



## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### Selected Events 2007



#### **Explaining American Society to Young Germans**

**December 7, 2007.** Consul General Matt Boyse visited the Pestalozzi Realschule in the Ruhr industrial city of Bochum on December 7, addressing some 130 10th graders and numerous teachers. The conversation lasted more than two hours, as the pupils asked thoughtful questions on a wide range of issues, from the daily life of a diplomat to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, Iran, Iraq, Kyoto, terrorism, and many more. School Director Silvia Zens and the other teachers prepared the pupils well!



#### **Discussing the Upcoming U.S. Elections 2008 in Duesseldorf**

**December 6, 2007.** The Steuben-Schurz Association, together with the Consulate General and Amerika Haus e.V. Nordrhein Westfalen, hosted another election 2008-related event on December 6 in Duesseldorf, timed to offer a pre-holiday preview to the January primaries and Super Tuesday. Panelists at this "Polit-Talk" evening included HSBC Trinkhaus Burkart Managing Director Dr. Olaf Huth, KION AG CEO Gordon Riske, Federal Chancellery Minister Hildegard Mueller (CDU), Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (WAZ) Washington Correspondent Dr. Markus Guenther, and CG Matt Boyse. WAZ Chief Editor Ulrich Reitz moderated the event and led the lively conversation on many aspects of the presidential race.



#### **13th Transatlantic Dialogue on Media Issues in Duesseldorf**

**December 3, 2007.** The 13th Transatlantic Dialogue, arranged by the Media Authority of North-Rhine Westphalia in Duesseldorf on December 3, examined the topic "Games: To know what is being played." The focus of the discussion among experts from Germany and the United States was on "casual games," particularly on successful business models of this fast growing segment and relevant regulatory frameworks on both sides of the Atlantic. The director of the Media Authority, Professor Norbert Schneider, and Consul General Matt Boyse opened the conference and emphasized the value of regular transatlantic dialogues on current media issues.



#### **Consul General Matt Boyse delivers lecture at Dortmund University**

**November 29, 2007.** "America: Myths, Realities, Complexities" was the title of a lecture by CG Matt Boyse, hosted on November 29 by the Rector of University Dortmund, Prof. Eberhard Becker, and the Director of the American Studies, Prof. Walter Grünzweig. Addressing an audience of students and faculty members, Matt Boyse took five issues (climate change, military force, Iraq, human rights and religion) -- about which many students often have firmly critical views of the United States -- to contrast "common knowledge" with much more nuanced reality.



### **NRW Minister President Visits German Headquarters of U.S. Company in Neuss**

**November 29, 2007.** NRW Minister President Jürgen Rüttgers visited the Neuss-based Germany headquarters of the U.S. firm 3M on November 29, joined by CG Matt Boyse. 3M Germany President Kurt-Henning Wiethoff hosted the group and provided an overview of the company's products and R&D. The St. Paul, Minnesota-based manufacturer of more

than 50,000 diverse products in the automotive, aviation, communication, household, medical security transportation, advertising and design fields was recently voted the "Best Employer in NRW." In Germany, the firm employs more than 4500 persons and generated revenues of more than 1.6 billion euros.



### **Highlighting the U.S. Market for German Investors**

**November 27, 2007.** At a November 27 conference in Duisburg organized by the American Chamber of Commerce, the NRW Ministry of Economics, the Council of American States and several private sector partners on "New and Renewable Energy," Consul General Matt Boyse highlighted the potential of the U.S. market for German investors. He stressed the interest in the United States in cooperation with firms active in these

areas, ending with a quote by German environmentalist Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker predicting that the U.S. could be the next "green superpower."



### **DCM John Koenig is Keynote Speaker at the "Initiativkreis Moenchengladbach"**

**November 24, 2007.** Following a series of meetings in Bochum and Essen, DCM John Koenig addressed a special meeting of the "Initiativkreis Moenchengladbach" on November 24 on German-American relations, focusing on President Bush's meeting with Chancellor Merkel in Crawford, TX as well as on the results of the first Transatlantic Economic Council

meeting in Washington on November 9. As part of his visit Mr. Koenig also gave an interview on the Middle East conference in Annapolis to "Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" which appeared on November 26.



### **DCM John Koenig Visits School in Gladbeck**

**November 23, 2007.** On November 23, Deputy Chief of Mission John M. Koenig engaged nearly 100 students at the Heisenberg High School in Gladbeck in a lively discussion of German-American relations and U.S. foreign policy. The high school seniors, many of them with diverse backgrounds, welcomed the opportunity to meet a high-ranking American diplomat and had many questions relating to the Middle East, Turkey, the

Kosovo and also the prospects for peace in Iraq. School principal Heidrun Schuette-Staendek and teacher Banu Arslan, who recently participated in a U.S. information tour on "Integration of Ethnic Minority Students," hosted the visit and appreciated the opportunity for a high-level transatlantic dialogue.



### **U.S. Secretary of Education Participates in Conference in Bonn, Visits Cologne**

**November 20-22, 2007.** U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings participated in the "Third Ministerial Meeting on Education of the Broader Middle East and North Africa (BMENA) countries and the Group of Eight (G8)" in Bonn, November 21-22. Prior to the conference, Ms. Spellings visited Cologne where she enjoyed a guided tour of Cologne Cathedral, a

World Heritage Monument and one the best-known architectural buildings in Germany. The tour was conducted by the Director of the Cathedral Archives, Dr. Klaus Hardering. Secretary Spellings expressed her appreciation for the tour as a welcome cultural entrée at the start of her visit.



### **First Youth Fair in Essen Generates Interest in Studying in the U.S.**

**November 23, 2007.** On November 23, EducationUSA specialist Petra Spitz took part in the first youth fair at the community youth center in Essen where 19 exchange organizations introduced international exchange programs. Approx. 500 high school and university students stopped by to

inquire about study opportunities in the U.S., high school exchanges, internships or college education. Mission information materials, including the CD "About the USA" and the booklet "If you want to study in the U.S.", were much in demand at the fair.



### **Dortmund Students Learn About Educational Opportunities in the U.S.**

**November 20, 2007.** On November 20, EducationUSA specialist at the U.S. Consulate Duesseldorf, Petra Spitz, gave a presentation on "Ways to the U.S." at the Stadtbibliothek Dortmund. Under the "America @ Your Library" program the Dortmund library had received a book collection about the United States , which also includes study guides and books about other educational opportunities in the U.S.. Ms. Spitz talked about

high school exchange, au-pair, internships and study in the United States, application process, financial aid and visa questions. About 30 young adults participated in the event using the opportunity to ask specific questions on going to the United States, request advice on exchange opportunities and pick up information materials.



### **Dialogue on Legal Aspects of the War on Terrorism**

**November 20, 2007.** Speaking on "Legal Challenges of Terrorism: U.S. Experience" at a November 20 conference at Muenster University Law School, Consul General Matt Boyse explained the rationale behind U.S. government actions, the debates, and the evolution of the U.S. approach since 9/11. Sharing the podium with MdB Winfried Nachtwei (B90/Greens) and law professors, the CG pointed out that the U.S. is not

unique in amending its laws to account for new terrorist threats and that the U.S. domestic debate over the proper balance between protecting civilian populations and civil liberties mirrors that in many other countries.



### **St Paul MN Meets Neuss NRW**

**November 19, 2007.** A delegation from sister city St Paul, led by Mayor Chris Coleman, attended a "Business Breakfast" for representatives from business, media, and city government at the Germany HQ of the U.S. pharmaceutical firm Janssen-Cilag on November 19. CG Matt Boyse reviewed the vibrant economic ties between the Neuss area and North

Rhine-Westphalia more generally and the United States. He also presented an update on the early results of the US-EU Transatlantic Economic Council.



### **Charge d'Affaires John Koenig on NRW.TV**

**November 13, 2007.** On November 13, Charge d'Affaires John Koenig appeared on "Horné Live," a live talk show on the regional cable network NRW.TV. During the 25-minute conversation, the Charge commented on the recent visit of Chancellor Merkel to the U.S. and answered questions on the current economic situation in the U.S. as well as on current transatlantic foreign and security policy issues posed by host Roger Horné.



### **Briefing U.S. College Seniors on the Transatlantic Economy**

**November 8, 2007.** On November 8, Consul General Matt Boyse discussed prospects for bilateral trade and economic relations with a group of college graduates and seniors from the Universities of Oregon and Washington. The students are participants in the International Business Program designed to give them in-depth exposure to transatlantic

economic and political issues. Responding to questions from the students, the Consul General discussed the enormous scope of the transatlantic economy and also the value of acquiring international knowledge and intercultural skills for a future career in the global economy.



### **Congratulations Germany!**

**November 7, 2007.** The German national ice hockey team skated to victory over a visiting American team in Cologne on November 7. The U.S. team, consisting of Americans playing for various teams in Europe this season, played well but were unable to recover after the hosts took an early 2-0 lead. The Koelnarena was packed with German fans, flags and enthusiasm, but a small number of American fans also made their presence known. The German team played better and deserved to win.

Final score: 4-2.



### **Columbus Day Lecture at Bonn University on "The Future of U.S. Public Diplomacy"**

**October 30, 2007.** Dr. Helena Kane Finn, Minister-Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin delivered the traditional Columbus Day lecture at Bonn University on October 30 which was hosted by the director of the North American Studies Program, Professor Sabine Sielke. Drawing on her extensive career as a diplomat (with postings for example in Turkey, Pakistan, Israel and Germany) Dr. Finn discussed the purpose

and the tools of U.S. public diplomacy worldwide, emphasizing the value of thoughtful dialogue and exchange. Dr. Finn used her visit also to have meetings at the German Academic Exchange Service and the American Institute for Foreign Study in Bonn where she was pleased to learn

about the continuing great interest in transatlantic exchange programs.



### **Promoting Trade with and Investment in the United States**

**October 30, 2007.** At a October 30 seminar on "Doing Business in the USA" sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK) Dortmund, Consul General Matt Boyse gave an overview of trends in trade and investment ties between the United States and NRW, stressing that the U.S. remains as open to commercial ties with foreign firms as ever. The CG also emphasized the importance of the "Invest in America" initiative launched in spring 2007 by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Some 25 representatives of small and medium sized businesses eager to grow their business with the U.S. participated in the seminar and discussion. The program was rounded out by presentations by Barbara Zollman, Deputy Director, German-American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest in Chicago, a Dortmund-based attorney with extensive experience in the United States, and a case study by a German small/medium sized businessman of his experiences exporting to the United States.



### **Ambassador Visits World's Leading Plastics Trade Show in Duesseldorf**

**October 25, 2007.** On October 25, Ambassador William R. Timken Jr. paid a visit to the 17th International Trade Fair for Plastics and Rubber (K 2007) at the Duesseldorf Messe, the world's leading trade event for the global plastics industry. At the U.S. pavilions, he met with a large number of the more than 140 U.S. exhibitors and discussed export and market trends during a lunch with industry association leaders and senior chemical company executives. During this visit to North Rhine Westphalia, the Ambassador also received a briefing at the United Parcel Service (UPS) European Air Hub at the Cologne/Bonn airport, the firm's largest operation outside the United States and saw the logistics facility in full action.



### **Cologne-Indianapolis City Partnership Leads to Economic Cooperation**

**October 26, 2007.** On October 26, the Cologne Office of Economic Development hosted a reception for a delegation of officials and business representatives from Cologne's partner city Indianapolis. Consul General Matt Boyse attended the reception which was an opportunity to discuss economic cooperation and also to further the bilateral city partnership. The next day, the U.S. delegation visited the International Trade Fair for Plastics and Rubber (K 2007) in Duesseldorf where several companies from Indiana were among the exhibitors.



### **Ambassador's Young Scholar Award Presented at Ceremony at Bonn University**

**October 18, 2007.** At the opening of the academic year of Bonn University on October 18, the U.S. Ambassador's Award was presented to Katharina Ricke for her M.A. thesis in North American Studies by Rector Professor Matthias Winiger. Consul General Matt Boyse participated in the ceremony and congratulated the young scholar on her academic accomplishment. In addition to the award signed by Ambassador Timken, Ms. Ricke received a grant that had enabled her to do research at the Library of Congress in Washington. The tradition of awarding the best thesis at Bonn University goes back to 1992 when the U.S. Embassy was still in Bonn.



### **American Youth Author Encourages Young Readers to "Make a Difference"**

**October 17, 2007.** On October 17, award-winning American youth book author T.A. Barron charmed young students during a tour through North Rhine Westphalia, including readings at a Cologne high school and at the public libraries in Cologne and Dortmund. Based on the ancient legends of the wizard Merlin, Barron's books describe his hero's courage to remedy social and environmental ills, stressing the importance of character, moral values and responsibility. The reading tour was sponsored by the "SK Stiftung Kultur" in Cologne, German publisher dtv and the U.S. Consulate. T.A. Barron encouraged his young audience to pursue their dreams and told them that "every individual can make a lasting difference in the world."



### **Celebrating Germany's contributions to the United States**

**October 14, 2007.** The German-American Friends of the Niederrhein celebrated German-American Day on October 14 at the Lehmbruck Museum in Duisburg, the 21st time the group has marked this event since late President Reagan established it in 1987. A USAREUR Quintet played jazz, swing and pop and German students who recently studied in the U.S. on scholarships provided by the Federation of German-American Clubs gave presentations of their experiences at American universities. In his address, CG Matt Boyse lauded the group's outstanding contributions to citizen diplomacy – spreading goodwill and knowledge about both countries among youth and in the universities at a time when a sophisticated understanding of our respective societies and policies is as important as ever.



### **Chargé d'Affaires Visits ANUGA Trade Fair in Cologne**

**October 12 & 13, 2007.** Chargé d'Affaires John M. Koenig participated in the opening of the world's largest international food fair ANUGA in Cologne on October 12 and 13 where he signed the golden guest book of Koelnmesse and visited the exhibits of dozens of U.S. food producers and agricultural exporters (here speaking with representatives from the Intertribal Agriculture Council which markets foods produced by Native Americans). The Chargé also used his visit in Cologne also to discuss U.S. foreign policy with senior editors at WDR-TV, the largest component of Germany's ARD public television network.



### **Consul General Attends Iftar in Cologne**

**October 10, 2007.** On October 10, Consul General Matt Boyse and Pol/Econ officer Desiree Humphreys attended an Iftar dinner hosted by the Association of Islamic Cultural Centers (VIKZ) in Cologne. The VIKZ is one of the four groups that make up the national umbrella organization, Coordination Council of Muslims in Germany (KRM). Addressing an audience of more than 100, included leaders of the most influential Islamic religious groups in Germany and regional interfaith leaders from NRW, as well as Minister of Transportation Oliver Wittke and Integration Commissioner Thomas Kufen representing the NRW government, the Consul General stressed USG interest in more substantive dialogue with Muslim communities and read the remarks that President Bush delivered at an Iftar Dinner, he hosted in the White House on October 5, as he has done every Ramadan in the seven years of his Presidency.



### **Consul General Attends Iftar in Moenchengladbach**

**October 04, 2007.** The Moenchengladbach Integration Council, together with Diyanet, the Turkish-Islamic Cultural Association, the Islamic Center, the Arrahman Mosque Association, and the Association for Afghan Cultural Development, hosted an Iftar dinner on October 4, attended by some 500 persons from politics, business, religion, and numerous ethnic communities from the city and surrounding area. The moving force behind the event was Guelistan Yueksel, who chairs the Moenchengladbach Integration Council. Consul General Matt Boyse, who was spontaneously asked to give a "Grusswort" following Lord Mayor Norbert Bude (SPD), spoke about President Bush's tradition of hosting Iftar dinners at the White House, the Ambassador's hosting of Iftar evenings at his residence in Berlin and around Germany, including September 25 in Cologne.



### **U.S. Consul General on NRW.TV**

**September 28, 2007.** On September 28 Consul General Matt Boyse appeared for the second time as a guest on the program "Roger Horné - Live" in NRW TV. During the 25 minute live interview (in German), they discussed the sub prime mortgage and banking situation, the dollar's effects on exports, the September 27-28 Major Economies Meeting in Washington on climate change, recent developments in trade and investment relations between the United States and North Rhine Westphalia, and trends in educational exchange between the two countries.



### **Goodbye and New Beginning for Amerika Haus**

**September 26, 2007.** "Goodbye and New Beginning" was the headline in Koelnische Rundschau referring to a ceremony at Amerika Haus on September 26 where Consul General Matt Boyse handed over the keys of the building to Lord Mayor Schramma, who in turn passed them on to Jeane von Oppenheim, the chairperson of the Amerika Haus legacy institution. Attended by city contacts, members of the Amerika Haus NRW e.V. and U.S. Consulate staff, this was the final occasion to express the U.S. Embassy's appreciation to the City for the extraordinary hospitality and support over 52 years and to signal that the legacy institution will continue the transatlantic dialogue on the same premises.



### **Ambassador Hosts Iftar in Cologne**

**September 25, 2007.** Ambassador Timken and Mrs. Sue Timken hosted a traditional Iftar dinner in Cologne attended by leading members of Muslim, Kurdish and Alevite communities in Germany, as well as senior government officials, local political and community leaders involved in integration and interfaith dialogue issues. The Ambassador stressed that tolerance and the acceptance of different ethnic and religious groups are bedrock elements of American society. He also reiterated his respect for Islam as a world religion, adding that the United States has for many years defended Muslims in conflict areas (e.g. Bosnia, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq). He drew a sharp distinction between the overwhelming majority of Muslims who practice their religion peacefully and the tiny minority who use it for political purposes or to justify violence. Ayyub Axel Koehler, chairman of the KRM, and Angela Freimuth, Vice-President of the North Rhine Westphalia Parliament in Duesseldorf echoed these and other themes in speeches.



### **Ambassador Timken Signs "Golden Book" in Bonn**

**September 25, 2007.** Ambassador Timken, accompanied by Consul General Matt Boyse, called on the Lord Mayor Baerbel Dieckmann on September 25 at the Bonn Rathaus and signed the Golden Book. The Ambassador thanked the Mayor for her outstanding support for the Embassy's move to Berlin, and more broadly for her cooperation and that of her predecessors during the Bonn Republic. They also discussed the challenges of integration in Germany and the United States. The Ambassador briefed the Lord Mayor on the Mission's engagement with the Muslim communities in Germany, including the "Windows on America" program for youth and the "Streets of Wedding" musical, as well as the many Iftar dinners he and the Consuls General have hosted during Ramadan in recent years.



### **Native American Game Lacrosse Becomes Popular in NRW**

**September 22, 2007.** With the growth of interest in Germany in lacrosse in the last 15 years, Consul General Matt Boyse on September 22 visited the Duesseldorf Antlers for a friendly game against the team from neighboring Maastricht, Netherlands. The sport, the earliest mention of which dates to the 16th century, was originated by Native Americans and has in the last 100 years developed an enthusiastic international following. Lacrosse has become particularly popular in North Rhine Westphalia following the return of German students from academic and other exchange programs in the United States.



### **Discussing 9/11 with Audience of German High School Seniors**

**September 12, 2007.** On September 12, Consul General Matt Boyse spoke to a select group of about 75 high school students at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's National Education Center at Schloss Eichholz, located between Bonn and Cologne. His remarks, on "The Importance and Implications of 9/11 for U.S. Politics", recalled the significance of the attacks for the people of the U.S. and the Bush Administration and discussed the many consequences it has had.



### **"America @ your library" Collection Inaugurated at Duisburg Public Library**

**September 11, 2007** At a reception on September 11, Consul General Matthew Boyse and Lord Mayor Adolf Sauerland inaugurated an "America @ your library®" partnership at Duisburg public library. This library partnership provides financial support and a broad selection of books on American society and culture as well as other information materials. In this way, the collection responds to local information needs on the United States, especially the needs and interests of young people. In his remarks introducing the program, the CG remembered the victims of the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington with a moment of silence, and emphasized that the threat of terrorism will not prevent the United States from continuing important cultural exchange programs like this one. The U.S. Consulate will also cooperate with the Duisburg library in organizing workshops, readings and other cultural programs about the United States.



### **Ambassador's Visit to Duisburg Mosque Generates Significant Media Attention**

**September 5, 2007.** An impressive contingent of 30 German and Turkish journalists attended Ambassador Timken's visit of the nearly-completed mosque in Duisburg-Marxloh on September 5. Accompanied by Duisburg Mayor Adolf Sauerland and CG Matt Boyse, Ditib officials took the Timkens on a tour of mosque which will be opened in early 2008 and also

serves as a community and cultural center for all Duisburgers. The visit ended with an on-site press conference during which the Ambassador noted that "the cooperation in Duisburg of so many people with different backgrounds is a very good example of openness and tolerance." A large number of German and Turkish newspaper reported the event.



### **Welcoming New U.S. Teaching Assistants in Altenberg**

**September 4, 2007.** At an orientation seminar in Altenberg on September 4, Consul General Matthew Boyse welcomed 140 newly-arrived Fulbright teaching assistants who will be teaching at secondary schools all over Germany. Boyse outlined the role of Mission Germany in fostering the German-American dialogue and invited the young Fulbrighters to play an

active role as junior ambassadors in the "MeetUS" school outreach program. The participants also received American studies resource materials for their classes.



### **Students in Siegen Learn about Exchange Opportunities**

**August 28, 2007** The German-American Association Siegerland-Wittgenstein e.V. invited to an information event about high school exchange and other ways to go to the United States. About 45 interested students and parents followed the invitation and saw a presentation by EducationUSA specialist Petra Spitz from Amerika Haus in Cologne on "Ways to the U.S.

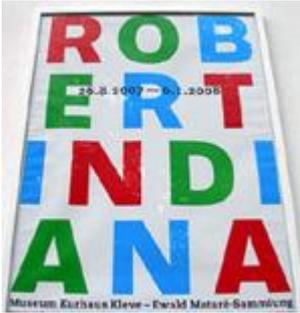
- High School Year-Au Pair-Internship-Study". The presentation was followed by reports by two exchange students, who spent a high school year in New Jersey and in South Dakota and a young lady, who stayed a few weeks on a homestay program in Arizona, which was offered by the G-A Association Siegerland-Wittgenstein e.V in cooperation with the Federation of German-American Clubs. All three students were enthusiastic about their stays and described this experience as very impressive and decisive for their personal future plans.



### **Public Affairs Section to Move from the Amerika Haus to the U.S. Consulate General in Duesseldorf**

**August 27, 2007.** The U.S. public affairs section, which has been operating out of the Amerika Haus in Cologne since 1955, will move to the U.S. Consulate General in Düsseldorf at the end of September 2007. In Düsseldorf, the section will continue to promote German-American relations and conduct a wide range of public diplomacy activities

throughout North Rhine Westphalia. The Amerika Haus building will continue to serve as a location for a transatlantic dialogue, as of October 1, 2007 under the auspices of a recently established legacy institution, the "Amerika Haus e.V." More detailed information on how to reach the public affairs section in Düsseldorf as well as how to cooperate with the new Amerika Haus public-private partnership and its future programs and activities will be forthcoming.



### **Robert Indiana Exhibit Opens in Kleve, Supported by U.S. Embassy**

**August 26, 2007.** On August 26, the Museum Kurhaus Kleve opened a major exhibition dedicated to American painter Robert Indiana. Speaking at the opening, U.S. Consul Desiree Humphreys conveyed best wishes from Ambassador William R. Timken Jr. who serves as patron of the exhibition and congratulated the Museum for presenting the classic works of this influential figure in American arts. The curator of the exhibition, Dr. Roland Moenig, introduced the artist noting that "Robert Indiana's art is art of the highest intellectual complexity together with the greatest possible simplification of the outward form." The exhibition will be shown until January 6, 2008. An exhibition catalogue is available at the [Museum Kurhaus Kleve](#).



### **Take Me Out to the Ballgame - Baseball in Solingen**

**August 23, 2007.** The 2006 German national champion Solingen Alligators again made it into the finals ("World Series") of the German Baseball League this year. Their hopes of a repeat performance ended on August 23, however, as the Mainz Athletics defeated the Alligators 3 games to 1. As with all German baseball teams, foreign players, including from the United States, are permitted to play for the Alligators. Consul General Matt Boyse (left in the picture) threw out the first ball on a magnificent day, with a genuine baseball atmosphere, which included the customary "seventh inning stretch," with spectators singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," in English.



### **Launching a New School Partnership in Krefeld**

**August 17, 2007.** In a ceremony at the Ricarda Huch High School in Krefeld on August 17, Consul General Matthew Boyse and Mayor Gregor Kathstede welcomed a group of American exchange students and teachers from Haslett High School, Michigan. The ceremony launched this new partnership; the German students will visit Michigan in September. A native of Michigan, Boyse emphasized the significance of school exchanges and thanked the Mayor for lending his support to the transatlantic school partnership.



### **U.S. Investor's Contributions to NRW Economy**

**August 17, 2007.** With 580 employees and its largest site investment in Germany, Cargill's Krefeld maize processing factory plays an important role in NRW's Lower Rhine (Niederrhein) economy. Plant Manager Jake Jacobson gave CG Matt Boyse an overview of the Minneapolis, Minnesota-based agro-business firm's activities, including its production of starch and sweeteners, glucose, dextrose and other products for the food and packaging industries. Cargill's Krefeld factory serves as headquarters of its Germany operations, which includes 12 locations and over 1500 employees.



### **Krefeld's Ties with the U.S.**

**August 17, 2007.** On August 17, CG Matt Boyse visited Krefeld, from which the first organized groups of German emigrants to the United States originated in 1683. He discussed economic and business ties with Krefeld Lord Mayor Gregor Kathstede and leading area businessmen and visited the Ricarda-Huch-Gymnasium in connection with the launch of the school's exchange program with Haslett High School, near East Lansing, Michigan. In September, students and teachers from Krefeld will visit Haslett High, which will coincide with the traditional football weekend "Homecoming." In his remarks, the Consul General stressed to the visiting American students and teachers the continuing importance of Germany in world affairs and German as a language, and emphasized to the German members of the audience the value to their country of a strong, close and positive relationship with the United States. The Consul General also underscored the importance of learning other languages and cultures in personal growth and for the future.



### **U.S. Participants in Congress-Bundestag Exchange Ready for their Year in Germany**

**August 15, 2007.** On August 15, a group of 28 U.S. participants in this year's Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program visited the Amerika Haus to learn about the function of the U.S. consulate and to discuss their role in the German-American dialogue. Created in 1983, this program is designed to strengthen the bilateral friendship and understanding. For the students the exchange offers an opportunity to learn about their host country, broaden their horizons and build manifold skills. U.S. Consul General Matt Boyse welcomed the group, suggested that the participants get in touch with their respective consulates and to take advantage of the opportunities that a year abroad in a foreign culture offers.



### **German American Studies at Schloss Dyck**

**August 8, 2007.** A delegation representing the faculties of law, business, physics, economics, public health, history and international studies at the University of New Mexico (UNM), Albuquerque agreed on August 8 on a series of exchanges with the Fachhochschule fuer Oekonomie und Management (Neuss), the Heinrich Heine University Duesseldorf, the North American Studies Program at the University of Bonn, and the Economics Faculty of the University of Cologne. Cooperation will begin with a physics seminar in spring 2008, followed by a summer program in 2008 for UNM students at the magnificent Schloss Dyck that will include legal issues such as intellectual property rights and patents and German/European studies. Students from German partner institutions will attend classes at the UNM Summer School. Consul General Matt Boyse spoke at the opening of the conference on August 6 on the subject of "Why the German-American Relationship?", summarizing the many benefits that accrue to Germany and the United States of a strong partnership.



### **Ambassador and Mrs. Timken Visit Muenster, Guetersloh and Bielefeld**

**July 19 & 20, 2007.** Ambassador and Mrs. Sue Timken visited Westphalia July 19 and 20. As part of their visit, the Ambassador was greeted by Münster Lord Mayor Berthold Tillmann in the historic "Hall of Peace" as a "friend among friends." In addition, the Timkens participated in programs at the German Police University in Münster and Bertelsmann AG in

Gütersloh, which included meetings with Bertelsmann Foundation heads and lunch with current CEO Gunter Thielen and his successor Harmut Ostrowski (as of Jan 1, 2008). Ambassador Timken also participated in an interview with the regional daily "Neue Westfälische" in Bielefeld and he and Mrs. Timken enjoyed a tour of the "[Sculpure Projects Münster 07](#)" exhibit given by co-curator and co-founder Kasper Koenig. **I Interview published in Neue Westfaelische Zeitung, July 21, 2007**



### **Students from Duisburg/Essen Prepare Study Tour of the United States**

**July 19, 2007.** On July 19, the Amerika Haus Cologne hosted a pre-departure seminar for 25 geography students from Duisburg/Essen University in preparation of their two-week study excursion to the U.S. in August. The young scholars reviewed U.S. perspectives on globalization and presented papers on various aspects of regional economic growth and urban planning in the United States. Geography professor Rudolf Juchelka noted that the access to AH resources had provided useful orientation and context for the group's upcoming study tour of the U.S.



### **Memorable Last Independence Day Celebration at Amerika Haus Cologne**

**July 3, 2007.** Approx. 500 guests from North Rhine-Westphalia attended the Independence Day celebrations on July 3 at the Amerika Haus. The reception this year was also an occasion to pay tribute to the 52-year history of the Amerika Haus in Cologne and to announce the establishment of a legacy institution that will be located in the same building and serve as a state-wide transatlantic forum in the future. DCM John Koenig and CG Matt Boyse welcomed the guests and expressed their appreciation to the City of Cologne for supporting the AH for over half a century. In return, Cologne Lord Mayor Fritz Schramma and NRW Minister for European Affairs Michael Breuer emphasized the importance and success of the AH as a center of dialogue which helped to secure democracy and to promote close and friendly relations. They also bid farewell to departing Amerika Haus director Constance Colding Jones, and had generous praise for the work and dedication of the AH staff. A color guard, performances by a gospel group and a jazz band, a book presentation as well as American food and drink provided by co-sponsors made this a memorable last Fourth of July at Amerika Haus Cologne.



### **Independence Day Celebration at Rheindahlen**

**June 29, 2007.** Poor weather did not dampen the spirits of the USAREUR Army Band or hundreds of guests at the Independence Day 2007 celebration at Joint Headquarters of the British Forces in Germany Corps HQ at Rheindahlen on June 29. Hosted by the senior US representative at Rheindahlen, NATO Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Deputy Chief of Staff Brigadier General Michael A. Ryan, the annual celebration continued unabated. The band and the singers played on, during more than an hour of pouring rain, entertaining the multinational crowd with classic rock, rhythm and blues, and other popular American hits songs. Consul General Matt Boyse and his family represented the State Department at this event, and were impressed by the amazing spirit at this event.



### **Consul General Visits Michigan-based TRW Corporation in Gelsenkirchen**

**June 26, 2007.** During a June 26 visit to the Gelsenkirchen steering division of the Livonia, Michigan-based TRW Corporation, plant manager Heinz Stupp (right) gave Consul General Matt Boyse a tour of his factory and an overview of the firm's operations in Germany. The Gelsenkirchen plant, which employs 750 people and produces components for Ford, Opel, VW, BMW, Porsche and Audi, is one of some 20 TRW facilities in Germany employing some 12,000 persons. There are two additional TRW locations in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW): Duesseldorf and Krefeld. TRW received the Total Productive Maintenance Award in 2005 and the Lean Factory Award Germany-wide in 2006.



### **Bochum Students Learn About U.S. Study Opportunities**

**June 20, 2007** On June 20th, Petra Spitz from the Amerika Haus Köln /Education USA Germany visited the University of Applied Sciences in Bochum to talk about exchange opportunities with the United States. The event was organized by the Internional office. During a lecture at the university, about 30 students received information on studying and interning in the U.S., including information on the higher education system, the application process and visa issues.



### **A Fond Farewell to Arthur Fagan**

**June 20, 2007.** On June 20, classical music lovers from the Ruhr area treated Arthur Fagan to a rousing farewell after five years as General Music Director of the Dortmund Symphony. The American conductor led a brilliant performance of Arnold Schönberg's "A Survivor from Warsaw" and Beethoven's 9th Symphony. Until his departure for future challenges, Arthur was one of several American musicians/artists playing leading roles in the music world in North Rhine-Westphalia. Arthur, we will miss you and your lovely wife, Paulette. We wish you all the best and look forward to your return to NRW in a guest conductor capacity!



### **U.S. Consul General Visits Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung**

**June 18, 2007.** Matthew G. Boyse was guest at the regional daily Westdeutsche Allgemeinen Zeitung (WAZ) in Essen on June 18. The editorial round table, hosted by editor-in-chief Ulrich Reitz focused on the restructuring of former industrial regions, global challenges of fighting climate change and the US-German relations.



### **NATO AWACS Base Celebrates 25th Anniversary**

**June 15-17, 2007.** The NATO E3A AWACS Component in Geilenkirchen marked its 25th anniversary June 15-17 with "Open Door Days" that attracted some 130,000 visitors and more than 30 aircraft from various NATO countries, including a B-52 that flew from Louisiana and a vintage WWII-era Messerschmidt 109. Base Commanding Officer U.S. Brigadier General Stephen D. Schmidt USAF welcomed CG Matt Boyse and senior guests from all NATO member countries and visitors from across Germany to this event, the major USAF aviation event in Germany scheduled for 2007, stressing the strong partnership

between the military and civilian population in the region. A recent study concluded that the installation contributed some 262 million euros to the economy within a 200km radius in 2006. Some 3100 people, including a sizable American contingent, work at the base, which employs an additional 1800 persons indirectly in the surrounding area.



### **Celebrating Historic Speeches in the German-American Relationship**

**June 11, 2007.** At a June 11 reception at his residence, Consul General Matt Boyse and his wife, Eleanore, welcomed over a hundred guests from politics, business, media and culture from Northrhine-Westphalia, including Lord Mayors Joachim Erwin (Duesseldorf) and Fritz Schramma (Cologne) -- both pictured here -- and NRW Interior Minister Ingo Wolf.

The CG used the occasion to reflect upon two of the most significant speeches in the post WWII German-American relationship -- late President Ronald Reagan's historic "Mr. Gorbachev: Open This Gate; Mr. Gorbachev: Tear Down This Wall" speech in front of the Brandenburg Gate in the former West Berlin on June 12, 1987 and the announcement of the European Recovery Program (aka Marshall Plan), which the late Secretary of State George C. Marshall delivered at Harvard University 60 years ago on June 5, 1947. The reception presented an opportunity to remember the leadership, vision and contributions these American statesmen made to Germany's success after WW II as well as to German reunification.



### **Northwest Airlines Starts Düsseldorf -Detroit Non-Stop Flights**

**June 6, 2007.** The U.S. firm Northwest Airlines (NWA) initiated daily flights between Duesseldorf and Detroit on June 6, increasing the number of direct connections between points in Northrhine Westphalia (NRW) and the U.S. to more than 40 per week. NWA executives traveled from their European hubs in Amsterdam and Frankfurt to Duesseldorf for a series of events, including a major reception, press briefings, and a ribbon cutting ceremony.

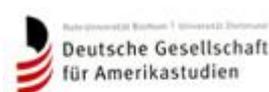
We wish Northwest Airlines success as it adds alternatives for travelers who wish to fly directly between NRW and the United States.



### **Updating Teachers on American Studies Resources**

**May 31, 2007** On May 31, PA Cologne conducted a workshop for teacher trainees from Westphalia at the Amerika Haus which included a presentation by PAO Jones on consular functions and services. The teachers got an overview of American studies resources and exchange opportunities. In addition, two speakers involved in post's "Meet US"

outreach program gave inspiring accounts of their recent school visits.



### **Annual Conference of the German Association for American Studies Opens in Bochum**

**May 31, 2007.** "Religion in the United States" was the topic of this year's conference of the German Association for American Studies (GAAS) which opened at Bochum University on May 31. Speaking at the opening, U.S. Cultural Attaché for NRW Constance Colding Jones noted that religion has always been a central, identity-shaping force in the American colonies and

the United States. Professor Paul S. Boyer, University of Wisconsin, Madison, delivered the keynote lecture in which he reviewed America's post-1970 religious revival and its public-policy implications.



### **"Chuck Close - Portraits 1969-2006" at Ludwig Forum Aachen**

**May 25, 2007.** On May 25, the Ludwig Forum in Aachen opened an exhibition of works by American artist Chuck Close, a display of large format portraits representing the artist's famous photorealism technique. In her remarks at the opening, U.S. Cultural Attaché Constance Colding Jones praised the extensive bilateral cultural exchange between the U.S. and North Rhine Westphalia, and described Chuck Close as a leading

American artist and former Fulbright professor. The exhibit will be on display until September 2.



### **Flag Football in Neuss**

**May 20, 2007.** Before the kickoff of a tackle football game between the Neuss Frogs and the Langenfeld Longhorns on May 20, Consul General Matt Boyse posed with high school aged team members, cheerleaders, as well as coaches Boris Huesgen and Jean-Marc Tappy. American football

has grown considerably in popularity over the last decade in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), where dozens of flag and tackle teams play every week during the spring. NRW is also the home of two of the National Football League (NFL) Europe's six teams (Duesseldorf RheinFire and Cologne Centurions), which also play during the spring. The Frogs are prepping for a visit this fall to the Neuss sister city, St. Paul, Minnesota, where they will play a number of football teams from the Twin Cities area.



### **U.S. Consul General Visits Dortmund**

**May 18, 2007.** During a May 18 visit to Dortmund, Consul General Matt Boyse discussed ties between the city, its major institutions and the United States with Lord Mayor Dr. Gerhard Langemeyer and University of Dortmund Rector Dr. Eberhard Becker. The visit included meetings on economic relations between the U.S. and firms in the city with senior

officials of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK) and stops at firms with growing investment and trade ties with the United States. Dortmund has made considerable progress in the last 20 years as restructures its former steel and coal-based economy into one more that is more diversified and high tech.



### **Indiana Governor Mitchell E. Daniels Visits NRW**

**May 15, 2007.** During a May 15 visit to North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), Indiana Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. visited a number of current or potential investors in the state, spoke at a roundtable discussion on bio-energy hosted by the NRW Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy, and hosted a reception at the Industrie-Club in Duesseldorf. The program, organized by Foreign Commercial Service Director Ed Fantasia and

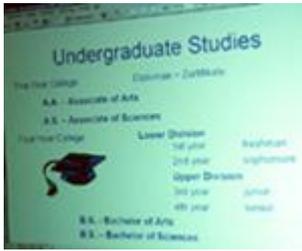
Foreign Agricultural Service Bonn Representative Dietmar Achilles, included side trips by members of the 35-member delegation to numerous firms with connections to Indiana in the Cologne and Duesseldorf area.



### **U.S. Consul General Guest at Center.tv's "Stadtgesprach"**

**May 14, 2007.** U.S. Consul General Matthew Boyse was the guest of the talk show "Stadtgesprach" recorded at Cologne's private TV station "center.tv" on May 15. The station's managing director Jens Kemper asked about the duties and activities of a Consul General and his favorite Cologne dishes and places. The interview also focused on the activities of

the Amerika Haus Cologne and the current state of the transatlantic relationship. The interview will be broadcast next week.



### **Students in Münster Learn About Exchange Opportunities in the United States**

**May 15, 2007** On May 15, 2007 representative of EducationUSA Petra Spitz participated in "Horizonte 2007" Fair at the Wilhelms-University in Münster. Throughout the day, more than 2000 students visited the information booths in the foyer of the university in the Münster Castle to gather information material and about 500 of them contacted the

Education USA booth directly to get flyers and the CD-Rom "About the USA".



### **Delta Airlines Celebrates First Anniversary of Non-stop Service between Duesseldorf and Atlanta**

**May 8, 2007.** On May 8, Atlanta-based Delta Airlines celebrated the first anniversary of the resumption of direct daily air service between Duesseldorf and Atlanta. Delta Country Manager Carol Long-Urbanetz hosted the evening in Duesseldorf's famed K 21 Museum for leaders from

the aviation and business world in Northrhine-Westphalia (NRW). There are currently 25 weekly direct flights between NRW and the U.S. and more are scheduled to begin this summer. Duesseldorf is the third busiest airport in Germany, and Cologne is the most important low cost flight hub on the European continent. We wish Delta continued success as it provides alternatives for travelers who wish to fly directly between NRW and the United States.



### **Audience in Siegen Fascinated by the Amish Communities in America**

**May 8, 2007.** At the invitation of the German-American Club, Joel Burger of the U.S. Consulate in Duesseldorf gave a presentation on May 8 on the "Amish Communities in America." In particular, Burger discussed the history of the Amish, their religion and traditions and also their way of living in contemporary America. At a subsequent dinner Burger engaged

his audience in Siegen, a region from where many Germans emigrated to the United States, in a broader discussion of American society today.



### **U.S. Consul General Visits Aachen University**

**May 7, 2007.** Aachen-based Rheinisch-Westphalian Technical University (RWTH) Rector Univ-Prof Dr. Burkhard Rauhut received Consul General Matt Boyse on May 7 to discuss cooperation between the university and the United States. The Consul General also exchanged views with Vice Rector Univ-Prof. Reinhart Poprawe and other representatives from the Development Office and faculties of Political Science and Economics.



### **Celebrating Mayday in Oberhausen with "Songs of Steel and Industry"**

**May 1, 2007.** At a concert at the Rheinisches Industriemuseum in Oberhausen on May 1, "The Newlanders," a group of Pittsburgh-area musicians, took the audience on a musical history tour of the lives of the workers in the coal mines and steel mills of Pennsylvania. Their concert was the concluding event to the exhibition "Born of Fire" in Oberhausen,

a collaborative project with the Westmoreland Museum of American Art, and resonated with the large audience of this traditional coal and steel region.



### **Hosting World Affairs Councils of America Delegation at Amerika Haus**

**April 30, 2007.** On April 30 Consul General Matt Boyse and Amerika Haus Director Constance C. Jones hosted a visit, at the Amerika Haus Cologne, of delegates from the World Affairs Councils of America, currently on a fact-finding mission in Germany. Cologne city official Frieder Wolf and Dr. Herbert Ferger from the Cologne Chamber of Commerce joined the group for a discussion a broad range of bilateral issues. The purpose of the

delegation's visit is to strengthen private sector efforts in establishing closer connections between interested and informed members of the public in Germany and the United States.



### **Engaging a German Audience on U.S. Foreign Policy Issues**

**April 27, 2007.** Joel Burger of the American Consulate General in Duesseldorf gave a lecture on "American Foreign Policy and the War on Terrorism" at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung on April 27. The presentation, part of a five-day conference entitled "Amerika Besser Verstehen" for a national audience was followed by a discussion ranging in topics from nuclear proliferation to international involvement in Iraq.

Burger was one of five speakers, and the only American, at the conference and provided a fresh perspective on the issues.



### **Discussing "Life in the U.S." over Breakfast at Vocational College in Cologne**

**April 24, 2007.** Students at the vocational college Cologne invited U.S. exchange student Bryan Darr on April 25 to talk over breakfast about the views and activities of young people in America today. Since most of the students had a Turkish background, a good deal of the conversation

focused on how integration works in the U.S. The program was part of the Amerika Haus school outreach program initiative "Meet US" that seeks to facilitate a bilateral dialogue at schools and colleges in NRW.



### **Defining Common U.S.-European Security Interests**

**April 24, 2007.** At a panel discussion at Amerika Haus Cologne on April 24, Deputy Chief of Mission John Koenig and former Chief of the German Defense Forces General (ret.) Klaus Naumann examined the question to what extent U.S. and EU security interests were identical or have changed. Organized together with the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, the

panel was moderated by Ruediger Oppers of the Essen-based Neue Rhein-Ruhr Zeitung. The panelists' presentations and the ensuing discussion, with many questions from the 100 guests, demonstrated yet again the great value of continued close transatlantic dialogue and cooperation on security matters.



### **Touring Cologne Headquarters of Deutz AG**

**April 23, 2007.** Gordon Riske, CEO of Deutz AG, one of the world's largest heavy engine producers, invited CG Matt Boyse to tour the firm's Cologne headquarters and main plant on April 23 and to discuss the company's expansion plans. Detroit native Riske, who in 2000 led the turnaround of

Deutz, a company with a long and illustrious industrial tradition, is one of a handful of American citizens who head major firms in NRW. Almost all of the 640 subsidiaries of U.S. firms located in NRW are led by Germans or third country nationals.



### **Best Practices in Water Management Systems**

**April 18, 2007.** At a visit to Dortmund and Essen on April 18, Jay Benforado and two colleagues from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency looked at innovative approaches to water management and regional planning. The visit in Dortmund was hosted by the Emscher-genossenschaft, Germany's largest water management system, and in

Essen at Zeche Zollverein, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site.



### **Senior U.S. Official with Deutsche Atlantische Gesellschaft, Bonn**

**April 17, 2007.** On April 17, State Department Acting Under Secretary for Economic Energy and Agricultural Affairs Daniel S. Sullivan addressed a large group of serving and retired senior government officials, businesspeople, academics, students and diplomats on "Current Issues in US-EU Economic Relations" at the Haus der Geschichte in Bonn. He

stressed in particular U.S. efforts to develop and produce more clean fuels to combat climate change, overseas development assistance, and the importance of the Doha WTO negotiations.



### **Putting Together the News at "Handelsblatt"**

**April 17, 2007.** On April 17, CG Matt Boyse spent a day as an observer at Germany's important business/finance daily, seeing how raw information becomes a finished newspaper. During his visit, Matt Boyse also discussed the media landscape in Germany in general and coverage of the United States and Germany in particular with the editor, Bernd

Zieseemer.



### **Meeting New Board Members of DITIB**

**April 14, 2007.** Consul General Matt Boyse and Public Affairs Officer Constance Colding Jones met with newly elected leaders of DITIB (Diaynet Isleri Türk-Islam Birliği/Türkisch-Islamische Union der Anstalt für Religion) on April 14 at the organization's national headquarters in Cologne. The new chairman of DITIB, Sadi Arslan (2nd from left), and

first female board member Ayten Kiliçarslan (1st from right) discussed with their guests current issues as well as the possible cooperation on an exhibit of photos of North American mosques in Cologne.



### **State Department Official Visits Ford Europe Headquarters**

**April 4 & 5, 2007.** During an April 4-5 stop in Duesseldorf and Cologne, Director of the State Department's Office of German, Austrian and Swiss Affairs Patrick Moon visited a number of NRW-based institutions of Germany- and Europe-wide significance. In Cologne, where the headquarters of Ford Europe and a major assembly facility are located, he saw first hand the production of the Ford Focus. Along with Ford

Executives Messrs Steilen and Anton and CG Matt Boyse, Mr Moon gained an overview of the U.S. investor's German and European operations. The Cologne plant employs about 18,000 persons and produces almost 2,000 vehicles/day.



### **USA Applauds the EU's First 50 Years**

**March 29, 2007.** At a March 29 all-day festival commemorating the 50th anniversary of the European Union at Cologne's renowned "Gürzenich" building, CG Matt Boyse expressed congratulations on behalf on the U.S. government for one of the major accomplishments of the modern era. Speaking on a panel with SPD Bundestag member Dr. Lale Akguen and CDU foreign policy expert Karl Lamers, the CG underscored the strong support of the United States for European integration ever since WWII, beginning with the Marshall Plan, the NATO security umbrella under which Europe was able to grow and prosper, German unification, and the freedom for central European countries, most of which are now EU members. Boyse also lauded the continuing close US-EU cooperation. Amerika Haus Cologne staff provided information on studying in the U.S. and other issues at a booth.



### **Essen Teacher Welcomes American Consul General Matt Boyse**

**March 28, 2007.** More than 150 students and teachers from three secondary schools in Essen -- the Grashof Gymnasium, Maria-Waechter Gymnasium and the Goetheschule -- participated in a question and answer session on March 28 with Consul General Matt Boyse. The event, well prepared by Grashof Gymnasium advanced English teacher Emin Memedoski, focused primarily on the economic and social aspects of globalization, but students also expressed considerable interest in a broad range of other issues, such as U.S. policy towards Russia, energy security and climate change, and even advice on professional careers and pharmaceutical pricing.



### **Memorial Beethoven Concert with an American Connection**

**March 26, 2007.** The Beethoven-Haus in Bonn (the birthplace of Ludwig van Beethoven) held a memorial concert on March 26 in its Chamber Music Hall to commemorate the 180th anniversary of the composer's death. Aside from a magnificent performance by German musicians Andreas Staier (fortepiano) and Daniel Sepec (violin), who played works of Beethoven and Mozart, the concert was memorable because Sepec performed with a violin that has been used in the original Beethoven quartet and which was dated by Beethoven-Haus experts to approximately the year 1700. The violin was donated to the museum in the late 1990s by Mrs. Gerda Taussig, an American citizen from the New York City area, whose son Eric Taussig and his wife Marlene were special guests at the concert as well.



### **"Rheingold" Scholarships Awarded At Amerika Haus Cologne**

**March 16, 2007.** At a ceremony hosted by Public Affairs Officer Constance Colding Jones at the Amerika Haus Cologne on March 16, this year's "Rheingold" scholarships were presented to the students that had been selected in interviews earlier this year. Two of the recipients received grants for a year of study in the U.S.



### **Students from Minnesota Visit Neuss**

**March 14, 2007.** Students from Saint Paul College in St. Paul, Minnesota visited the Neuss-based Technical College of Economics and Information Technology March 10-24 in the context of the Neuss-St. Paul Sister City partnership. Hildegard Moore in Neuss oversaw the exchange. Close ties between the two cities arose after the St. Paul-based U.S. firm 3M

established its Germany headquarters in Neuss and has grown over the years into the education, sports and economic areas. CG Matt Boyse answered students' questions about U.S. firms' activities in Neuss and Northrhine Westphalia, U.S. environmental and energy policies, as well as the broader context of German-American economic, political and people-to-people relationships.



### **Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm Visits NRW**

**March 11-13, 2007.** Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm was in Duesseldorf, Remscheid and Aachen March 11-13 during a trip to Europe to visit firms with significant investments or considering investments in Michigan. CG Matt Boyse, who grew up in Michigan, welcomed the Governor at the airport and discussed economic developments in Northrhine Westphalia and Michigan, and ways of expanding ties between

the two states, both of which are known for their major manufacturing and automobile industries.



### **Consul General Discusses U.S. - German relations with Young Christian Democrats**

**March 10, 2007.** The leadership of the youth wing (Junge Union) of the Northrhine Westphalia (NRW) state Christian Democratic Union (CDU) invited CG Matt Boyse to a session in Duesseldorf on March 10 to discuss U.S.-German relations. The young leaders were most interested in U.S. approaches to energy and environment, youth crime, Iran, Israel, and

the Iraq conflict. The CG also spoke about economic relations between the U.S. and NRW and U.S. investment in the state. Junge Union Chairman Sven Volmering (left) chaired the meeting.



### **"Business to USA" Event in Neuss**

**March 7, 2007.** At a March 7 "Business to USA" event, representatives from Consulate General Duesseldorf, Neuss County, the Rhein Fire Football team, United Parcel Service, the Foreign Trade Association of Northrhine Westphalia and the State of Illinois discussed economic opportunities between the U.S. and the Neuss region before some 125 guests at the

Neuss Rhine River Port. CG Matt Boyse and Commercial Attache Ed Fantasia, and Illinois Brussels office representative Siobhan Lysaght on behalf of the Council of American States in Europe (CASE) presented views from the U.S.



### **Duisburg Students Learn about Educational Opportunities in the U.S.**

**March 6, 2007.** On March 6, Education USA specialist Petra Spitz gave a power point presentation on educational opportunities in the U.S. for students and young adults at the Central Public Libray in Duisburg. The event had been announced on the regional evening TV news magazine "Lokalzeit" the day before and thus drew an audience of more than 50 interested students and parents. Ms. Spitz briefed the students on

internship programs, voluntary work, au pair programs and possibilities to study in the United States, and distributed information material. Some new book titles on studying in the U.S. were added to the library's collection on the occasion.



### **School Outreach Visit to Aachen**

**March 6, 2007.** Students from the Rhein-Maas-Gymnasium in Aachen pose with their English teacher, Frau Elke Ruehl, and CG Matt Boyse, who visited the school on March 6 and shared views on a range of current affairs issues. Of greatest interest to the students were U.S. approaches to environment, climate change and energy policy, the role and activities of the U.S. Consulate General in Northrhine Westphalia, and careers in

the diplomatic service.



### **Exhibition "Philip Guston – Works on Paper" at Kunstmuseum Bonn**

**February 28, 2007.** An exhibition dedicated to American artist Philip Guston (1913-1980) is currently on display at the Art Museum Bonn. Speaking at the opening on February 28, U.S. Cultural Attache for North Rhine Westphalia Constance Colding Jones expressed her appreciation to the Bonn Museum for continuing to introduce American artists in carefully

curated exhibitions to a larger public. The exhibition will be shown until May 20.



### **U.S. Consul General Matt Boyse Visits QVC**

**February 27, 2007.** During a February 27 visit at the Duesseldorf headquarters of the U.S. cable TV direct marketing/merchandising firm QVC, senior executives Robert Kendig and Rainer Sura introduced CG Matt Boyse to the firm's activities. Operating from several locations in Northrhine Westphalia (NRW), QVC has become one of the larger and fastest growing American investors in Germany, growing since its

establishment in 1996 to almost 4000 employees and some 630 million euros in net revenues in 2005. The government of NRW amended its media laws to enable QVC to begin operations in the state, and awarded the firm the "Invest in NRW 2005" award.



### **U.S. Consul General Visits 3M Headquarters in Neuss**

**February 22, 2007.** From its headquarters in Neuss, the St. Paul, Minnesota-based multinational 3M Corporation directs its operations in Germany and much of Western Europe. During a February 22 visit, 3M CEO Kurt-Henning Wiethoff (left) gave CG Matt Boyse a tour of the firm's R&D activities and explained the important role they play in 3M's international network. One of the largest U.S. investors in Northrhine Westphalia (with

close to 4000 employees Germany-wide), 3M was recently voted the best employer in NRW and the fourth best in Germany in 2006 by the Cologne-based business monthly "Capital."



### **Muslims in the U.S. – Isolated? Integrated? Assimilated?**

**February 14, 2007.** This was the title of a public lecture at the Amerika Haus on February 14 by Daisy Khan, executive director of the American Society for Muslim Advancement. In her lecture and the ensuing discussion, Mrs. Khan emphasized the need for increased intercultural understanding, tolerance, and respect in Muslim societies and in the West. American values and those of Islam are not in conflict but refer

ethics that are common to both. Mrs. Khan also took an extensive tour of the Community and Education Center of Muslim Women where she was introduced to the many services offered by the Center to Muslims living in Cologne.



### **Students Check Out Exchange Opportunities at Cologne Youth Fair**

**February 13, 2007.** On February 13th, 2007, more than 400 high school students received information on educational opportunities in the United States during an all day youth fair at Cologne University. This year's fair, with its focus on North America, drew more than 80 exhibitors. The annual event is a joint project of the Thomas-Morus-Academy, the German Federal Employment Agency, and the International Offices of the universities in Cologne and Aachen. Students picked up information materials and Education USA specialist Petra Spitz answered numerous questions at the U.S. booth. In addition, more than a hundred students attended her lecture on "What you need to know if you want to study or apply for an internship in the U.S."



### **U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson at G7 Meeting in Essen**

**February 9 & 10, 2007.** At the G7 Finance Ministers Meeting in Essen (February 9-10) U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson was interviewed by Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. In the interview he said that a strong dollar is in the U.S. interest and that the exchange rate should be determined by competition. "And you see us in the U.S. with policies emphasizing productivity and growth which enhance confidence in our economy," Paulson said. | [Text of the FAZ interview \(in German\)](#) | [Secretary Paulson's G7 Statement, February 10, 2007](#)



### **U.S. Consul General Matt Boyse Speaks at 2007 Atlantic Ball in Duesseldorf**

**February 9, 2007.** The Steuben-Schurz Gesellschaft held its annual Atlantic Ball in Duesseldorf on February 9, its 44th since the organization's founding in 1948. To jazz, classical and modern music, the 350 guests lent support to strong relations between Northrhine Westphalia and the United States. After remarks and a toast to President Bush by Steuben-Schurz Gesellschaft President Dr. Olaf Huth, Consul General Matt Boyse toasted German President Dr. Horst Koehler and praised the organization's active and successful student exchange program, which achieves important results for Germany and the United States by breaking down cultural stereotypes, taking apart generalizations, and encouraging more nuanced discussion of current issues.



### **Educational Information Fair for Students in Wuppertal**

**February 7, 2007.** On February 7, EducationUSA participated in the 4th annual "Go Out" educational information fair at Wuppertal university. About 300 students attended this event, where Educational information specialist Petra Spitz gave a presentation on study opportunities in the United States and answered detailed questions at the USA booth. On the occasion, the International Office of the University also received a collection of "Study USA" and test preparation books for their reference collection.



### **"Born of Fire" Exhibit Opens at Industriemuseum Oberhausen**

**February 4, 2007.** On February 4, the exhibit "Born of Fire" opened at the Rheinisches Industriemuseum in Oberhausen. Featuring works by American artists on loan from an exhibit of the same title at the Westmoreland Art Museum in Greensburg/Pennsylvania, the 90 paintings and photographs on display document the history of the coal and steel

industries in the former U.S. steel capital, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and its German equivalent, the Ruhr area. The Oberhausen Museum has also arranged a series of special events relating to the show. The U.S. Consulate/Amerika Haus Cologne co-sponsored the exhibit.



### **Concert with American Saxophonist Bob Mintzer at Ford Motor Company**

**February 4, 2007.** In conjunction with the cultural organization "Kunstsalon," the Ford Motor Company Germany Headquarters hosted the American saxophonist from New York City, Bob Mintzer, and the Cologne Saxophone Quintet in its Aston Martin engine assembly plant outside Cologne on February 4. With the original vehicle from James Bond 007's "Die Another Day" in the background, Mintzer and his band played a medley of pieces before an enthusiastic audience of some 400 guests in a factory setting. Among the guests were host Dr. Hermann Hollmann, Cologne Mayor Elfi Scho-Antwerpes, Cologne Economic "Minister" Dr. Norbert Walter-Borjans, and Consul General Matt Boyse.



### **800 School Kids Welcome American Football Pros**

**January 24, 2007.** American Football Professionals Peter Heyer and Richard Yancy of the Duesseldorf Rhein Fire team received an overwhelming welcome when they arrived at the Liebfrauenschule Muelhausen on January 24. An audience of more than 800 young students waited to meet the players and to get an autographed picture. The players also participated in a regular sports' class and explained their game during the visit which was facilitated by Amerika Haus staff.



### **Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program**

**January 17, 2007.** At their visit on January 17, Amerika Haus Director Constance Colding Jones briefed the American participants in the 2006-2007 Congress-Bundestag Exchange Program/CBYX on the role and services of the U.S. Mission in Germany and discussed the bilateral relationship. The CBYX exchange program, under the auspices of the InWent exchange organization, brings U.S. students to Germany to study language during the fall semester and to gain work experience in the spring. Students from Germany participate in a similarly organized program in the United States.



### **Martin Luther King Commemorated at Bonn University**

**January 16, 2007.** On January 16, students, faculty and guests of Bonn University's interdisciplinary North American Studies Program celebrated Martin Luther King Day. Opening the event, Professor Sabine Sielke, director of the program, recalled Martin Luther King's vision and his struggle against injustice and discrimination. In her keynote lecture "Race and Technology," Fulbright professor Michelle Wright from the University of Minnesota discussed the history of African Americans' supposed resistance to technology and modernity, a prejudice which she convincingly repudiated.



### **Consul General Speaks at AmCham New Year's Reception in Duesseldorf**

**January 15, 2007.** More than 500 guests attended the annual New Year's Reception hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce in North-Rhine Westphalia on January 15 in Duesseldorf, including AmCham Germany President Fred Irwin, NRW Minister for Europe Michael Breuer, Duesseldorf Lord Mayor Joachim Erwin, AmCham NRW President Heinz-Martin Humme, and Consul General Matt Boyse. The CG lauded AmCham's tradition of "non-speeches," highlighted the special role the AmCham plays in promoting US-German relations, including by advocating a differentiated understanding of the complexities of U.S. society and policies, and looked forward to 2007 as another year of outstanding cooperation with AmCham.



### **German EU Presidency - the View from Washington**

**January 15, 2007.** At the invitation of Professor Paul Welfens, Director of the European Institute for International Economic Relations at the University of Wuppertal, Director of the State Department's Office of European Union and Regional Affairs Peter H. Chase met with professors and graduate students to discuss U.S. perspectives on the German EU Presidency. Mr. Chase highlighted the opportunities opened through Germany's leadership to make further progress in many areas of US-EU cooperation.



### **U.S. Youth Soccer Team Plays in Düsseldorf**

**January 14, 2007.** The United States Youth Soccer Association's Olympic Development Program (ODP) in Europe visited Düsseldorf on January 14 to play in a friendly but serious competition with leading youth soccer teams. Düsseldorf Lord Mayor Joachim Erwin and Consul General Matt Boyse joined ODP Coach Sven Stadtrecher and the team's talented young players for some of the games at the host club TSV Eller 04.



### **Reception for ASSIST Alumni in Düsseldorf**

**January 13, 2007.** Some 60 former recipients of ASSIST scholarships to independent schools in the United States joined ASSIST President Robert Stanley at Consul General Matt Boyse's residence on January 13. Since 1969, the ASSIST program has sponsored more than 2,500 German high school students' year-long stays in the U.S., with many of the students coming from North-Rhine Westphalia. The Düsseldorf-based regional daily "Rheinische Post" carried a story on January 16 about the ASSIST program, highlighting the positive aspects of the exchanges not only for the German participants, but also for their host schools, host families, and schoolmates in the U.S.



### **Introducing American Football at Pallotti Kolleg in Rheinbach**

**January 12, 2007.** Facilitated by Amerika Haus Cologne, American Football players Kevin House and Kevin Curtis visited the Pallotti Kolleg in Rheinbach on January 12, where they discussed their experiences as role models as part of the students' current focus on "American Traditions & Visions." The players explained how their sports career has had a positive impact on their personal and professional development by teaching them discipline, team spirit and commitment. They encouraged the students to pursue their personal goals seriously and with determination.