



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

BUDAPEST NEWSLETTER

January 26, 2007

Recently at the Embassy

Ambassador Foley Discusses Innovation in Vác and Gödöllő

On January 24, Ambassador Foley visited leading U.S. businesses and innovators, IBM Data Storage in Vác, GE Energy in Veresegyház, and Caterpillar in Gödöllő. She also visited the Biotechnology Research Center in Gödöllő, an institution at the forefront of Hungary's scientific innovation.



USAID Trains Hungarian PRT Personnel Slated for Afghanistan

On January 23-24, a team of U.S. Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) experts conducted USAID-sponsored training sessions for Hungarian civilian personnel slated to be deployed to the Hungarian PRT in the Baghlan province of Afghanistan. The training in Budapest and Szolnok took place at the request of the Hungarian Government and aimed at sharing field experience on PRT operations and project development.

Ambassador's Roundtable for Hungarian Journalists

Ambassador Foley held a roundtable with Hungarian print and online media on January 23. She discussed major foreign policy themes of the President's State of the Union address, U.S.-Hungary relations, and some of her priorities for 2007.



Award for Cultural Diplomacy to Visiting American Artists

Ambassador Foley recently present "The Ambassador's Award for Cultural Diplomacy" to the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) and its conductor Roberto Abbado for their contributions to building cultural connections between the United States and Hungary. The SPCO performed at Budapest's prestigious Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music on January 22.

[Orchestra web site](#) ►



Embassy Hosts Public-Private Roundtable on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

On January 17, the Economic Section hosted a public-private IPR roundtable on behalf of Hungary's *Anti-Piracy Coalition of the Music, Film, and Software Industries*. The roundtable brought together a broad group of roughly 30 Hungarian Government officials and industry representatives from Hungary's IPR community to discuss better cooperation in protecting IPR.



Cultural Communication Through the Arts

The U.S. Ambassador's residence in Budapest hosted top Hungarian art sector representatives at the unveiling of ART in Embassies paintings on January 16. In her remarks, Ambassador Foley emphasized the importance of private sector involvement in conveying the story of America through culture. The works on display include an original Rembrandt Peale portrait of George Washington and other paintings from the late 18th and early 19th century period in American art. [ART in Embassies](#) ►



Ambassador Briefs Birmingham-Southern Students

Ambassador Foley briefed a group of 22 students visiting Budapest from Birmingham-Southern College on Hungary's contributions to the advancement of democracy around the world. In the questions following the briefing, the Ambassador also discussed her own professional preparation to enter public service and the Embassy staff described in greater detail the rewards of U.S. diplomatic service.

Embassy Children Promote Energy Conservation

To support our Mission's commitment to energy conservation, all Mission children (Hungarian and American) were invited to participate in a drawing/art competition. Twelve children submitted pictures that represented an awareness and/or method of energy conservation and its benefits to the community. In a ceremony hosted by the Ambassador, all participants were announced as winners and received certificates.



Looking Ahead

The Princeton University Symphony Orchestra in Budapest

Led by conductor Prof. Michael Pratt, the Orchestra will play in the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music (VI. Liszt Ferenc tér 8.) on January 30, at 7:30 p.m. Their program includes works by Beethoven, Dvorak, Prokofiev, and Copland. [Orchestra web site](#)►

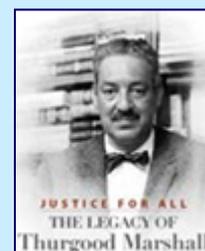
Webchats

The International Legal Framework for Fighting Corruption with John Brandolino and Dimitri Vlassis on February 5 at 9:00 a.m. EST (1400 GMT); and **The Role of the Private Sector in Combating Corruption** with John D. Sullivan on February 15 at 9:00 a.m. EST (1400 GMT). [Webchats](#)►

New Publications

Justice for All: The Legacy of Thurgood Marshall [Publication](#)►

The State Department's new electronic publication focuses on Thurgood Marshall's life and the achievements -- capped by his victory in the landmark Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education* -- that made him the 20th century's great architect of American race relations.



eJournal: Benefits of Trade: Costs of Protectionism [eJournal](#)►

Features articles on how protectionist practices hurt millions, especially in the developing world; the benefits to be gained by developing countries which remove barriers to imports from each other; and how protectionism bolsters the politically designated few while harming the many.



IRC Newsletter: U.S. Society and Values [Newsletter](#)►

In the News... from Washington

President Bush Delivers State of the Union Address [Address](#)►

As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the President delivered his State of the Union Address at a joint session of Congress on January 23.

Twenty In Ten: Strengthening America's Energy Security

"Tonight, President Bush Will Ask Congress And America's Scientists, Farmers, Industry Leaders, And Entrepreneurs To Join Him In Pursuing The Goal Of Reducing U.S. Gasoline Usage By 20 Percent In The Next Ten Years - Twenty In Ten." (White House Fact Sheet, January 23) [More](#)►



White House photo
by Eric Draper

New Free Software Will Help Close Digital Divide in Education

Software that will enable teachers worldwide to share educational materials, form communities and collaborate on projects will be available for free early in 2007, says its developer, the nonprofit organization Teachers Without Borders. [More](#)►