



AlabamaGermany Partnership

E - NEWSLETTER



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The German economy is and continues to be booming. The unemployment rate in Germany just published was the lowest number of any September in the last 20 years! And why are we talking about Greece all the time?

With the AGP the communities in Alabama have a partner that can help them to continue benefitting from the growth of German industries. How appropriate that Craig Canfield, the new Director of the Alabama Development Office, attended a reception by invitation from Consul General Dr. Görgens in Birmingham two weeks ago at which Mr. Canfield commented on the role of Germany as the largest source of foreign investment and trading partner for Alabama.

At that reception Dr. Görgens installed Michael Johnson in the role as Honorary Consul of Germany to Alabama. Bruce Jones who retired from that position received much deserved praise for ten years of service for German Citizens in Alabama. I met Bruce the first time when he represented Southern Company at BEWAG in Berlin. We can imagine that during his time in Berlin he and his family went through the same ups and downs that are experienced by German families relocating to Alabama. Here too, the network of the AGP can and wants to help.

I welcome Michael in the role as Honorary Consul. He will be a great source of help to the AGP and its members.

Arndt Siepmann, Chair
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FEATURE

Schorndorf Delegates Visit Sister City of Tuscaloosa



Student delegates from Schorndorf's Max Planck Gymnasium pose during the Tuscaloosa Sister Cities International Organization's anniversary events.

Tuscaloosa and Schorndorf, Germany have been Sister Cities for 15 years. 85 International Delegates visited Tuscaloosa August 23-28 for the Tuscaloosa Sister Cities International's 25th Anniversary events. Tuscaloosa celebrated 25 years of partnership with Narashino, Japan, 15 years with Schorndorf, Germany, and announced a new sister city partnership with Sunyani-Techiman, Ghana during the five-day celebration.

The delegates were treated to many programs as part of the anniversary celebration, including tours of the area, a southern fish fry with square dancing at Moundville Archaeological Park, and an International Tailgate Party at Tuscaloosa Government Plaza. During the 5-day program, the TSCI unveiled a new sculpture along the Black Warrior River, titled, Nurturing Friendships, Uniting Cultures.

German Consul General Dr. Lutz Goergens, and Japanese Consul General Takuji Hanatani attended ceremonies on August 25.

FEATURE

Johnson Appointed Honorary German Consul for Alabama



From left to right: Arndt Siepmann, Michael Johnson, Dr. Lutz Goergens, Bruce Jones

Michael H. Johnson, an attorney at Johnston Barton Proctor & Rose LLP, has been appointed Honorary Consul of Germany for the State of Alabama. Mr. Johnston was sworn in on September 21, 2011 by the German Consular General, Dr. Lutz Hermann Görgens, Ph.D.

"The German government sees Alabama as important enough to continue to have this position," Johnson said. "I'm proud to be part of a collective in this state that recognizes the strong ties that exist between Alabama and Germany and want to see those ties made stronger."

In this capacity Michael will represent the Federal Republic of Germany in the State of Alabama. He will support the German Consulate in Atlanta and participate in efforts to expand bilateral trade and investment between Germany and Alabama.

Mr. Johnson was recognized at a reception hosted at the law office of Johnston Barton Proctor & Rose last Wednesday evening.

FEATURE

New Alabama-German Connection in Commerce



Companies from the state of Brandenburg in Germany and the State of Alabama now have a new business alliance called FireWatch America. Connected through a homeland security organization called the Strategic Security Alliance, IQ Wireless GmbH of Berlin and a new American startup company, FireWatch America, LLC based in Alabama are launching patented German technology in the United States and Canada in the area of early wildfire detection.

Originally developed by German Aerospace for the Rosetta and Mars Pathfinder Missions, the FireWatch early wildfire detection technology is now widely deployed in Germany and parts of Europe and has reduced area burned by wildfires by nearly 90 % over the past eight years. The sensor system licensed and perfected by IQ Wireless and in wide use by Landesbetrieb Forst Brandenburg, is already being tested by U.S. government agencies and private forestry officials for deployment in their efforts in dealing with escalating wildfire threats.

Alabama native Joe Turnham is a partner in this effort. A permanent demonstration test site is being developed in Macon County for early 2012 along with a sales, service and distribution center located here in East Alabama that will service customers and clients throughout North America.

FEATURE

GACC Hosts Second E-Mobility Conference

The US automotive industry is undergoing some impressive changes due to the evolving US market for electric mobility and energy. The US President has outlined a goal to have 1 million plug-in electric vehicles on the road by 2015. Without any doubt, the huge market potential and recent developments in the field of electric mobility will lead to a future of sustainability.



In order to foster the relationship between American and German companies working in the area of electric mobility, the GACC South hosted the second "E-mobility Conference" September 29th, 2011.

Featured speakers included:

- **Cecilia Bush**, Electric Vehicles Operations Manager for the Southeast Region, *Nissan North America, Inc.*
- **David C. Woessner**, Leader P3 North America's Strategy Consulting Practice, *P3 North America*
- **Joe Thomas**, CEO & President, *Mage Solar USA*
- **Don Francis**, Executive Director, *Clean Cities Atlanta*
- **Jules Toraya**, Program Manager, *City of Atlanta*
- **Jean-Francois Tremblay**, Global Automotive Center, Advanced Power-train Team Leader, *Ernst & Young*
- **Dr. Joachim Taiber**, Professor, Department of Automotive Engineering, *Clemson University, International Center for Automotive Research*
- **Dr. Thomas Aubel**, Executive Vice Pres. Mobility, *TÜV North America*

The conference addressed a variety of different topics such as the costs of batteries for electric vehicles, government incentives for electric mobility, sustainable mobility technologies and the construction of a sustainable electrical vehicle ecosystem.

Great speakers, interesting speeches and intriguing discussions made the conference a big success.

Dankeschön to Our Sustaining & Patron Members



Welcome New AGP Members

Welcome to the AGP's newest member, Regions Bank.

Upcoming Events

JASA: The Fall Season Recovery Benefit Performance for Japan and Alabama
October 16 (Birmingham)

GACC: Annual Gala
November 5 (Atlanta)

AGP Membership Meeting and Reception
November 10 (Huntsville)

German Quote
Wer den Pfennig nicht ehrt,
ist den Taler nicht wert

AGP Member News Ticker

[Latest News from BASF](#)

[Latest News from Mercedes](#)

[Latest News from Siemens](#)

[Latest News from ThyssenKrupp Stainless USA](#)

[Latest News from ThyssenKrupp Steel USA](#)

German companies: please send us your news link to administrator@alabamagermany.org

Test Your Knowledge

How many German companies have operations in Alabama?

Congratulations to last month's *Test Your Knowledge* winner, **Ailene Keeton**.

She received a plate from Schorndorf and a 25th anniversary pin donated by Lisa Keyes from Tuscaloosa Sister Cities International.

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