



PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Selected Events January - June 2008



Independence Day Celebration In Duesseldorf Highlights New Chancery Opening In Berlin

June 30, 2008. More than 500 guests from North Rhine-Westphalia attended post's Independence Day celebrations at the Grafenberg Golf Club in Duesseldorf on June 30. In his welcome remarks, Consul General Matt Boyse stressed the special activities surrounding the opening of the new chancery in Berlin and introduced the new Executive Director of the

Amerika Haus legacy institution, Eveline Metzen. The Consul General thanked partners and friends of the Consulate for their commitment and cooperation in the past year, and announced a new season of transatlantic activities. Duesseldorf Mayor Dirk Elbers recounted Thomas Jefferson's ties to Duesseldorf, and a color guard from the NATO Allied Rapid Reaction Corps and New Orleans Jazz performed by "Henry's Jazzmen" made this a memorable first Fourth of July after the consolidation of Amerika Haus Cologne into the Consulate. | [Photo gallery](#)



Bottrop Museum Pays Tribute To German-American Artist Josef Albers

June 29, 2008. Representing the Ambassador, Consul General Matt Boyse spoke at the opening of an event marking the 25th anniversary of the Museum Quadrat in Bottrop, which is dedicated to Bauhaus master Josef Albers who emigrated to the United States in 1933. Echoing remarks given by then Vice President George H.W. Bush at the opening of the museum in 1983, the Consul General noted that Josef Albers' work as an

artist and educator illustrated the shared cultural and political values between both countries. The ceremony also served as the opening of a special exhibit that shows works by American sculptor Donald Judd.



American Football 27th Junior Bowl Held In NRW

June 28, 2008. Consul General Matt Boyse opened the championship game of the 2008 season between the Stuttgart Scorpions and the Duesseldorf Panthers on June 28 in Moenchengladbach, before a crowd of fans from many parts of Germany. The Panthers won the game 49:30. The American Football Verband Deutschland e.V. appreciated the Consulate's

support for the sport, which has grown considerably in popularity over the years, with nine teams in NRW alone.



Rhein-Ruhr Magazine Features Interview with Consul General

June/July 2008. The June/July 2008 issue of 'Rhein-Ruhr Magazin' carries an interview with Consul General Matt Boyse. The interview informs its readers about the role and the range of activities of the U.S. consulate in NRW and stresses the significance of the transatlantic relationship. Matt Boyse particularly emphasizes the important contributions of the several hundreds of U.S. companies in North Rhine Westphalia to the close

bilateral economic, political, and cultural partnership and points out the successful launch of the Amerika Haus successor organization "Amerika Haus NRW e.V." under the auspices of Minister President Jürgen Rüttgers. [Read the full interview](#)



Talking About The United States In Bocholt

June 23, 2008. At the invitation of NRW Junge Union Chairman Sven Vollmering, Consul General Matt Boyse visited the Bocholt region near the Dutch border on June 23. At the Mariengymnasium he discussed current issues with students and teachers before attending a reception of major political parties hosted by the mayor. Consul General Boyse also visited a

chemical firm with an important investment in Texas and gave interviews to local and regional media.



Conference Examines U.S. Foreign Policy In the 2008 Election Year

June 20, 2008. On June 20, Consul General Matt Boyse spoke at the start of a conference entitled "The State of the Leading Western Power: The USA before the Presidential Elections" at the Theodor Heuss Academy (THA) in Gummersbach. In his address, he urged the participants to

challenge commonly held views about the Administration's foreign and economic policies, to delve deeper into the details of policy, and to consider larger strategic factors as they form their views. At the event, which was co-sponsored by the German Atlantic Society, Naumann-Foundation National Deputy Chair Axel Hoffmann underscored the value of Consulate support in bringing U.S. perspectives to the Academy's transatlantic dialogue.



Reducing Cultural Stereotyping Via School Exchanges

June 19, 2008. In remarks at a celebration in Solingen of 20 years of partnership between the Naperville (Illinois) Central High School and the Humboldt Gymnasium, School Director Marko Voigt and Deputy Mayor Heinz-Eugen Bertenburg stressed the importance of travel and personal contact between Germans and Americans in expanding and correcting knowledge about each others' societies. Among the 100 guests were

present and former students from both schools, who described how their views had changed during their stays in the other country. In his speech congratulating the leaders of the program for their many years of engagement, Consul General Matt Boyse echoed these observations and expanded on the many benefits to Germany of close relations with the United States.



Supporting German-American Activities In Siegen

June 19, 2008. At an "American Day" on June 19 organized by the University of Siegen to inform students about transatlantic exchange opportunities exchanges advisor Petra Spitz from the Consulate gave a presentation on "Studying in the U.S." In the evening, the German-American Society Siegerland-Wittgenstein hosted a ceremony in honor of the successful participants in an essay contest on America where Spitz congratulated the author of the winning essay entitled *"The Summer of Love - How 1967 Changed the World"* and three other winners and presented them with gift books on the United States.



2008 Presidential Campaign Continues To Resonate In NRW

June 16, 2008. With support from the Consulate, the Amerika Haus e.V. North Rhine Westphalia sponsored another in its series of lecture/discussions on the race for the White House on June 16, this time with John Hulsman, the Alfred von Oppenheim Scholar at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) in Berlin. To an audience of 150 at the Industrie-Club in Duesseldorf, Hulsman expanded on the state of play for both parties and their candidates after end of the primary season.



Honoring Franz Boas In Minden, On The 150th Anniversary Of His Birthday

June 14, 2008. At a ceremony on June 14, Mayor Michael Buhre paid tribute to the founder of cultural anthropology Franz Boas who was born in Minden in 1858. Buhre praised Boas as an influential scholar and great humanist who after emigrating to America in 1888 was professor of anthropology at Columbia University for 35 years and also a curator at the Museum of Natural History in New York. The ceremony was highlighted by the presentation of a bronze plaque which will be affixed to Boas' birthplace in Minden. For the Consulate, cultural officer Bernd Herbert noted the significance of Franz Boas as a mediator between Germany and America and thanked the City for honoring the distinguished German-American scholar.



Consulate Sponsors Blues Culture Festival in Sinsteden/Neuss

June 1, 2008. Neuss District Commissioner Dieter Patt and Consul General Matt Boyse spoke at the opening of a festival dedicated to "Blues Culture" at the Cultural Center in Sinsteden near Neuss on June 1. The Festival, which will run for three months, features a first-rate exhibition of Blues artifacts (historic steel guitars and harmonicas, portrays of American blues musicians, historic film footage etc.) and will also present a series of concerts, guided tours and film showings. Consul General Boyse used the occasion to thank the organizers for arranging the Blues festival and also paid tribute to the many activities in the Neuss region to further the German-American relationship.



Fulbright Alumni Meet in Duesseldorf

May 31, 2008. Some 60 alumni from numerous Fulbright programs resident in North Rhine Westphalia (NRW) joined CG Matt Boyse for a BBQ at the Residence in Duesseldorf on May 31. In traditional picnic atmosphere, German and American participants in past and current programs reminisced about their experiences and caught up with old friends and acquaintances. A Bundestag Member described his year at a U.S. law school as seminal in his

understanding of the United States. Former Ambassador to East Germany, Herbert Stuart Okun, was also present sharing his experiences as a senior diplomat with the guests.



Panel Discussion on Iraq Sees "Light at the End of the Tunnel"

May 28, 2008. Consul General Matt Boyse took part in a discussion on "Iraq: Five Years after the Overthrow of Saddam Hussein" hosted by the Middle East Society (MES) at Bonn University on May 28. Sharing the podium a representative of the Iraqi Embassy Berlin, the editor of Deutsche Welle's Arabic Service, the chairman of the university's Political Science Department and Karin Mlodoch from the Haukari organization in Berlin,

Consul General Boyse described the major gains recently in the security, political, legislative, and economic area and urged the audience of students, professors and other attendees to support U.S., allied and Iraqi efforts to emerge from the Saddam era and to build a moderate, democratic society.



Symbolic Tree Planting at Biodiversity Conference in Bonn

May 27, 2008. Consul General Matt Boyse represented the Ambassador at a tree planting ceremony at the UN Conference on Biodiversity in Bonn on May 27. Joining the Mayor of Montreal, and a representative from Mexico as well as Bonn Mayor Baerbel Dieckmann, the CG helped plant a Chilean Andes fir tree for the Americas, one of five trees planted symbolizing the five continents. The tree planting ceremony, which was hosted by the

German Forestry and Timber Industry, also launched the public program of the biodiversity conference and served to draw attention to the importance and value of trees for a healthy environment.



New Dialog Series in Neuss

May 26, 2008. Consul General Matt Boyse initiated the Middle Lower Rhine Chamber of Commerce and Industry's "Dialog Series" at the International School on the Rhine (ISR) in Neuss on May 26. In his remarks on "The Role of the United States in International Politics: Developments and Outlook," the CG spoke summarized German and American views,

concentrating on the historical and current debates surrounding this broad topic. The English language ISR, operated by the SABIS group with headquarters in a suburb of Neuss's partner city St. Paul, MN, opened its new school in August 2007. It currently has 420 pupils in Kindergarten through 9th grade, with 500 expected in fall 2008, when the school expands to grade 10. The Middle Lower Rhine Chamber of Commerce and Industry represents businesses in the Neuss, Krefeld, and Moenchengladbach areas.



U.S. Writer Michael Chabon at Cologne Literaturhaus

May 26, 2008. Michael Chabon, American novelist and Pulitzer Prize winner, read excerpts from his new book "The Jiddish Policemen's Union" to an audience of 120 literature buffs at Cologne's Literaturhaus on May 26. In this "what-if" novel Chabon imagines that part of Alaska was turned into a temporary Yiddish-speaking settlement for Jewish refugees after World

War II, combining alternate history and detective fiction with his own distinctive literary style. He also discussed Jewish identity and the tradition of Jewish American literature in America as well as his approach to writing and the research that goes into it. "The Yiddish Policemen's Union" won the Nebula Award for Best Novel in 2007.



German-American Clubs Hold Annual Convention in Neuss

May 23-25, 2008. The Federation of German American Clubs celebrated its 60th anniversary by holding its annual convention in Neuss on May 23-25, marking as well the 50th anniversary of its student exchange programs with the United States. Taking place under the patronage of Ambassador Timken and Minister President of North Rhine Westphalia

Juergen Ruettggers and hosted by the Neuss German-American Association, the weekend meeting gathered leaders from clubs across Germany. General William A. "Kip" Ward, Commander, U.S. Africa Command in Stuttgart spoke at a gala dinner May 24, as did CG Matt Boyse. Mrs. Ward received an award for her youth work, as did the late Duesseldorf CG George Knowles and his widow Gail, for their engagement on student exchanges, particularly "Windows on America."



Transatlantic Dialogue on Web-TV in Duesseldorf

May 21, 2008. The 14th Transatlantic Dialogue on media issues, which took place at NRW State Chancellery in Duesseldorf on May 21, was entitled "The Show Must Go Online" and examined the outlook regarding the economic and corporate potentials of Web TV. NRW Minister for Media Affairs Andreas Krautscheid and Consul General Matt Boyse welcomed the experts and the international audience and emphasized the value

and benefit of a close transatlantic exchange on current media issues. Speakers at the conference stated that there was a clear trend towards global convergence in the media industry and suggested that 2008 will be the year of Web TV.



Seminar in Gummersbach examines "Hollywood and Politics"

May 13 - 16, 2008. "Hollywood and Politics" was the title of a seminar hosted by the Theodor-Heuss-Akademie in Gummersbach (May 13-16) as part of the academy's program series on the Presidential Elections 2008. At the opening session, Consul General Matt Boyse offered observations concerning the dynamics of the current election campaign pointing out the pitfalls of conventional wisdom and giving numerous

examples of how popular expectations had turned out to be misleading. A special session of the conference was dedicated to American actor James Stewart ("Mr. Smith goes to Washington"), who would have turned 100 this year.



Congratulating Israel at 60

May 8, 2008. Consul General Matt Boyse addressed an audience of well-wishers gathered at the Schadowplatz in Duesseldorf on May 8 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel. Speaking after Oded Horowitz from the Jewish community and Deputy Mayor Dirk Elbers, Consul General Boyse highlighted Israel's many

successes as a society in a difficult neighborhood, recalled the 30th anniversary of the Camp David Agreement, stressed that a peaceful resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict -- as two states -- will remain one of the highest foreign policy priorities for the United States, and wished Israel a peaceful and secure future.



America Evening in Duesseldorf

May 6, 2008. More than 400 members of the influential "Duesseldorfer Jonges" civic group and members of the Consular Corps turned out for an event devoted to the United States at the Kolpinghaus on May 6. With the Consulate as patron and Consul General Matt Boyse as master of ceremonies, the evening featured the themes "America – Old and New Immigration Destination" and the role of US investors in NRW. Drawing on this year's 325th anniversary of the first organized group emigration from Germany (from Krefeld in the Rhineland to Philadelphia) in 1683, the Consul General presented film clips and speakers on aspects of this historical event as well as the continuing importance of migration for the U.S. and Germany. Also featured was the role German settlers played in building major U.S. firms whose German operations are now located in NRW.



"Meet US" Program Event Provides "Career Advice" to Students

May 6, 2008. On May 6, U.S. Consul Desiree Humphreys welcomed 25 students from the Duesseldorf Matare high school for a discussion at the consulate. Responding to a request from the teacher, Humphreys offered a glimpse into the world of the U.S. Foreign Service providing interesting professional insights and personal experiences of her work as a diplomat representing her country abroad. She also explained to the students the role, mandate and main activities of the U.S. consulate in Duesseldorf.



Hollywood comes to the Ruhr

May 3, 2008. The annual Ruhrfestspiele theater series has opened its 2008 season in the Ruhr city of Recklinghausen featuring plays from the United States on the theme "Once Upon a Time in America." Consul General Matt Boyse represented Ambassador Timken at the opening on May 3 where the renowned American actors Kevin Spacey and Jeff Goldblum starred in David Mamet's play "Speed the Plow." The play struck a cord among many on opening night for its treatment of the tension between "art for the sake of art" and "the market" for film – giving it a broader international relevance, i.e. not just to Hollywood. The festival, taking place also under the banner "Recklingwood," will also feature plays by Tennessee Williams, Sam Shepard, Eugene O'Neill, Arthur Miller, as well as many readings on American themes until it closes on June 14.



Essen Students Learn About Study USA Opportunities

April 28, 2008. On April 28, Education USA specialist Petra Spitz gave a presentation on "Ways to the U.S." at the historic Gymnasium Essen-Werden. The program reached approx. 60 students, teachers and parents whose questions ranged from detailed information on high school exchange to various au-pair and internship programs in the United States. Spitz provided detailed information about the application process as well as financial aid and visa requirements and distributed pertinent materials.



Paying Tribute to the Nacel Open Door Exchange Organization

April 26, 2008. At 25th anniversary celebrations in Cologne on April 26, Consul General Matt Boyse paid tribute to the significant contributions this student exchange organization has made to expanding opportunities for young Germans and Americans to learn about and gain practical experience in each others' countries. Praising Nacel Open Door as another example of a successful private-public partnership, he noted in particular their excellent support for participants in the Congress-Bundestag (CBYX) exchange program.



Dealing With Stereotypes And Prejudice About America

April 21-22, 2008. At lecture/discussion events at the universities of Bochum and Dortmund on April 21 and a follow-on workshop at the Consulate on April 22, Columbia University Professor Michael Eskin discussed popular attitudes towards the United States. Drawing on his recent book (published by the Upper West Side Philosophers, Inc. in New York in German under his pen name Misha Waiman) "17 Prejudices We Germans have Against America and Americans That Can't Quite be Correct," Prof. Eskin offered a light and humorous but incisive commentary on common views found in contemporary German society. Observing that many attitudes were also present in 19th century Germany, he argued that they are not a result of a lack of knowledge but persist despite factual information to the contrary. His observations sparked constructive and lively discussions reflecting genuine interest in exploring the issue.



Welcoming the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in Duesseldorf

April 15, 2008. U.S. Consul Desiree Humphreys from the U.S. Consulate General was pleased to welcome the musicians of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra at a reception in their honor prior to their concert at the Tonhalle in Duesseldorf on April 15. Under the baton of conductor Paavo Jaervi and featuring violinist Janine Jansen, the orchestra performed works by Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Schubert and received sustained applause after their splendid performance. Founded in 1895, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra is the fifth oldest orchestra in the United States.



Preparing Students for their Study Year in the U.S.

April 11, 2008. PA Duesseldorf exchange specialist Petra Spitz participated in a pre-departure seminar arranged and hosted by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Bonn on April 11. Addressing 120 German university students who will be spending the 2008/9 academic year at a U.S. college, Spitz discussed intercultural differences between Germans and Americans and distributed useful briefing materials. Frankfurt consular officer Marissa Martin also took part in the seminar providing pertinent information on visa requirements. The participation of representatives from the consulate helped prepare the students for their stay in the U.S. and encouraged them to get familiar with essential American cultural values before traveling to the U.S.



American Literature Continues to Resonate in Cologne

April 8, 2008. An overflow crowd of 350 predominantly young readers were eager to hear American author Siri Hustvedt read from her new novel "The Sorrows of an American" at a program event in Cologne on April 8. A cooperative venture of the German publisher Rowohlt, Literaturhaus, the Consulate and national women's magazine "Brigitte", the reading highlighted an American writer whose current book focuses on family history, remembrance, and the mysterious constituents of identity. Dennis Scheck from Deutschlandfunk moderated the reading/discussion and German actor Boris Aljinovic read excerpts from the book in German.



The Impact of the Economy on the Elections

April 2, 2008. The consulate continued its series of U.S. elections programs with a luncheon/discussion event hosted by Consul General Matt Boyse on April 2. The speaker was Luxembourg-based U.S. economist and consultant Susan Alexander, who offered an overview of the U.S. domestic economy and also discussed the economic platforms of the three remaining candidates in the Presidential elections. Referring to the candidates' differing views on free trade/protectionism Alexander noted that their key economic advisers were all in favor of free trade. The program engaged a number of key contacts in a timely discussion of the U.S. economy and the economic platforms of Senators Clinton, McCain and Obama.



Treasure from American Film Archives Presented with Live Music.

March 28, 2008.

On March 28, at the Cinematheque at Cologne's Philharmonic Hall, American composer Yati Durant conducted a live performance of a music piece that he specifically created for the 1925 Hollywood classic "Lady Windermere's Fan." The movie, which was directed by Ernst Lubitsch, is in the permanent collection at the Modern Museum of Art in New York and generally considered one of the all-time finest examples of American silent film. In 2002 it received the U.S. National Film Registry Award. The live performance of the new original musical score at the film showing made this a special evening of American cinematography in Cologne.



Standing ovations for "The Streets of Wedding" in Cologne

March 12, 2008. Cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd of 700, the students from the Ernst-Schering-Oberschule in Berlin-Wedding gave a riveting performance of the "The Streets of Wedding" on March 12 at the Theater am Tanzbrunnen in Cologne. Directed by Berlin-based American choreographer and composer Todd Fletcher, the musical presented engaging scenes from the life in Wedding as seen through the eyes of its young residents, and delivered uplifting messages of hope, opportunity, and achievement-orientation. The host and driving force behind the evening, Jeane von Oppenheim of the Cologne-based Amerika Haus e.V. North Rhine Westphalia, and Ambassador and Mrs. Timken joined the audience in a standing ovation for the young performers and their team and thanked all who made this unique project such a success.



8th "Lit.Cologne" Festival Features Prominent American Authors

February 29 - March 9, 2008. In connection with the 8th literature festival "lit.Cologne" (February 29 - March 9) the U.S. Consulate co-sponsored readings by U.S. writers Richard Sennett ("Craftsman"), Bill Buford ("Heat"), Alice Sebold ("The Almost Moon") and Robert Littell ("Vicious Circle"). The readings with the American authors drew large audiences

reflecting great German interest in American literature and society. Part of the appeal of Europe's biggest literature festival is the selection of unusual locations for the events: the reading with crime writer Robert Littell, for example, took place at the Cologne police headquarters.



International Partnership Day in Detmold, Westphalia

March 5, 2008. Consul General Matt Boyse visited Detmold on March 5, addressing more than 200 faculty, staff and foreign guests at the Felix Fechenbach Vocational College on the importance of international study to remaining competitive in a globalized world. During a two-hour panel discussion, he and German experts compared vocational training

internationally, stressing that it is as important as academic training. The CG presented an overview of American community colleges, describing their diversity, their prominence in teaching applied skills, and their strong orientation to the market and to the needs of employers. Delegations from Atlanta Technical College, as well as schools in Japan, Lithuania, Chile, and the Czech Republic, joined UNESCO official Nainga Yee Mar. The CG also called on Marianne Thomann-Stahl, who governs the district of Detmold, one of the five regional administrations in NRW.



Supporting Transatlantic Teacher Exchange

March 4, 2008. At a reception on March 4 at the Koenigin Luise High School in Cologne U.S. Consul Desiree Humphreys spoke about the value of international exchange and cross-cultural training to an audience of representatives of COST, the Consortium of Overseas Student Teaching. This annual conference supports international student teachers'

exchange throughout the world with strong participation from the United States. The event provided an opportunity for the consulate to highlight the benefits of transatlantic experiences and dialogue both in the workplace and at the university level.



U.S. Sociologist Richard Sennett Draws Large Crowd at "Lit.Cologne"

February 29, 2008. As part of Cologne's prestigious annual literary festival "Lit.Cologne" distinguished American sociologist and book author Richard Sennett captivated an audience of more than 400 at a reading/discussion event on February 29 at Kulturkirche Koeln. Sennett discussed his new book on craftsmanship past and present ("Craftsman") and offered interesting ideas about what constitutes good work in today's society.



Promoting U.S. Exchange Program for Social Workers

February 28, 2008. On February 28, the U.S. Consulate participated in selection interviews of German social workers who applied for a four-month professional exchange program in the U.S. Administered jointly by the Council of International Programs USA (CIP) and the German Child Welfare Alliance (AGJ), this program offers ten qualified German participants an opportunity annually to learn about innovative approaches to social work in the U.S. The program, now in its 51st year, has demonstrated its value in providing first-rate professional experience

and training in social services for the German participants.



Another Visit to Westphalia

February 27, 2008. The German-American Society of Muenster hosted Consul General Matt Boyse at an evening lecture event on February 27 on "Current Aspects of German-American Relations." Speaking before an audience of about 80, the CG reviewed the consolidation of the Consulate General in Duesseldorf and Amerika Haus Cologne and the emergence of the successor organization Amerika Haus e.V. Nordrhein Westfalen,

previewed the opening of the new U.S. Embassy at Pariser Platz later this year, and discussed a number of topics relevant to the bilateral relationship. Questions from the audience concerned, inter alia, the Administration's position on climate change, the role of public diplomacy, the 2008 presidential elections, and U.S. relations with Russia. It was the CG's fourth visit to Muenster in the last eight months.



Ambassador Timken Pursues Full Public Affairs Program in NRW

February 14 & 15, 2008. On February 14 and 15, Ambassador and Sue Timken engaged important audiences on security, economic and social issues at program events in NRW, in Geilenkirchen, Bonn, Cologne and Duesseldorf. The Ambassador began his visit at the NATO AWACS Base at Geilenkirchen, addressing American military officers and spouses. At Bonn City Hall, he discussed current security issues at the invitation of

Lord Mayor Baerbel Dieckmann and the Mid-Atlantic Club. The next day the Ambassador toured the main Ford assembly plant in Germany and met with senior company executives, led by Ford Europe CEO Bernhard Matthes. Subsequently, at the Cologne Chamber of Commerce, he delivered remarks on German-American economic relations and later met with Minister President Juergen Ruetters, who shared his views on his recent visit to the U.S. and discussed economic and other issues. Concluding the visit, the Ambassador and Mrs. Timken were guests of honor at the annual Atlantic Ball hosted by the Steuben-Schurz Association attended by some 300 guests.



Ambassador Timken on German-American Relations on NRW.TV

February 14, 2008. In an interview broadcast by NRW.TV on February 14 and again on February 15, Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr. discussed the current economic and financial situation in the U.S., the need for greater NATO involvement in Afghanistan, and the state of the bilateral relationship. Speaking with Roger Horné, host of "Horne Live," the Ambassador stressed that the German-American partnership has become

a "true working global partnership." The Ambassador also used the occasion to draw attention to the special events planned in connection with the July 4 opening of the new Embassy Chancery located at Pariser Platz next to the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin.



Exchange Opportunities Promoted at Cologne Youth Fair

February 12, 2008. At an all-day youth fair at Cologne University on February 12, approx. 800 students took advantage of the opportunity to gather information about studying and interning in the U.S. Exchanges specialist Petra Spitz from the consulate fielded questions about application procedures and visa regulations, with consulate intern Tom Talley, a senior from the University of Wyoming, providing hands-on information about what it is like to study at an American college. The youth fair was sponsored by several educational institutions from the region.



U.S. Political Scientist Assesses the Results of "Super Tuesday"

February 8, 2008. William M. Chandler, professor of political science at the University of California at San Diego, presented a timely update on the U.S. primaries at a discussion at the Consulate on February 8. Addressing group of parliamentarians, government officials and editors engaged in transatlantic affairs, Chandler talked about the key issues of the campaign, the prospects of the remaining candidates and explained the strategic importance of swing states in the final election. During the exchange with his interlocutors Chandler also considered the possible impact of the elections on transatlantic relations.



Strengthening German-American Relations in the City of Siegen

February 7, 2008. On February 7, Consul General Matt Boyse spent the day in Siegen where he participated in a series of events including a public discussion with political scientist Hans Vorländer on "What Does it Mean to be an American?" attended by an audience of 200. The visit also featured a discussion on the U.S. role in the world at Gymnasium Wilnsdorf, a meeting with Siegen Mayor Steffen Mues and County Commissioner Paul Breuer as well as an exchange on the American studies curriculum at Siegen University. At a get-together with the German-American Society Mr. Boyse thanked the members for their active role in strengthening the bilateral partnership.



WDR-TV at the Consulate for Report on U.S. Primary Elections

February 6, 2008. On February 6, WDR-TV came to the U.S. consulate to record interviews on the results of the Super Tuesday primary elections with Consul General Matt Boyse and Consul Desiree Humphreys. The footage was folded into a feature on the primaries and shown the same day in the WDR "Aktuell" news magazine. The event reflected the continuing interest in this year's primary elections in the United States.



Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Performs in NRW

January 30 & 31, 2008 As part of a goodwill tour undertaken in connection with the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the city, the Pittsburgh Symphony performed before packed houses in Cologne on January 30 and Wuppertal on January 31. Both concerts were under the baton of Guest Conductor Marek Janowski, with the brilliant young German violinist Julia Fischer as soloist. In his welcoming remarks in the magnificently restored historic Stadthalle in Wuppertal, CG Matt Boyse stressed the progress the NRW-Pennsylvania partnership has shown since its beginnings two years ago, the interest in

Pennsylvania in expanding cooperation on many levels with business and other institutions in NRW, and reported on the visit of Minister-President Juergen Ruettgens to Pennsylvania this week. The orchestra was accompanied by a large delegation from the southwestern Pennsylvania business community, under the auspices of the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance.



Panel Discussion Reviews Prospects for Afghanistan

January 29, 2008. "Afghanistan's Difficult Road to Peace" was the topic of a public discussion at Cologne University on January 29, jointly arranged by the Consulate, the B90/Greens Party and the university's Political Science Department. Panelists were Christopher Blanchard, Congressional Research Service, Bill Moeller, U.S. Embassy Berlin, Bundestag members Dr. Rolf Muetzenich (SPD) and Winfried Nachtwei (Greens) as well as Conrad Schetter, Center for Development Research in Bonn. The panel discussion was moderated by WDR foreign editor Tibet Sinha and proved a well-timed opportunity to assess the next steps of U.S. and German engagement in Afghanistan.



Ambassador Opens Elisabet Ney Exhibition in Muenster

January 26, 2008. Ambassador Timken was the keynote speaker at the opening of the Elisabet Ney exhibition at City Museum Münster on January 26 which was attended by over 400 guests. In his remarks, the Ambassador paid tribute to the artist who was born in Muenster 175 years ago and emigrated to Texas where she became a highly acclaimed sculptress and one of the first German-American artists to build a cultural bridge between her old and new homeland. Muenster Lord Mayor Dr. Berthold Tillmann and Ruprecht Polenz, the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Bundestag, also spoke at the opening stressing the value and importance of cultural heritage as a cornerstone of bilateral relations. Ambassador Timken serves as patron of the exhibition.



Ambassador and Mrs. Timken Support Charitable Activity in Cologne

January 26, 2008. During a January 26 visit to Cologne, Ambassador and Mrs. Timken promoted a charitable activity spearheaded by the American Women's Club of Cologne (AWCC). Speaking with Lord Mayor Fritz Schramma at a gala dinner for 160 sponsored by the AWCC on January 26, the Ambassador lauded AWCC President My-Linh Kunst and the ladies' unusual engagement in support of the Ronald McDonald Children's House in Cologne (which raised 10,000 Euros that evening), as well as their initiative to teach English to members of a major Muslim Women's Center in the city via the club's recently-launched "Language Outreach: Volunteer in English" (LOVE) program.



Explaining American Policy to Youth and Teachers

January 24, 2008. Consul General Matt Boyse visited the Gymnasium Rheindahlen in Moenchengladbach on January 24, speaking to about 50 12th and 13th grade English students and several teachers of English and History. The almost two-hour conversation covered a wide range of issues, from Guantanamo to climate change, travel to the United States, and the "American Dream" versus the "European Dream." The CG expanded on these and other questions, urging the students to draw from multiple sources and to evaluate them carefully before reaching conclusions on complex issues.



Veteran Reporter Offers First-Hand Account of the 2008 U.S. Election Campaign

January 24, 2008. Jerry Hagstrom, editor of the National Journal and a veteran reporter of U.S. elections, presented an update of the primary elections at a public program in Bonn on January 24. Drawing on his experiences as an on-site observer at the first primaries, Hagstrom sketched the profiles of the leading candidates and their prospects for the nomination. Hagstrom also reviewed the genesis of the American primary system as an effort to make the nomination process more transparent and participatory. CG Matt Boyse moderated the discussion which was attended by over 100 guests and a joint venture of the U.S. Consulate, InWent and the German Atlantic Association.



U.S. Experience in Combating Corruption and Corporate Crime

January 23, 2008. Former Deputy Attorney General Paul J. McNulty spoke at a conference organized by the NRW-based Dispute Resolution Forum at the Industrie-Club in Duesseldorf on January 23. In his remarks on "Global Compliance Management: Enforcement Priorities for the U.S. Department of Justice and other U.S. Government Agencies and their Relevance for European Companies," Mr. McNulty described key organizational changes at DOJ that increase the amount of attention the USG is paying to these issues. Organized around the theme of "corporate compliance," the meeting reflected the large growth in interest among German firms regarding this issue, especially following recent Siemens payoff scandals.



Promoting Young Turkish-German Leaders

January 18, 2008. The Turkish German "TD Plattform," a network of young "high potential" Germans of Turkish origin led by Turkish born industrialist Kemal Sahin, invited CG Matt Boyse to address their January 18 New Year's Reception in Cologne. Speaking after NRW Integration Minister Armin Laschet, the CG stressed the Mission's engagement with Muslims in Germany and interest in expanding contacts with the group. Some 100 persons attended the event, including TD Plattform President Seda Temiz, President of the Turkish-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TD-IHK) Reinhardt Freiherr von Leoprechting, and Turkish CG Kemal Demirciler.



The U.S. Presidential Elections 2008: An Insider's View

January 18, 2008. Dr. John C. Hulsman, widely respected U.S. foreign policy expert and the first Alfred von Oppenheim Scholar at the German Council on Foreign Relations, offered an insightful analysis of the 2008 Presidential elections at a public event at Cologne's Mediapark on January 18. Speaking at the invitation of the Amerika Haus e.V. NRW, Hulsman reviewed the prospects and positions of the main candidates in the primaries and conveyed to his audience of 200 a sense of the dynamics and strategic dimension of the primary election process. A reception after the lecture offered a chance to continue the discussion with the engaging guest speaker.

Dr. John C. Hulsman



Amcham NRW Rings in 2008

January 15, 2008. Minister President Juergen Ruetters was the chief guest at the NRW American Chamber of Commerce annual New Year's Reception in Duesseldorf on January 15. Speaking before some 400 hundred guests, he stressed the importance of American investors in the state and spoke about his late January-early February visit to the United States. CG Matt Boyse praised Amcham's consistently high quality monthly speakers program, the contributions American investors make to the NRW economy, thanked the Minister President for becoming patron of the Amerika Haus e.V. Nordrhein Westfalen. Amcham Germany President Fred Irwin gave Duesseldorf Lord Mayor Joachim Erwin an award for his support for the business community and Amcham NRW President Heinz-Martin Humme also delivered remarks.



Celebrating 25 Years of Sponsoring German Students to Study in America

January 12, 2008. On January 12, Consul General Matt Boyse welcomed 65 leaders, friends and alumni of the Connecticut-based high school exchange program ASSIST to his Residence to mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the ASSIST "Foerderverein," the Germany-based group that supports this program financially. Over the past 40 years, ASSIST has sent several thousand German 11th graders for a year of study at some of America's best boarding schools, with full or substantial scholarships. The event reinforced the importance of the "life changing experience" a year of study abroad often involves.



America is Quite Different from Europe

January 9, 2008. On January 9, Jeane von Oppenheim, Chair of the Amerika Haus e.V. Nordrhein-Westfalen, welcomed an interested audience to the Verein's first program, a reading by Cologne author Dr. Werner Peters from his recently published book "Rätsel Amerika". The event at Cologne's Mediapark provided a timely forum for an in-depth discussion of the author's contention that "Europeans must bid farewell to the idea that Americans should be like us." The ensuing discussion was lively and wide-ranging, touching on such diverse aspects as religion and freedom in America, individualism and the current primary election campaigns.



Explaining the U.S. Primary Elections Live on Youth-TV

January 9, 2008. Consul General Matt Boyse gave a live interview on the U.S. primaries to NRW.TV on January 9 for the station's political youth magazine "Background." The focus of the questions by moderators Jan-Philipp Müller and Matthias Killing was on the role of primaries in the U.S. electoral system and the enormous national as well as international interest in the primaries. The interactive format of the program offered viewers a chance to participate actively in the exchange.



"Study in the United States" Workshop

January 8, 2008. EducationUSA specialist Petra Spitz was one of four experts at a public exchanges event hosted by Duesseldorf University's International Office on January 8. Spitz gave a presentation on how to apply at American colleges, visa regulations and procedures and financial

support by American universities. Other speakers discussed financial support available through German sources and TOEFL test requirements. In addition, Duesseldorf psychology professor Ute Bayen, who lived and taught at the University of North Carolina for over a decade, explained how studying in the U.S. would benefit the students' professional careers in Europe.



"How Far Can the State Go Against Terrorism?"

January 7, 2008. "How far can the state go against terrorism" was the subject of a podium discussion between NRW Justice Minister Roswitha Müller-Piepenkoetter and Consul General Matt Boyse at the Industrie-Club in Duesseldorf on January 7. The conversation, moderated by Professor Dr. Alexander Lorz, who is both President of the Duesseldorfer Institute for Foreign and Security Policy and State Secretary of Science and Technology in Hessen, was an opportunity for the Minister and Consul General publicly to compare and debate differing legal, political and other approaches to combating terrorism in the United States and Germany and to entertain questions from among the almost 150 guests.