



SELECTED EVENTS - May to August 2008

U.S. Consulate General Leipzig Wows Patrons at First City Library Festival



Visitors at the Consulate booth

August 24, 2008. 25 Leipzig libraries, archives and museums – among them the Consulate’s Information Resource Center (IRC) - took part in the first ever library street festival in the city organized by the Leipzig University Library. Consul General Katherine Brucker, Jim Seward, Consul for Public Affairs and Political/Economic Officer Edith Backman used the opportunity for a dialog with interested Leipzig citizens alongside with IRC representatives and two German interns who staffed the Consulate booth. Visitors flocking to the booth were particularly interested in the State Department’s various electronic journals and other State Department publications as well as our reference list with web links and the Consulate’s program calendar. The upcoming reading of Dr. Werner Peters’ “Rätsel Amerika” in September was pointed out in conversations, and teachers collected folders with brochures on the Meet US-program and the Newsletter for English Teachers. The “America Quiz” was a big hit among the visitors, who got some helpful hints from the video “Welcome: Portraits of America” which was integrated into a PowerPoint presentation on the IRC and a Question & Answer session with Consul Jim

Moravian Music Straight from the Archives



August 4, 2008. A unique concert featuring American Moravian music drew an audience of over 400 to Leipzig’s open air and free concert series at the Bach Memorial. On August 4, Leipzig-based American violinist Amber McPherson was joined by four local musicians to form "Amber McPherson & Friends," a quintet that played compositions recently uncovered by McPherson at the Herrnhut archives. In her introduction, the violinist explained to the audience the transatlantic ties that the music of the Moravian church represents.

Audience listening to Amber McPherson & friends

Building Friendship



Gräfenhainichen students at the new Springfield High School

August 4, 2008. In July, a 17-day visit by 15 students and their teachers from the Paul-Gerhardt-Gymnasium in Gräfenhainichen, Saxony-Anhalt, to Springfield, OH, kicked off a new school partnership. During their two-week stay with host families, the students learned about U.S. history, culture, and everyday life. The exchange marks the first school partnership within the sister city partnership between Springfield and Wittenberg, located only 15 miles north of Gräfenhainichen. It was initiated by English teacher Uta Böttcher and Benjamin Fricke, a former student of Gräfenhainichen’s Paul-Gerhardt-Gymnasium, who is now enrolled in the American Studies Program at Leipzig University.

Leipzig Consul for Public Affairs Continues Consulate Engagement in Gotha



Signing the Gotha guestbook, from left to right: PAO Mark Wenig, Mayor Werner Kukulenz

July 18, 2008. Consul Mark Wenig, accompanied by his wife Kjarstin and a consulate staffer, visited the Thuringian county seat of Gotha for a glimpse into the future of an upcoming research center. Director of the University and Research Library Erfurt/Gotha, Christiane Schmiedeknecht, discussed the historic 16th century roots of the Gotha Research Library as well as its present specialization in humanities. This includes an extraordinary effort to document emigration to North America through a special collection of letters which is also documented on the Internet at: <http://www.auswandererbriefe.de/>. The research library together with the historic Perthes geographic collection will be combined in the planned international research center to be located in Gotha. During a meeting with Mayor Werner Kukulenz, Consul Wenig signed the city's guestbook and reaffirmed the Consulate's dedication to continue and extend the excellent working relationship with the city of Gotha and the whole region.

F/Stop Festival with U.S. Participation



Visitors of "F/Stop Festival"

July 16-20, 2008. Though only in its second year, the "F/Stop Festival" has become a major venue for presenting contemporary photography. A grant by the U.S. Consulate Leipzig supported the exhibition of three U.S. artists, Meggan Gould, Nicholas Prior, and Keri Pickett. Their works had been previously selected by the international festival jury. Gould's photographs were presented in the context of the group exhibit entitled "Closer – nearness and distance". Though it ran for just five days, the festival drew 5000 visitors.

Consul for Public Affairs Opens Weimar Klezmer Music Festival



Consul Mark Wenig delivering his remarks

July 11, 2008. Mark Wenig, Consul for Public Affairs, delivered remarks at the opening concert of the annual "Yiddish Summer Weimar" Klezmer music festival in Weimar. The five-week long festival, supported by the U.S. Embassy in Berlin and U.S. Consulate General Leipzig, features jam sessions, workshops, dance courses, symposia, public concerts and street music events. This year, there is a special emphasis on the relationship between Yiddish and Roma music, under the title, "The Other Europeans." The fact that this festival takes place every summer in Weimar, located in the shadow of the former Buchenwald Concentration Camp, has given this event special significance and high-profile press coverage, especially in the U.S. In his remarks, Wenig emphasized the increased popularity of this event, which attracts Klezmer musicians from all over Europe, North America and other parts of the world. It has become a major cultural staple of the Weimar summer cultural scene.

Leipzig Toastmasters Salute Club Founder



and many other cities in Germany.

July 8, 2008. The Leipzig Toastmasters Club, the only branch of this Englishspeaking club in the former East Germany, saluted the club's founder, Mark Wenig, Consul for Public Affairs, at his last meeting. Wenig, who initiated the club in April 2007, along with Charles Whitmer, a Fulbright spouse at the time, had previous experience getting Toastmasters off the ground at two previous posts. Toastmasters is a non-profit organization which trains members in public speaking and general communication skills. Founded in the 1920s in southern California, it now has a worldwide presence with 226,000 members in 92 countries, including clubs in Berlin

Fulbright Lecture Series Concluded



July 8, 2008. A lecture/seminar series in Leipzig, which was cosponsored by the Consulate General Leipzig and the German-American Fulbright Commission, successfully concluded on July 8. The series, which began in April, featured six American scholars addressing topics dealing with present-day America, set in relations to the ideals of the past. The lectures – supplemented by seminars, additional readings, and students' presentations – drew about one hundred listeners, who learned about such diverse issues as immigration, segregation/desegregation, the New Deal, women's and social policies, as well as the media in a globalized world.

Leipzig Meet US Programs Open Doors in Remote Areas



U.S. intern Ben Kreider (wearing a red shirt) with one of the classes

July 7–8, 2008. U.S. interns Ben Kreider and Joe Semrad spoke to 9 different 7th, 10th, and 11th grade classes at the Lessing-Gymnasium in Kamenz (Saxony), and the Europagymnasium Richard von Weizsäcker in Thale (Saxony-Anhalt). The primary topic was the American election system and the upcoming presidential election. Returning to the school where he spent the 2006-2007 year as a Fulbright Foreign Language Assistant, Kreider also talked about cultural stereotypes, the role of the consulate, and the Amish culture in his home state of Pennsylvania. After quizzing the students on their knowledge of the elections, Kreider and Semrad delivered a Power Point presentation on the topic and answered questions from students.

Consul Mark Wenig's Last Meet US



July 7, 2008. At his final "Meet US" event, Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig met with 15 students from a rural vocational school in Reichenbach, Saxony. The main topic of discussion was the 2008 presidential election, which Wenig stressed would once again be a very close race. Students showed considerable interest in Wenig's role as Consul, and his impressions of Leipzig after having served here for three years.

Runde Ecke showing Mark Wenig on the left

New York Ensemble Presents Contemporary Music in Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt



July 4–6, 2008. Supported by the Consulate General Leipzig, three concerts showcased the spectrum of contemporary American chamber music to an audience of about 70 in three eastern German cities. On July 4, the eight members of the "Argento Chamber Ensemble" were joined by the Dresden-based "ensemble courage" for a concert featuring music by U.S. composers, including Michael Galante, the conductor. The concerts in Dresden, Halle (July 5), and Magdeburg (July 6)

embodied the creativity and ease of contemporary music at its best.

Ambassador Interview Addresses Eastern German Audience



From right to left: Stanislaw Tillich, Mark Scheland, Elizabeth Scheland, Ambassador Timken, Sue Timken, Wolfgang Böhmer, Birgit Diezel

July 4, 2008. Headlined "U.S. (has a) strong interest in the East," Leipziger Volkszeitung on July 4 carried an interview with Ambassador William R. Timken Jr. which was recorded at the Leipzig Consulate General's Independence Day festivities. Highlighting the opening of the new U.S. Embassy as the culmination of a long evolution in German-American relations, Ambassador Timken underscored the continuing importance of the bilateral relationship and the fact that the U.S. is the largest foreign investor in the East.

Independence Day Party Takes Off at Leipzig-Halle Airport



From right to left: Ambassador Timken, Mark Scheland and Mark Wenig and the color guard

July 2, 2008. Leipzig Consulate General's combined 4th of July and farewell reception for Consul General Mark Scheland and Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig attracted a record crowd of some 700 political, economic, academic and cultural contacts, who were generally complimentary of this year's party venue: a hangar at the Leipzig-Halle Airport overlooking a runway. Addressing the guests from a decorated gangway, Ambassador William R. Timken Jr., Saxony Minister President Stanislaw Tillich, Saxony-Anhalt Minister President Wolfgang Böhmer, Thuringian Finance Minister Birgit Diezel, the Consul General and the Consul for Public Affairs reflected on the positive economic and political ties between the U.S. and this part of Germany. Mark Scheland, in turn, made clear that public diplomacy – reaching out to the people in

the district – had been his main prerogative over the past three years, a fact that was also acknowledged by Minister President Böhmer in his speech. Continuing a tradition that was established by the Scheland family, Leipzig once again tried to inject the spirit of small-town USA in its Independence Day celebration, by offering fun and games for young and old. In addition, staff surprised the parting American officers with a ride to the airport in a sky-blue Trabi, reminiscent of the old GDR times.



Consul General Mark Scheland (right) and Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig: Transportation via Trabi from the U.S. Consulate Leipzig to the Leipzig-Halle Airport

Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig greeting the guests. From left: Consul General Mark Scheland and his wife; Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr. and his wife; Minister President Stanislaw Tillich, Saxony; Minister President Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Böhmer, Saxony-Anhalt; Minister Birgit Diezel, Thuringia

Consul General Mark Scheland delivering his remarks



Brass orchestra of Leipzig school of music "Johann Sebastian Bach". Oboist Nora Scheland, seated at center of first row



76th U.S. Army Europe Dixieland Band



Entertainment for young guests



Paul Scheland (far right)



Charles Scheland

Consul for Public Affairs Participates in “Values” Discussion with International Students In Weimar



Consul Mark Wenig (center) and the group of international students

July 1, 2008. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig attended a session of the Weimar Summer Courses for international students, where he addressed several aspects of U.S. policy and values before introducing the main speaker, Prof. Dr. Michael Dreyer. Dreyer, Director of the Institute of Political Science at the University of Jena, spoke on the subject of western values, and particularly how American values and European values compare. The twelve students present, who are attending a two-week residential program, came from eastern European and central Asian countries, and were selected based on their future leadership potential.

Consul for Public Affairs Visits Site of WWII Atrocity in Gardelegen



Mark Wenig on the left with Mayor Fuchs on the right

June 28, 2008. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig paid a visit to a memorial in the Saxon-Anhalt town of Gardelegen,, which was witness to one of the most senseless atrocities of WWII. Just days before the liberating U.S. Army arrived in the town, some 1016 sick and weak concentration camp death march survivors were burned alive in a barn on April 13, 1945, by retreating members of the SS. This visit, at the invitation and in the company of Mayor Konrad Fuchs, was scheduled to pay homage to these victims.

Consul for Public Affairs Welcomes Young American Musicians in Saxony Anhalt



Consul Wenig delivering a greeting

June 27, 2008. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig delivered a greeting on behalf of the Consulate to 62 young musicians from the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan, who performed a concert in the Saxon-Anhalt town of Loitsche, just north of Magdeburg. The students, along with their director and several adult administrators, are on a three-week tour of Europe to showcase their skills and foster international understanding. The camp regularly includes towns in this area of Saxon Anhalt on their summer music tours. The musical program included works by American and international composers and ended with "Stars and Stripes Forever" by John Phillip Sousa.

Consul for Public Affairs Addresses Magdeburg “Symposium on the American Presidency”



Prof. Kersten, Magdeburg

June 27, 2008. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig was one of the main speakers at a symposium in Magdeburg on the U.S. presidency. The event, held at the library of the Otto von Guericke University, also featured talks by Prof. Jim Willis of Azusa Pacific University in California, Prof. Paul Rundquist, an American visiting professor at several universities in the region, and by a graduate student in American Studies. The meeting was organized by Prof. Holger Kersten, head of the Department of American Studies at the university. Some 40 university students attended, who were joined in the morning session by another 40 from Magdeburg’s Dom Gymnasium. An afternoon Q&A session followed the morning presentations. Earlier in the week, Leipzig

Consulate General had also helped set up guest lectures for Professor Jim Willis at the Jena University Political Science and Communications Departments.

Leipzig IRC Continues Speaker Series at University of Applied Sciences



June 27, 2008. Prof. Dr. John J. Regazzi, Dean of the College of Information and Computer Science at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University, lectured about the historical context and technical developments that have spurred on E-publishing, thereby also casting a look ahead for some 40 library science and print/publishing freshmen from the local HTWK (University of Applied Sciences). Faculty members Regina Bruch and Steffen Hillebrecht as well as the Leipzig University's law school librarian accounted for additional experts.

Prof. John J. Regazzi

Leipzig Interns Assume an Active Role in Meet US



June 25 – July 1, 2008. In a series of classroom visits at the Wilhelm-Ostwald-Gymnasium in Leipzig and the Giebichenstein-Gymnasium "Thomas Müntzer" in Halle, American interns Ben Kreider and Joe Semrad covered a wide variety of topics, ranging from the American education system to the traditional lifestyle of the Pennsylvania Amish and Mennonite community. The upcoming presidential elections were likewise a topic of interest for each group, as well as the speakers' personal backgrounds and home states.

"Meet US" at Burg Giebichenstein

Leipzig Nurtures Jewish-American Studies at Halle University



June 25, 2008. A representative of the Saxony-Anhalt Ministry of Culture, dignitaries from Halle University, the local Rabbi, and Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig, gathered with some 40 more guests to pay tribute to Information Resource Center's new cooperation with the university's Jewish Studies Institute. The celebration centered on the official donation of 40 significant recent books discussing Jewish American issues – a highly anticipated gift filling a major gap in the Institute's book collection. By including also academic libraries now, the A@YL initiative is exploring new territory with this most recent partnership. The Consulate also arranged for Benjamin L. Alpers, Fulbright professor at Leipzig University, to honor the event with his *Thoughts on the Jewishness of Leo Strauss* speech.

Jewish Studies Institute, Halle

Consulate General Leipzig Represented at All-Day Info-Fair



June 25, 2008. Under the motto, "Go Out - Study Abroad," Leipzig University and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) hosted their first ever information fair for students and faculty. Consulate staffer Birgit Kämmer was among the invited guest speakers, who informed students about the U.S. system of higher education, explained financial aid programs, and discussed the impact of the new European degree system on exchange programs. In addition, she took questions about the visa application process. The presentations reached a total of 170 students and promoted the U.S. as an excellent place for higher education.

Birgit Kämmer (left) at Leipzig University

Focus on Political Science at Jena University



June 24, 2008. Consulate General Leipzig staff joined students, faculty and guests of the Political Science Institute of Friedrich Schiller University Jena on their Day of Political Science. A symposium on political education in a globalized world and a festive evening provided an adequate backdrop for the presentation of final certificates to the graduates of 2008, and for honoring outstanding MA and doctoral theses, several of them on U.S. topics. Guest of Honor was Jürgen Chrobog, former Undersecretary of the German Foreign Ministry and German Ambassador to the U.S., whose lecture on crisis management in hostage situations revealed interesting insights into practical and pragmatic approaches to policy making.

Jürgen Chrobog

Good, Bad, or Both – The Legacy of 1968



June 23, 2008. Consulate General Leipzig took advantage of a research trip that brought Mitchell Cohen, Professor of Political Science at Bernard Baruch College, to Saxony and connected him with the Leipzig American Studies Institute. Prof. Cohen met with students as well as Leipzig's Fulbright Professor Benjamin Alpers, American guest professor Paul Rundquist, and Political Science Professor Sigrid Meuschel to reflect on the year 1968 and its impact. They discussed what happened in the U.S. and Europe in that critical year, and how events in that year shaped larger political changes and trends.

From left: Prof. Mitchell Cohen, Prof. Benjamin Alpers

"Eastern German Teachers Visitor Program" Alumnus Organizes "Meet Us" in Vacha



June 19, 2008. Leipzig Consulate General staffer Kirsten Teschauer and U.S. intern Lindsey Moore engaged thirty 11th grade students at a Vacha high school in a lively discussion on cultural differences. The "Meet US" program was the fourth in as many years organized by Marko Braungarten, 2004 participant in the Eastern German Teachers Visitor Program (EGTVP). After two 10th grade students opened the program with a presentation on American and German eating habits, the director of the Information Resource Center (IRC), Thea Bohse, spoke about Consulate and IRC products and services, introduced USA brochures and pamphlets from the State Department, and distributed a list of relevant websites.

From left: Kirsten Teschauer, Consulate General; Mrs. Möller and Marko Braungarten, English teachers at Seume Gymnasium; Lindsey Moore, U.S. intern; Thea Bohse-Ziganke, Consulate General

Explaining U.S. Higher Education



June 19, 2008. As part of Consulate General Leipzig's outreach to institutions of higher education in the consular district, staffer Birgit Kämmer traveled to the Technical University Freiberg to address educational opportunities in the U.S. The 23 (mostly) undergraduate students received up-to-date information about the U.S. system of higher education, grant programs, and current visa regulations. Kämmer also explained in detail how to organize an internship in the U.S., which continues to

be an effective tool for students at technical universities to broaden their practical job skills.

Ties to Tennessee State University



Consul General Mark Scheland (right) and the students from Nashville

June 17, 2008. Leipzig Consul General Mark Scheland met with nine students from Tennessee State University in Nashville, who are conducting a 10-day summer study program in Germany with a focus on the U.S. Civil Rights Movement and its historical reverberations in Europe and the former GDR. After several days in Magdeburg, Nashville's sister city, the students and Professor Joel H. Dark continued their seminar in Leipzig with local students before visiting the Martin Luther King Center in Werdau, Saxony. During his meeting with the students, the Consul General explained Consulate General Leipzig's role in the region and careers in the Foreign Service.

West Point Cadets Study German in Leipzig



Cadets in front of the HTWK

June 17, 2008. U.S. military cadets are an unusual sight in Leipzig. The Leipzig University of Applied Science (HTWK) chose to publicly introduce its German program, which brought three cadets from the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) at West Point to Leipzig for a 4-week German language program, the first-ever training of its kind conducted outside a German military (Bundeswehr) academy. In this instance, the Bundeswehr is on board by providing lodging for the cadets. Consul General Mark Scheland brokered the establishment of this cooperation, putting a West Point instructor of German in contact with the HTWK and supporting the dialogue. HTWK President Hubertus Mielke lauded the new program as an additional bridge supporting the American-German friendship, and German Brigadier General Harald Fugger spoke of the

enormous benefits of dealing with military personnel who, at a young age, have experienced civilian life in another country.

Explaining Independence Day



Sunshine Lindsey Moore and Joe Semrad in Gera

June 12, 2008. Bringing the "Meet US" program to a suburb of the small city of Gera, Consulate staffer Birgit Kaemmer and U.S. interns Sunshine Moore and Joe Semrad introduced a group of 15 high school students to the traditions of celebrating Independence Day. The students, who had never talked to a native English speaker before, enjoyed the encounter with the young Americans and their personal anecdotes about how they celebrate 4th of July with their families. In addition, the students inquired about possibilities of spending time in the U.S. as an au pair, camp counselor or social service volunteer.

Showing Team Spirit in Leipzig



The Leipzig team at the start, CG Mark Scheland on far right; Center: U.S. intern Joe Semrad

June 11, 2008. Consulate General staffers Zoe Kusmierz and Sylvia Sander, U.S. intern Joe Semrad, and Consul General Mark Scheland ran as the Consulate team Diplomatische Laufbahn* in the First Annual Leipzig Firmenlauf, a fun run and team-building event for companies and organizations. Over 900 participants stretched in a colorful oval around a course beside the Leipziger Messe convention center. As the only Consulate represented, the American team stood out among teams from private enterprises and local government offices. (*The team name plays on two meanings of Laufbahn, German for "running track" or "career path.")

'Meet US' Goes Sorbisch in Bautzen, Saxony



Serbske Nowiny/Matthias Bulang: Consul General Mark Scheland (right)

June 11, 2008. Leipzig Consul General Mark Scheland joined state parliament (Landtag) deputy Marko Schiemann for a half-day visit to the historic city of Bautzen and neighboring Grosspostwitz. The Consul General broke new ground in Mission Germany's "MeetUS" program of school outreach with a visit to Bautzen's bilingual Sorbisch/German public secondary school (Gymnasium). After greetings by students expressed in Sorbisch and English, nearly fifty 10th and 11th graders and their teachers and principal heard from the Consul General about the U.S. electoral system and issues in this year's presidential race, as well as about the work of the consulate.

Embassy Support for Frank Freidel Residency



Dr. Paula Lee

June 10, 2008. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig represented the Berlin U.S. Embassy and Leipzig Consulate General at a lecture by this year's Frank Freidel Resident, Dr. Paula Lee. The program enables an American academic to use the resources of the Frank Freidel Library in Leipzig during a six-week stay, as well as to teach and network in a transatlantic framework. The lecture by Dr. Paula Lee, Harvard University, focused on the similarities of cultural and animal studies, and asked the question, "What do animals look like?"

Taking Stock of Commercial Relations with Saxony



June 10, 2008. Consul General Mark Scheland addressed over 30 private sector managers and leaders of institutions in Görlitz, on the German-Polish border. In his remarks and a Q&A session, the Consul General conveyed U.S. objectives in international economic policy, emphasizing the U.S. engagement in the Doha Development Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, the Major Economies process for combating climate change, and the public/private agenda of the Transatlantic Economic Council, which seeks to reduce obstacles to U.S.-EU trade and investment flows. Saxony state parliament (Landtag)

member Volker Bandmann, the Abbess of the Roman Catholic St. Marienthal Cloister, a Lutheran bishop, and figures from regional cultural institutions also attended. The event host, the regional chapter of the Wirtschaftsrat Deutschland, a business and policy advisory council, used the occasion to plan a larger "farewell visit" program in the easternmost city of the consular district. As part of this program, Consul General Scheland called on Lord Mayor Joachim Paulick and visited Görlitz's remarkable city archive and late 19th-Century synagogue.

Reading of "The Gardner"



Consul General Mark Scheland and the students of Edouard-Manet Elementary School

June 9, 2008. Consul General Mark Scheland visited class 4a of the Edouard-Manet Elementary School for a reading of American author Sarah Stewart's "The Gardener"; a favorite book of the Scheland family. Scheland and his German and American interns were instantly greeted by the class of 24 fourth-graders with a cheerful English "Good Morning!" The book, set in the time of the Great Depression, led to further discussions of American history and geography. Students were also given the opportunity to ask the Consul General questions about American life and his role as a diplomat.

HipHop Hits Leipzig



From left: Leonard Schmieding, Rebel Diaz

perspectives with HipHop events.

June 7, 2008. The 6th annual HipHop Awareness Week, which was supported by Leipzig Consulate General, opened with a panel discussion on "Old School Histories" and continued with the "Battle of the East," the most competitive break dancing contest in eastern Germany, drawing some 900 HipHop enthusiasts. The panel featured academics, a German HipHop activist, and Rebel Diaz, a HipHop trio from the Bronx, which promoted Hip Hop as tool in community work. Before an audience of about 30, the panel discussion stressed HipHop as a global culture, which adapts local music traditions. Organized by Steinhaus Bautzen and the Leipzig University's student council, the HipHop Awareness Week is a unique venue linking academic

Focusing on the Local and the Larger Pictures



Scheland (right) talking to political editor Hartmut Petersohn at Freie Presse Chemnitz

June 4, 2008. Consul General Mark Scheland reflected on his soon-to-end three-year term and the upcoming U.S. elections during his first farewell interview with local media in the Leipzig Consulate General district. This major interview with Freie Presse Chemnitz appeared on June 5 under the headline: "Adrenalin Boost for (new) President". In it, Mark Scheland made clear that despite the grueling election campaign, the new U.S. president will have his cabinet in place and be ready to tackle ambitious goals once assuming office. Summing up his three-year term as Leipzig Consul General, Scheland again stressed the importance and impact of seeking and maintaining direct contact with diverse segments of the population, including students, politicians, business representatives and members of academe, all of whom have received him with open and curious minds and a great interest in America.

Leipzig Contributes to University Course



Mark Wenig lecturing at Freiberg Bergakademie

June 4, 2008. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig continued his engagement for the annual summer semester class on "Cultural Studies of the USA" launched by Prof. Dr. Michael Hinner, who holds the chair in Business English at the Technical University (TU) Bergakademie Freiberg. It was Wenig's 3rd lecture at the university in as many years, and this year's presentation focused on the 2008 presidential election campaign, which he reviewed for a group of 40 business students, high school students and their English teachers from two local gymnasiums. The session continued with a lively Q&A session. In addition, the Information Resource Center (IRC) director briefly outlined resources for information about the U.S. elections and presented brochures about U.S. politics and society, as well as the Werner Peters book, "Rätsel Amerika" (The American Riddle) to the institute's library. Following the presentation, Wenig met with Dorothy Maddison, a visiting professor of voice from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, and several American and German colleagues, who had just conducted a musical program at TU, and who comes to Germany each year on similar programs in the Leipzig consular district.

Discovering New Audiences



Consul General Scheland addressing the seniors

June 3, 2008. Leipzig Consul General Mark Scheland addressed about 450 senior (citizen) students, who proved to be worthy and highly attentive followers of his presentation on the U.S. electoral process. The lecture, delivered at the Technical University Chemnitz, marked the first ever cooperation between the Consulate and the organizers of the "Seniorenkolleg".

Bringing Hollywood Directing to Leipzig



Bettman with students

made them realize how visual energy can help to tell a story.

May 29-30, 2008. U.S. TV and film director, filmmaker and scholar Gil Bettman (Chapman College, CA), conducted a workshop on “camera movement and directing”, which provided rare and unique insights into Hollywood-style directing to 18 students from the Leipzig University Communications Department. The workshop was set up in cooperation with Professor Ruediger Steinmetz, a close Consulate General working contact, and an essential link in the flourishing Leipzig University-Ohio Scripps School of Journalism relationship. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and Press Assistant Rita Wallace attended the opening workshop. In the framework of a highly practical step-by-step approach, Bettman gave the students a jumpstart into the craft of directing and

Unveiling Of Donors' Plaque at the Leipzig “Bibliotheca Albertina”



Prof. Häuser (1st row, second from right) unveiling the plaque

May 29, 2008. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig participated in the unveiling of a plaque honoring the contributions of the Leipzig University Library's three major sponsors over the past ten years. Among them is the Institute for American Studies Leipzig, recipient of the library of U.S. historian Frank Freidel and founder of the Frank Freidel Memorial Library. University President Prof. Franz Häuser thanked the sponsors and addressed approximately 30 notable guests and Prof. Johannes Schneider, head of the university library. In the future, the plaque will point 29,000 students and other visitors of the Leipzig University Library to the Frank Freidel American Studies collection.

Leipzig Students Win Trip to Sister City



The three winners (center, front row) with members of the board of the Freundeskreis Leipzig-Houston Sylvia Alverman and Uwe Mietz, Dr. Gabriele Goldfuß, local sponsor, and Consul Mark Wenig

May 29, 2008. Having proven their knowledge of U.S. history and language, and above all of Houston, TX, the three winners of the “Leipzig Meets Houston” high school student competition rejoiced after being announced at an event jointly staged by the Leipzig City International Office and the local Leipzig-Houston Sister City Association. After addressing the audience, Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig presented a book collection to each of the winners, who will all travel to Houston this fall. This year, students from eight Leipzig schools entered the competition.

Celebrating Five Years Magdeburg-Nashville



From right to left: Dr. Trümper, Dr. Küster, Lea Grupe, Jonas Tonn and Consul General

May 28, 2008. On the 5th anniversary of the signing of the sister city agreements between Magdeburg and Nashville (TN), Leipzig Consul General Mark Scheland joined Magdeburg Lord Mayor Lutz Trümper and Dr. Uwe Küster, Member of Parliament and Director of the German-American Dialog Center at a press conference to announce a new element in this very successful sister city link. A young woman from Magdeburg, Lea Grupe, will break new ground by spending one year at a church organization in Nashville in the framework of a year of voluntary service. The meeting also introduced Jonas Tonn, the fifth Magdeburger to complete his civil service at a community center in Nashville.

U.S. Librarian Addresses Leipzig Students



From left: Dale Askey and Prof. Hacker

May 28, 2008. Dale Askey from the Kansas State University Libraries lectured at Leipzig University of Applied Sciences (HTWK) to an audience of 25 librarians and first-semester students of library sciences on "Information Ecologies – Gap between Librarians and Researchers." Prof. Hacker, dean of the media faculty, a longstanding close contact of the Consulate, welcomed the audience. The Consulate's Information Resource Center (IRC) director attended the U.S. Embassy supported program.

Consul for Public Affairs Visits Historic Saxony-Anhalt School



Mark Wenig at Landesschule Pforta

May 27, 2008. Upon the invitation of the headmaster, Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and a Consulate intern made a visit to the historic Landesschule Pforta in Schulpforte, Saxony Anhalt. The Americans were invited to lunch in the school cafeteria then toured the school which was founded in 1543. Wenig subsequently delivered a presentation to 45 assembled students on the U.S. presidential elections. The Landesschule Pforta, one of the most elite schools of its type in Germany, is actually publicly owned and run by the state of Saxony-Anhalt.

Consulate General Leipzig Reaches out to Students in Consular District



May 26 and May 27, 2008. Consulate General Leipzig staffer Birgit Kaemmer was among the invited guest speakers at all-day events at the Technical University in Dresden (May 26) and the Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg (May 27) in support of the German Academic Exchange Service's (DAAD) "Go Out" initiative. The presentations covered the U.S. education system, financial aid programs, and referred to internships as a superb opportunity to supplement scholastic study programs. At the

Technical University in Dresden, Kaemmer also discussed the impact of the new European degree system on exchange programs. In addition, she took questions about the visa application process.

U.S. Showcase at "Marketplace of Cultures"



U.S. booth in Pirna

May 24, 2008. Consulate General Leipzig participated in Pirna's sixth "Markt der Kulturen" which celebrated and showcased the wealth of peoples and cultures in a part of Saxony where right-wing extremism continues to be a problem. In an on-stage address, Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig stressed the importance of such an event to broaden perspectives and promote tolerance. With Pirna Lord Mayor Marcus Ulbig and other representatives, Wenig also stopped at the Consulate's booth to explain the information material offered and to point to a collection of books on display, which the Information Resource Center had selected as gifts for the local public library. Consulate's booth, situated next to the library's stand, featured Alex Award winners for top 10 Books for Young Adults along with numerous

titles from the Consulate's U.S. Publishers' Donation Program, which were later handed over to the Public Library Director, Gabriele Langmann. Ten thousand people flocked to the Markt der Kulturen this year thus making it an increasingly popular symbol against political extremism. Among the more than 60 clubs/organizations represented, the Consulate booth showcased the many facets of the U.S. and attracted people of all ages who lingered to view the U.S. literature, find information resources, travel brochures and teacher packets, meet an American Consul or take part in a U.S. trivia quiz. At day's end, children carrying small U.S. flags could be seen all over the market square.

Persian-American Journey to Leipzig



May 23, 2008. In a reading in Leipzig's House of the Books, U.S. author Terence Ward introduced an audience of 40 mainly young people to the significant Persian influences on Western culture, as well as on Iranian life today. The following day, Ward discussed cross-cultural program options with Florian von Bothmer and Sebastian Alexander of Eurient, an association fostering understanding for the Middle East in Saxony. Ward presented his book, "Searching for Hassan", a touching story of a quixotic journey by the Ward family to Iran, ultimately rewarded by an emotional reunion with a lost friend, the family's former cook.

Terence Ward (center) with Eurient staff von Bothmer (right) and Alexander (left)

Building Bilingual Education for Tomorrow's Skilled Workers



Sülzetal School director; Langenweddingen Mayor, Erich Wasserthal, Consul General Mark Scheland, State Minister of Education Dr. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz, and the District Executive Thomas Webel

May 22, 2008. Consul General Mark Scheland and Consul Edie Backman participated in the cornerstone ceremony for a new secondary school, the Ganztagschule Sülzetal, in Langenweddingen, Saxony-Anhalt, near Magdeburg. The school, which is subject to open for local 5th to 10th graders in fall 2009, is the result of a public-private partnership. The objective is to use English and German in equal measure as languages of instruction in educating non-college-track students before they go on to further preparation for skilled trades or service-industry careers. Saxony-Anhalt's Minister for Regional Development and Transport, Karl-Heinz Daehre (a Langenweddingen native) and Education Minister Prof. Dr. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz, were the most prominent speakers on a program that included Consul General Mark Scheland, District Executive Thomas Webel and the host, Sülzetal Mayor Erich Wasserthal. In his remarks to the audience, Consul

General Scheland emphasized to the local leaders, teachers, students and media representatives, the promise that the school's bilingual approach holds for students' future job competitiveness. In conjunction with the new construction of classroom and technical training space, the municipality will also renovate an old manor house to serve as a center for community gatherings, international engagement and information.

Bringing the U.S. Elections to Chemnitz



Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig at TU Chemnitz

May 22, 2008. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig gave back to back lectures on the 2008 presidential election campaign, first at the Technical University Chemnitz and then at the Chemnitz Public Library, a Leipzig A@YL partner. Political Science Prof. Dr. Beate Neuss introduced Wenig to the 120 students of the political science and philosophy department, who gathered for this special offering. Subsequently, Wenig held a lecture and book donation for thirty 11th grade students of the Einsiedel Gymnasium at "Das Tietz", a city-owned company which houses the library. Dr. Rohr, managing director of "Das Tietz", greeted Wenig, while librarian Ms. Kunze introduced him to the curious high schoolers, only three of whom had any U.S. experience. Information Resource Director (IRC) encouraged the students to

conduct independent research into the election process and the U.S. mission abroad by guiding them toward available information materials. Wenig also presented the Chemnitz Public Library with books from U.S. publishers.

Bridging the Continents with Jazz



Members of the Louis Romanos Quartet

May 21 and May 24, 2008. Consulate General Leipzig supported two jazz concerts by the Louis Romanos Quartet in Leipzig (May 21) and Schönbach (May 24). Featuring music composed by U.S. jazz drummer Louis Romanos, the band included young musicians studying at the musical academies in Leipzig and Weimar. Romanos, who was based in New Orleans until Katrina, has cooperated with young musicians from this region for some years now, and has also taught a drum workshop at the Leipzig Music Academy during his stay. Romanos performed a total of seven concerts during his stay in Germany, playing with varying musicians.

Meet US' Makes It to Mockau



Consul General Mark Scheland talking to the students

May 21, 2008. Leipzig's public library branch in Mockau hosted its first ever U.S.-related program. In the combined framework of the well-established "Meet US" and "America@YourLibrary" programs, Consul General Mark Scheland gave a lecture and presentation on the presidential elections to an audience of 25 10th and 11th graders from Brockhaus Gymnasium. Dr. Arne Ackermann, Director of Leipzig's Public Library delivered the welcoming note for Consul General Scheland. Further attendees included two English teachers and Frau Heike Scholl, PR staffer at the Public Library. The Information Resource Center (IRC) Director presented brochures and pamphlets on U.S. politics and society to the public library.

Reaching out to Leipzig's Famous Thomas School



Mark Scheland surrounded by Thomaner students

May 20 and May 23, 2008. As part of the "Meet US" program, Consul General Mark Scheland encountered a 4th grade class of the Thomasschule, one of the oldest schools in Germany and internationally known for its Thomaner boys choir. Scheland read from the delightfully illustrated children's book, "The Gardener" by American author Sarah Stewart to make the youngsters aware of America's role and the life of a diplomat. Among the 20 students, all 15 of the boys in the class were members of the choir. The students were all very receptive to the reading and Scheland's stories about the places he and his family have lived. On May 23, Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig visited the school to speak to over 100 advanced English students. Opening with an explanation of his role at the Consulate and an overview of his career, Wenig went on to summarize the upcoming U.S. presidential election, key national issues, the candidates' strategies and prospects, and the expectations of foreign publics.

Fulbrighters in the East



Prof. Sarah H. Brown with audience

May 20, 2008. Supported by the Consulate General Leipzig, U.S. historian Prof. Sarah Brown (Florida Atlantic University/Charles University Prague) continued this year's Fulbright lecture series at Leipzig University with a presentation on the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Bill. The series on U.S. history, policy and culture, which was launched May 6 by Prof. Murry Nelson (Penn State University/University of Debrecen), brings American Fulbright professors from European universities to eastern Germany and will be enriched by seminars conducted by Leipzig staff. A total of 150 students attended both lectures.

American Prodigy Wows Them in Leipzig



Nicholas Kudo

May 18, 2008. Consul General Mark Scheland and his wife Elizabeth hosted an afternoon recital to introduce the outstanding musical talent of Nicholas Kudo, a 13-year-old American pianist living in Mannheim. Kudo's mastery of works by Beethoven and Chopin amazed the 80 guests, among them Saxony Minister-President Milbradt, Jena Lord Mayor Schröter, a state parliamentarian and former minister, two deputy mayors, two concert promoters, and a Dresden newspaper's chief editor. The house concert series brings young American artists to the attention of Consulate contacts and representatives from politics, culture, and the business community.

Photography from Chicago and Leipzig Makes Trip Across Atlantic



Curators Marco Poloni (left) and Eiko Grimberg guiding media and sponsors through the exhibit

May 16, 2008. Consulate General Leipzig helped launch the Leipzig portion of a German-American photo exhibit in *Alte Baumwollspinnerei* (a former textile mill complex, now famous for ties to the "New Leipzig School" painters). The exhibition *Three Hours between Planes* – also on display in Chicago – features works by graduates from Chicago and Leipzig art schools, reflecting the cross-disciplinary approach of both institutions. About 500 mainly young people interested in photography attended the Leipzig opening. This joint venture is the culmination of a long-term cooperation between the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) and the Academy of Visual Arts Leipzig (HGB).

Gotha and Gastonia Celebrating 15-Year Partnership



Gastonia Day in Gotha

May 15, 2008. Consul General Mark Scheland spoke at a welcoming event for a six-member sister city delegation from Gastonia (NC) in Gotha, Thuringia. Gotha Lord Mayor Knut Kreuch and Gastonia Mayor Jennie Stultz also addressed the gathering, which included 20 Gotha officials and sister city activists. The Consul General emphasized the positive and productive development of the U.S. presence in Thuringia in the economic sphere as well as in building people-to-people relationships. Lord Mayor Kreuch noted that over 500 students from the two sister cities had spent time at a partner school across the Atlantic in the past 15 years. The next day, Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and Consulate staff participated in the press conference with the two mayors, delivered remarks and invited guests and the general public to

stop by the Consulate information booth, which was featured exhibit at the "Gastonia Days". A steady stream of Gotha citizens including some teachers visited the Information Resource Center (IRC)-operated information booth and showed interest in a wide variety of U.S.-related issues.

Haldensleben Rotary Club Asks "Quo Vadis USA?"



Consul General Scheland (on the right) and Club president, Dr. Bernd Czieschnek

May 14, 2008. Leipzig Consul General Mark Scheland spoke to over 30 members and guests of the Rotary Club in Haldensleben, Saxony-Anhalt, representing a broad crosssection of professionals and entrepreneurs in the region. The Consul General's prepared remarks focused on the continuity of strategic goals in U.S. foreign policy over several decades. In reaction to the hosts' basic question - how U.S. policy would change under a new president - the Consul General drew on campaign statements and web site postings of the major candidates Clinton, McCain and Obama, treating issues of foreign and security policy, international trade, and energy and climate. The Consul General used the opportunity to explain U.S. efforts in the Major Economies process for global climate and energy policy, and he discussed both the immigration issue in the U.S. and Mission Germany support for

Germany's integration dialogue.

Consul General Elucidates 2008 Presidential Election Campaign for German Fulbright Grantees



Mark Scheland talking to the Jena Fulbright students

May 9, 2008. A full room of over 100 young scholars awaited the appearance of General Consul Mark Scheland, as he wrapped up a three-day orientation program in Jena for Germanywide recipients of Fulbright grants who are preparing to depart on their academic- and cultural exchange to the United States. Consul General Scheland lectured and took questions on the 2008 U.S. presidential campaign and candidates. He illustrated the intricacies of the U.S. electoral system, visually complementing the substance of his lecture with PowerPoint slides. The presentation prompted thoughtful questions, which opened dialogue centering on prospects for the 2008 presidential candidates and current political issues that will continue to shape German-American relations. In reply to a question, Consul General

Scheland also outlined his diplomatic career experiences.

'Meet US' at 'A@YL' Partner in Goerlitz



Consul Mark Wenig and Dr. Birgit Dippe

from the Augustum-Annen Gymnasium, among them 7 Polish exchange students, on the U.S. presidential election campaign, which ensued with engrossing discourse and questions on U.S. policy and culture. Engaged in the event were the Consulate's Information Resource Center (IRC) director Thea Bohse, who related the consulate's information services and introduced U.S. websites on politics and elections, and Dr. Birgit Dippe, principal of Euro-Schule Görlitz and head of the Europa-Bibliothek, who greeted the students and attended the presentations. With compliments from the U.S. Consulate, Wenig presented the library with new books which had been donated to the Consulate by U.S. publishers and displayed at the 2008 Leipzig Book Fair, as well as a book collection on the U.S. elections.

May 7, 2008. For several years now, Consulate General Leipzig officers have traveled to the furthest eastern Saxon city of Görlitz, situated on the border with Poland, to partake in a bi-annual "America Day" celebration with approx. 90 youth and children. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and his wife Kjarstin addressed groups of students and young children through interactive and culturally enlightening presentations. Mrs. Wenig held two bi-lingual readings of the renowned children's book, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar", followed by song and dance--a thorough delight for the 40 third graders of the Görlitz Elementary School. In three presentation rounds at the Europe Library, an A@YL partner, Consul Wenig addressed 50 high school students

Consul for Public Affairs Helps Open Karl May Festival in Radebeul



Performers at the Karl May Festival in Radebeul

May 2, 2008. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig represented the Consulate at the opening of the 17th annual Karl May Festival weekend in the Saxon city of Radebeul, near Dresden. The festival honors the American West, with its dress, music and tradition, which was the subject of many adventure novels written 100 or more years ago by Karl May. May's home in Radebeul is now a museum, displaying many artifacts from the Indians of North America. Also present at the opening ceremony, attended by about 150 people, were Radebeul Mayor Bert Wendsche and members of a variety of North American Indian tribes, some of whom now reside in Germany. The Indians performed ceremonial dances. The theme of this year's festival was "The Heartbeat of Mother Earth".

Leipzig Hosts Leipsic



From left: Patty Kreinbrink; Dr. Volker Rodekamp, Director of Leipzig Stadtgeschichtliches Museum; Sister of Patty Kreinbrink; Diana Smikalla, MDR 1 Radio Sachsen; Sisters of Patty Kreinbrink

May 2, 2008. Four American women from the village of Leipsic, Ohio, visited the Leipzig Neues Rathaus with Consul General Mark Scheland to bring a small gift from their town government. City protocol chief Dr. Magdalena Grams had acceded to the Consul General's request that the ladies be met briefly by a Leipzig official. The "human interest" appeal of this visit snowballed, with Dr. Grams pulling the First Deputy Mayor and City Historian in, while the Consulate invited local media.