



AlabamaGermany Partnership

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ThyssenKrupp Meets with AGP



Pictured above l-r front row: Anne Marie Seibel, Al Reisz, Trish Coghlan, Clara Gerhardt, Sabine Kwapik, Text Writer; Alan Wood. Back row: Hajo Drees, Jim Robertson, Lamar Smith, Christian Köenig, V.P. Public Affairs, ThyssenKrupp USA, Erik Walner, Press Officer ThyssenKrupp Stainless, Bruce Jones and Uli Strohmann, Supporting PR Agency. Not pictured Manos Meisen, Photographer.

ThyssenKrupp USA, Inc. will feature their new Alabama Mobile plant in its 2006/2007 annual report. Members of their communications team were in Birmingham and interviewed and photographed AGP Executive Director Trish Coghlan and AGP Chairman Jim Robertson. Afterwards the AGP Executive Committee enjoyed dinner with the ThyssenKrupp guests at The Club in Birmingham. On May 11, 2007 ThyssenKrupp Stainless USA selected Alabama as the home for its new state-of-the-art steel and stainless steel processing facility to be located in Northern Mobile and Southern Washington counties. The \$3.7 billion dollar plant is the largest investment for ThyssenKrupp Stainless. Alabama Governor Bob Riley noted the enormity and the importance of this project. The project was a joint public and private effort, many members of the AlabamaGermany Partnership participated in the effort.

AGP Annual Dinner & Business Forum 2007

AlabamaGermany Partnership successfully held its ninth annual dinner and eighth annual business forum on March 15 & 16 in Birmingham, AL. The business forum was held at the Carraway-Davie House, and included a speech from Michael Johnson of FIFA, as well as awards presented to businesses and individuals in the Alabama/Germany community. Dr. Clara Gerhardt of Samford University received the Education/Culture Award for her many contributions to this field.

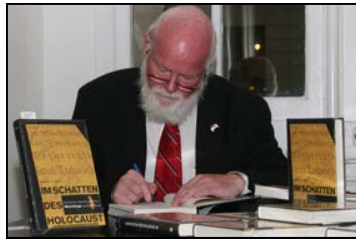


Pictured above l-r Trish Coghlan, Bill Taylor, Clara Gerhardt, Jim Robertson, and Brian Hilson

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UAB History Chair Presents New Book in Berlin

James F. Tent (pictured right) is professor and chair of the UAB History Department and specializes in Modern German History. In



2003 he wrote a book, "In the Shadow of the Holocaust" about the Nazi persecution of "Mischlinge" i.e. German citizens who were of partially Jewish descent. This was a group of ca. 115,000 victims of the Holocaust about whom almost nothing has been written.

Tent met one of the victims completely by accident during a train ride through the former East Germany and was so moved by the man's account that he interviewed twenty eyewitnesses to form the basis of his book. Tent was determined that German readers should be able to read his account in their own language to learn about what

persecution did to entirely innocent Germans on a day-to-day basis. He found a respected German publisher, personally financed a



skilled German translator, and worked with closely with him to produce the German-language edition: "Im Schatten des Holocaust."

Tent attended a public presentation of his book on May 16 hosted by Germany's national Jewish Museum in Berlin. Among those attending were Prof. Ernst Benda, former Chief Justice of the German Supreme Court, himself a former "Mischling". Germany's equivalent of National Public Radio broadcast an account of the book presentation on May 20, 2007. It can be located on the following website (in German) in the site's "Audio on Demand" box. <http://www.dradio.de/dkultur/sendungen/buchtipp/626500/>

Cullman Oktoberfest

For the past four years, AlabamaGermany Partnership has provided a speaker for the opening ceremony of the Cullman Oktoberfest. This year, new AGP board member Gerhard Graf with Ashford Advisors, Inc. and a German native from the Frankfurt area, was the speaker at the event.



Pictured left three girls in traditional German Dress at Cullman Oktoberfest.

REHAU Announces Grand Opening of Second Plant in Cullman, AL

REHAU announced the grand opening of its second manufacturing plant in Cullman, Ala. Located adjacent to the company's existing automotive production plant, the new Plant Cullman Construction more than doubles capacity for the production of cross-linked polyethylene piping (PEX) and will create up to 100 additional jobs over the next four years.

To accommodate the increased production, REHAU invested more than \$20 million in construction and equipment for the new 200,000 square-foot facility. The expansion provides space for PEX production, warehousing and shipping.

"With the start-up of the new lines, Plant Cullman Construction will be able to keep up with growing demand and produce nearly all of REHAU's North American PEX requirement," said Dr. Kitty Saylor, REHAU North America chief executive officer.

Plant Cullman began manufacturing for the construction industry in 2003. PEX produced at the plant is used in radiant heating, snow and ice melting (SIM), fire protection and plumbing applications.

"When we realized our demand justified a dedicated PEX production facility, Plant Cullman was the obvious choice. It is our newest North American plant, making it the best equipped to take on more complex processes such as the cross-linking of PEX," explained Niklas Braun, REHAU vice president, operations and technology. "Cullman also has the best logistics expertise based on the sequenced and just-in-time (JIT) delivery requirements of the plant's automotive customers."

The transfer of production has made German plant production lines readily available for increased European business, while also saving on shipping costs of product to fulfill North American market demands.

REHAU delivers "Unlimited Polymer Solutions," and is the premium worldwide brand for polymer-based innovations and systems in construction, automotive and industry. <http://www.na.rehau.com>

New AGP Corporate Member Modern Professional Services Opens a New Southeast Headquarters in Birmingham

Modern Professional Services, a leader in technical professional staffing and direct placement services has established a Southeast United States Headquarters by opening a new office in Birmingham, Alabama, on August 1, 2007. Modern Professional Services has been providing people to companies in the southern United States from three offices: Knoxville, TN; Woodstock (Atlanta), GA and Anniston, AL. These offices support customers across a nine-state territory.

Degussa is now Evonik

Evonik's Chemicals business area, previously known by the name Degussa, offers a broad portfolio of products and solutions, with a correspondingly wide range of applications. They find use, for example, in the automotive, plastics and rubber industries. We also have customers in the pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, cosmetics, paint, sealant and adhesive sectors. We are market leader in more than 80 percent of our Chemicals businesses.

AGP Recognizes New & Expanding German Businesses in Alabama at 2007 Annual Dinner

NEW BUSINESSES



Aluminum Technology Schmid N. America, Inc.
Established in AL in 2006
Located in Auburn, AL
Aluminiumtechnologie Schmid GmbH

Precision machining company for aluminum parts; produces parts in Auburn used in the vehicles made by Mercedes-Benz & other car makers in North America



VST-Keller, Inc.
Established in AL in 2006
Located in Pell City, AL
VST KELLER GmbH & Co. KG

Makes hardening & coating materials for pressing, cutting, & die-casting tools



WKW Erbslöh North America
Established in AL in 2007
Located in Pell City, AL

Makes trim parts for automotive companies

EXPANDING BUSINESSES



Borgers USA Corporation
Expanded in AL in 2006
Located in Tuscaloosa County, AL
Johann Borgers GmbH & Co. KG

Produces rear interior compartment for Mercedes



Hoerbiger Automotive Comfort Systems
Expanded in AL in 2006
Located in Auburn, AL
Hoerbiger Automatisierungstechnik Holding GmbH

Makes hydraulic systems for the automotive industry, including Mercedes-Benz, Chrysler, GM, & Ford



Mercedes Benz US International, Inc.
Expanded in AL in 2006
Located in Tuscaloosa County, AL

This plant produces the Mercedes-Benz M-Class Sport Utility, the new R-Class Grand Sport Tourer, & the new full-sized GL-Class Luxury SUV

NEW MEMBERS

Associate Corporate

Alabama Technology Network-Birmingham
Modern Professional Services, Birmingham
Hightex Inc., Auburn
Concours Mold Inc., Cullman
ThyssenKrupp Krause, Inc., Decatur
Flint Machine Tools, Inc., Snellville, GA
Aluminum Technology Schmid N.A., Auburn

Individual Family

Bjoern and Sara Lanwer
Guilherme and Debora Kleist, Auburn

Individual Patron

Gerhard Graf, Birmingham

State Agency:

Ala. Industrial Devel. Training, Montgomery
Greater Birmingham Convention and Visitor's Bureau

Regular Corporate:

Evonik Degussa, Theodore, AL
Marshall Design-Build, Montgomery
S.E. Gas District, Montgomery

*To become a member of AGP,
please visit our website at
www.alabamagermany.org*

Individual:

Marvin Taylor, Mobile
Amy Hulteen, BHM
Christina Jambor, BHM
John Kappes, BHM
Gabriele Weber, Va. Beach
Ursina Boehm, Hampton, AL
Rick McGuffie, Vance
Marciano Rathunde,
Tuscaloosa
Peter Meister, Huntsville

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*Special Thanks to our Door Prize
Sponsor Lufthansa German Airlines.*



Federal Republic of Germany Flag Sponsors 2007

Black Level		
		
Red Level		
		
Gold Level		
		

AGP Annual Dinner & Business Forum 2007 (continued from page 1)

The Rainer Bauer Award, which is presented to an individual who has shown outstanding accomplishments, service and loyalty to Alabama and Germany, was presented to Bill Taylor, CEO and President of MBUSI.

The Business Forum on March 16 was held at the Hilton Perimeter Park Hotel. The forum offered participants the opportunity to hear a diverse group of presenters, who covered topics such as the automobile industry, culture relations, and preparing employees through higher education. Hajo Drees, European Director of the Alabama Development Office facilitated the forum.

Bill Taylor of Mercedes-Benz U.S. International presented "Lessons Learned at MBUSI in a Multi-Cultural Setting"; VST Keller's Executive Vice President Philip Read presented "Establishment of a New German Business in Alabama"; Solutience President Richard Fowler spoke on "Operating a German Company in the U.S."; and Samford University Dean of Business Beck Taylor discussed "How To Prepare Your Executive Workforce with an MBA".

AlabamaGermany Partnership would like to thank all of our speakers and guests for making these events such a big success! Make plans to attend next year's event in Huntsville in April!

Friends of German Culture Presents Awards to High School German Students in Huntsville

Huntsville's German Club, the Friends of German Culture, presented awards to high school German students around the city last May.

Awards went to: Kimberly Allen and Katie Spradlin of Lee; Caroline Butler, Dominic Hughes, Kelsey Lightfoot, and

Skyler Embrey of Huntsville; Melissa Martin, Shawanda Richmond, and Sonyata Pair of Johnson; Calvin Cochran, Stephanie Volz, Olivia Walcczyk, and Jordan Phillips of Grissom; Michael Helmbrecht, Andrew Jones, and Kelley Towne of Catholic High School. Prizes for these awards included German-English dictionaries, gift cards to Café Berlin, gift certificates to Deutsche Küche, maps of Germany, and pins from AGP. Congratulations to the recipients of these awards!



Pictured (l-r): Kelley Towne, Dr. Ludwig Gustafson—German Language Professor, & Andrew Jones

AGP First Annual Membership Meeting and Wine Tasting

Thursday, November 15, 2007 4:30 p.m. at the Birmingham German Club 2318 2nd Avenue North. Please RSVP by Friday, November 9th alabamagermany@earthlink.net or 205-943-4772.



Dates to Remember



AGP Sponsored Events

- October 25** Mobile Membership Appreciation Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
- October 30** German Theatre Abroad presents *Start Up - Magic Express Airlines* hangar BHM Airport
- November 15** First Annual Membership Meeting and Wine Tasting. Birmingham German Club 2318 2nd Avenue North

Other Events

October 27 Oktoberfest Moody Park, 10 a.m - 5 p.m. Moody Alabama

2008 Upcoming Events

January 31, 2007 50 Years of American In Space Dinner (Huntsville)

February 2008—Joint AGP/GACC event TBA

April 2008—AGP Annual Dinner and Business Forum (Huntsville)

Visit our website at www.alabamagermany.org/



ONGOING GERMAN CLUB

EVENTS: Come to Speak (or Listen to) German!

[Freunde Deutscher Sprache & Kultur \(FDSK\)](#)

(The Birmingham German Club) Fridays 7:30pm-??2318 2nd Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama



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