AGP welcomes New Chairman

On October 28, 2008 Joachim Hofmann, Manager - Supplier Quality Engineering at Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc. in Vance, took over as chairman of the AlabamaGermany Partnership (AGP) at the annual membership meeting. Hofmann began his career with Mercedes-Benz as a Management Trainee in 1997 in Stuttgart, Germany where he held numerous positions within the purchasing group of Mercedes-Benz passenger cars. He moved to Alabama with MBUSI in 2004 as an assistant manager in finance and was responsible for supplier bankruptcy management, material budget planning and tooling cash-out management. He has served in his current position for six months and oversees the supplier quality group for the M-, R-, and GL-class built at the Mercedes-Benz plant in Vance. Chairman Hofmann has served on the AGP board since 2005. He is married to Christine and they have two daughters, Olivia and Emily.

AGP Event Outlook

Opening Ceremony Berlin Airlift Exhibit

On Friday, February 27, 2009 the 60th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift Exhibit opening ceremony will take place at the Southern Museum of Flight. Berlin Airlift Veterans living in Alabama will be honored. The German Consul General from the Atlanta office, Col. Wolfgang Samuel, USAF (Ret), author of German Boy, and other special guests and dignitaries will be present. The overall aim of the project is to raise awareness of the Berlin Airlift, one of the greatest humanitarian efforts of all time. The Airlift made friends out of former enemies when the Americans and their allies, Great Britain and France, saved more than two million men and women in the city of Berlin.

AGP Event Review

AGP HR Summit

Alabama Germany Partnership successfully held its 1st Human Resource Summit on February 13, 2009 in the World Business Center in Birmingham, AL. The summit was moderated by AGP Vice President of Education Anna Gramberg (Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Auburn University). Presenters included Devin Dolive (Burr and Forman, LLP) Dagmar Rick, Esq., (Law Office), Anne McKay. (Continued on page 2)

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AGP Human Resource Summit

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The HR Summit was attended by AGP Vice President of Culture Gerhard Graf (Ashford Advisors, Inc.), AGP Vice President of Membership, Alan Wood (SS Nesbitt and Co. Inc.), Evelyn Neunzig (Formel D USA, Inc.), Carolyn Turner (Alabama International Trade Center), Tamara Moriya (Japan America Society of Alabama), Alexander Maier (Hofmann Services), Andrea Taylor (Merrill Lynch), Ashley Davis (Merrill Lynch), Amy Myers (Haskell Slaughter Young & Rediker LLP), Cassandra Spencer (Alabama Technology Network), Angela Wilson (Moreson Conferencing Inc.), Kimberly Couch (Hoerbiger Automotive Comfort Systems Inc.), Trent Cotton (SourcePointe), Mark Love, Brooks Wilbourn (Kuehne + Nagel), Trish Coghlan (AlabamaGermany Partnership), Julia Boehm-McKay (AlabamaGermany Partnership).

The AlabamaGermany Partnership was founded in 1998 to foster ties and serve as a resource for members and others interested in a strong business and cultural relationship between Alabama and Germany. For additional information, please visit our website at www.AlabamaGermany.org.
AGP Member Spotlight
ZF Lemforder Corporation

ZF Lemforder Corp is the car chasis division of ZF – one of the world’s largest suppliers of driveline chasis technology. The company employs approximately 58,000 people at 120 locations in 25 countries. Their sales totaled $16.4 billion in 2007. Within ZF Lemforder North America, there are five components manufacturing plants and three axle system assembly plants.

The ZF Tuscaloosa site produces complete front and rear axle assemblies in broadcast sequence for MBUSI. The plant has approximately four hours lead time after receipt of order from MBUSI to produce and ship the axle assemblies.

AGP Event Outlook
60th Anniversary Berlin Airlift

(L-R) Dagmar Rick, Alan Wood, Richard Suhr (ZF Lemforder Corp.), Meg Lozner, Trish Coghlan at a plant visit on April 30, 2008.

Knights of Columbus Assembly 02408
Joseph H. Hardy

“Friends Always”
Nellie and Dieter Tietz, Al Cook, Anne Marie Seibel, Rita Powell, Glen Pringle, Gerhard Graf, Otto and Gail Mueller, Trish Coghlan, Alabama State Port Authority, TCIDA, Freunde Deutscher Sprache und Kultur, Birmingham; and anonymous benefactors.

The photo exhibition “The Berlin Airlift - A Legacy of Friendship” will be at the museum through March 14, 2009. Other activities include a Special Family Activity on March 7th from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. free with museum admission. Free tours of the exhibit will be offered for school or church groups. (Call the museum for scheduling (205) 833-8226.)

AGP Member News
Judy Benson

AGP Board Member Judy Benson, CRH North America was named Rotarian of the Year for 2007-2008 by the Rotary Club of Chilton County.

AGP Event Review
St. Nicholas Party

AGP’s St. Nick Family Party at the FDSK German Club, Birmingham was attended by many members and children who were eager to meet St. Nick. The day was filled with fun activities for children and a reception that included German treats such as Stollen and Gluehwein.

AGP Germany Trip
Germany Trip Summer 08

AGP Executive Director Trish Coghlan spent 12 days in Germany last summer and visited Roedl & Partner in Munich, inGenics AG in Ulm, Aluminum Technology Schmid GmbH in Korb, Mercedes-Benz in Singelfingen, CR Hammerstein (CRH) in Solingen and ThyssenKrupp Nirosta GmbH in Krefeld.

AGP Member News
Judy Benson

AGP Board Member Judy Benson, CRH North America was named Rotarian of the Year for 2007-2008 by the Rotary Club of Chilton County.
AGP Event Outlook

2009 Annual Dinner and Business Forum

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in sponsoring the event please contact Bryan Winter via phone at (205) 553-5353 or via e-mail at bwinter@lswattorneys.com.

If you would like to donate an auction item for the Silent Auction, please contact Gerhard Graf via phone at (205) 982-9938 or via e-mail at gerhardgraf@ashfordadvisors.net.

The AlabamaGermany Partnership is seeking nominations for the 2009 Rainer Bauer Award and Education-Culture Award to be presented at the AGP Annual Dinner.

The 2008 Rainer Bauer Award was awarded to Governor Bob Riley, the Education Award to German Teacher Edith Phillips of Huntsville and the Culture Award to Pete Cox, President of Friends of German Culture - Huntsville. Please send nominations no later than March 2, 2009 by e-mail (director@alabamagermany.org), fax (205-943-4780), or regular mail (500 Beacon Parkway West, Birmingham, AL 35209).

AGP Member News

inGenics Corp. Atlanta

(L-R) Stephan Reithmann (Vice President inGenics Corp., USA), Dr. Lutz Goergens (German Consul General), Joerg Herkommer (President inGenics Corp., Germany)

AGP Member and German business consultancy, inGenics Corporation of Atlanta celebrated its move into its new office at 2839 Paces Ferry Road, Ste 1045, GA 30339 on October 6, 2008. inGenics, who has developed a LeanOffice System to support customers of all types for lean transformations in their offices, held a “Lean Office Seminar” in cooperation with Ashford Advisors, Inc. on May 15, 2008 in Birmingham. inGenics also donated its consulting services to help the AGP office to “go lean”.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, February 27, 2009
Opening Ceremony 60th Anniversary Berlin Airlift Travelling Photo Exhibit
Time: 4:00 pm, Location: Southern Museum of Flight
February 27 through March 15, 2009
60th Anniversary Berlin Airlift Exhibition at the Southern Museum of Flight
Saturday, March 7, 2009
Special Young Flyer Family Activity, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., www.southernmuseumofflight.org
March 11 through March 13, 2009
AlabamaGermany Partnership Executive Directors Trip to Mobile
Thursday, April 23, 2009
AlabamaGermany Partnership 11th Annual Dinner and Silent Auction in Montgomery
Friday, April 24, 2009
AlabamaGermany Partnership Business Forum “Continuous Improvement” in Montgomery

Visit our website at www.AlabamaGermany.org/events for more details on these and other events.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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NEW MEMBERS

Corporate Regular
Kronospan
Springer Equipment Co.
WKW Erbsloeh
Service 1st Bank

Corporate Associate
Forklift Systems, Inc.
Dekalb County Econ. Development Agency
Jackson County Econ. Development Agency
Alford and Associates, LLC
Hofmann Services

Educational Institution
Samford University, Brock School of Business

Educational Professional
Erika Hille Rinker

Non-Profit
Rocket City United Foundation

Individual Family
Chad and Lauren Goodson
Robert and Elisabeth Graham
Peté and Marion Cox
Heinz and Evelyn Neunzig

Individual
Liane Scott
Jeff Wilkes, Graham and Co.
David Graham, Community Development Foundation

HERZLICH WILLKOMMEN!

Go to the Member Directory on these and all other members at www.AlabamaGermany.org.

To become a member of the Alabama Germany Partnership, please visit our website at www.AlabamaGermany.org.