "They'd say they were 'working on activating the suppressors of viral latency.' The first thing we had to do was make it safe to say the word 'cure.'"

E-mail Erin Allday at eallday@sfgchronicle.com.