

PRIME TIME FOR ENTREPRENEURS

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Policymakers trying to stimulate entrepreneurial activity usually focus on how factors such as taxes and regulations affect new businesses. While these things are important, a new study suggests that the age distribution of a country's population also influences its level of entrepreneurialism. In *Demographic Structure and Entrepreneurial Activity* Moren Lévesque, assistant professor of operations and management studies at Case Weatherhead School of Management and Maria Minniti, professor of entrepreneurship at Babson College argue that there is an age level—usually in the early to mid-30s—at which people are most likely to start their own business. Countries where the average age is significantly older or younger are likely to experience less entrepreneurialism than are those places with more people around the peak entrepreneurial age.

The relationship between age and entrepreneurial activity stems from the fact that a young person is less likely to have accumulated the capital necessary to start a business. Conversely, older people are less willing to take the risks and forego the salary and perks of secure employment. Consequently, in both cases large portions of the population have relatively little ability or incentive to start new businesses.

The relationship between age distribution and entrepreneurial activity has important policy implications in economics as well as other arenas. For example, countries with high levels of immigration may consider policies favoring individuals who are around the peak entrepreneurial age. Others might choose to make it more difficult for people around the peak age to collect unemployment benefits, so they will have a greater incentive to start their own business. ☐

GROUP COMPILES LAWS ON TORTURE

The fundamental international law governing the treatment of detainees in the global war on terror are now in one brief, easily understood document, thanks to the work of a group of experts who participated in a recent conference at the Case School of Law.

The document, known as *The Cleveland Principles of International Law on the Detention and Treatment of Persons in Connection with the Global War on Terror*, summarizes the existing state of the law regarding treatment of detainees. “We felt it was important to restate the laws on torture in a way that was so clear that the ordinary person on the street, the ordinary private in the military, and every member of Congress would know unambiguously where the line is drawn regarding the proper treatment of detainees.



It's not creating any new legal obligations, but it puts the existing law into plain English,” explains Michael Scharf, Case professor of law and director of the Cox International Law Center. The conference was organized by Scharf and Amos Guiora, Case professor of law and director of the Institute for Global Security Law and Policy.

The principles have 170 signatories, including: Mario M. Cuomo, former governor of New York; Admiral (ret.) John Hutson, former judge advocate general of the U.S. Navy; Richard Goldstone, former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda; and Jerome J.

Shestack, past president of the American Bar Association. The full text of *The Cleveland Principles* is available at: http://www.law.case.edu/centers/cox/content.asp?content_id=85. ☐

PROGRAM AIDS ASPIRING MEDICAL AND DENTAL STUDENTS

For the past sixteen years the Health Careers Enhancement Program for Medicine (HCEM) at the Case School of Medicine worked to diversify the country's medical workforce. HCEM enrolled qualified undergraduates from diverse population groups that have historically been under-represented in the medical profession in a summer program designed to help them succeed at their goal of becoming a doctor. The Case School of Dental Medicine will now join in this effort with the aid of a \$1.2 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to create the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP).


As one of twelve national SMDEP programs funded by the foundation, the schools will develop and implement a new six-week summer program for qualified undergraduate college students interested in careers in medicine or dentistry.

By introducing potential medical and dental students to the academic and other requirements of these professions, the



new summer program will be designed to help students gain acceptance to medical or dental school and succeed once they are admitted. The program will enroll eighty undergraduates and include academic enrichment in the basic sciences, such as organic chemistry and physics, and key electives, such as writing; learning

skills; exposure to medical and dental clinics; exploration of the medical and dental professions; financial-planning workshops; and individualized educational plans to help students achieve their goals.

More than 1,000 undergraduate students went through Case's HCEM, which was also funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, with impressive results. One third of the minority students who graduated from the Case School of Medicine during the past decade are HCEM alumni, and sixty to sixty-five percent of all HCEM alumni from the Case program who apply to medical school are accepted. For more information about SMDEP and the application process, visit <http://www.smdep.org>. 

ROLE PLAY

Nicole Stewart, a graduate student at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS), recently sat before a video camera in a clinic at the school as representatives from three universities watched her interview Mary Rawlings, chair of Azusa Pacific College's department of social work, who played the role of a mother whose teenage son was having trouble in school.



Stewart had fifteen minutes to connect with her "client," build a rapport in an effort to uncover the environmental factors that contribute to the family's problems, and suggest potential strategies and services.

This role playing exercise was part of a pilot test for new simulated experiences developed for the Social Work Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) by MSASS, researchers at Azusa Pacific College, New York University, and the University of Toronto. The role playing that Stewart and other MSASS students did in the pilot testing are similar to exercises students in medical school practice to perfect their diagnosing skills.

While medical schools bring in character actors to play the roles of the sick patients, Wallace Gingerich, MSASS associate dean of academic affairs, envisions having social work students play the roles of both the client and interviewer. A student assigned the role of a client with a bi-polar disorder would have to learn about the illness and exhibit the symptoms during their interview. In turn, the interviewer would learn how to hold the attention of a client who exhibits a wide range of behaviors that complicate the interview process.

"Students will see the links between what they are learning and doing," says Gingerich. Eventually he also sees the simulation exercise incorporated into simulated training that will take place in the new Mt. Sinai Center for Medical Simulation as part of the emergency room training for social workers. 