

June 8, 2006

Recently at the Embassy

Embassy, Ministry Expand Dialogue on Visas to the U.S.



On June 6, Ambassador Walker announced at a workshop on Hungarian-U.S. visa relations organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the visa application approval rate has increased to 85%. Ambassador Walker reiterated that the doors to the U.S. are open, highlighted improvements in visa application procedures, and stated that Hungary was moving in the right direction to meet all the requirements of the Visa Waiver Program. [More▶](#)

Ambassador Walker Launches Men's Health Week

On June 4, Ambassador Walker attended the launch of "Men's Health Week" in the Budapest City Park, which was turned into a "Health Park" for the occasion. This Third Annual Campaign to highlight "Men's Health Week" in Hungary takes place June 4–11 with more than fifty cities joining the initiative. [More about Men's Health Week▶](#)

John Lukacs Speaks on George Kennan

On June 6, noted historian John Lukacs gave a lecture on "George Kennan and Hungary and Eastern Europe" as part of the U.S. Embassy-Central European University Distinguished Speaker Series. [More▶](#)

ILEA Graduates Fifty Officers from the Region

Continuing its core training programs, the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) graduated 50 mid-level law enforcement officers from Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Hungary following an eight-week wide-ranging professional training course. [About ILEA▶](#)



Silicon Valley-based Company's Representatives in Budapest

On June 1-2, the U.S. Commercial Service (USCS) welcomed to Budapest representatives from an innovative Silicon Valley-based firm, Propel Software, maker of internet accelerator software products for individuals and ISPs. Propel's service allows users to increase the speed of their internet connections by up to 15 times what is usual. For more information, please contact Andrea Imrik at Andrea.Imrik@mail.doc.gov

Ambassador Opens Eastern Biofuels Conference & Expo

Ambassador Walker opened the second annual Eastern Biofuels Conference & Expo on May 31 in Budapest. The Conference focused on issues vital to the growth of the ethanol, bio-diesel and biomass industries throughout Europe. In his remarks, the Ambassador noted that fuels made from organic materials, such as sawmill waste and agricultural by-products, could meet 25 percent of the world's energy needs over the next 15-20 years.

International School Students Awarded for Short Stories

In a ceremony on May 24 at the American International School of Budapest, Ambassador Walker congratulated the twelve student winners for their awards in an American Short Story Contest. [More▶](#)



U.S. Girl Scouts Promote the U.S. at Children's Day Event

The local American Girl Scout troop represented the U.S. Embassy at the May 28 International Children's Day Fair conducted in the Budapest City Park. The Scouts gave out children's books, publications and CDs about America, and packages of brochures on the 50 States. [More▶](#)



Looking Ahead

Web forum with the U.S. Consul General

Stay tuned! On July 5, the Embassy is organizing a live online Hungarian-language web forum with Consul General Philip Skotte. More information to follow!

Choate Rosemary Hall Chamber Orchestra in Budapest

The Choate Rosemary Hall Chamber Orchestra and the Bartók Conservatoire Symphonic Orchestra will give a joint concert at 6 p.m. on June 14 at the aula of the Eötvös Loránd University (V. Egyetem ter 1-3) presenting Mozart selections. [More▶](#)



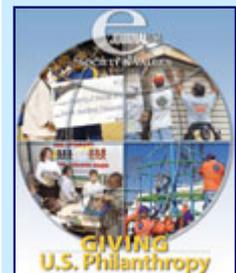
Eurosatory 2006 (Paris, June 12-16)

Around 100 U.S. exhibitors will showcase their latest equipment and products at the largest event in the world for land, land-air defense and security. Many of these cutting-edge companies are looking for agents, distributors and end-user. The U.S. Commercial Service can connect you with them. [More at the USCS web site▶](#)

New Publications

Electronic Journal: *Giving - U.S. Philanthropy*

This journal highlights several forms of giving and the activities of a wide variety of philanthropic organizations. It also contains valuable resources for those who want to learn about nonprofit management, grant writing, and other topics related to modern philanthropy. [E-Journal▶](#)



IRC Newsletter on Health Issues [Newsletter▶](#)

A publication by our Information Resource Center (IRC) with U.S. Government documents, think tank publications, and magazine articles.

In the News... from Washington

2006 Trafficking in Persons Report Released

The 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report, released on June 5, on over 150 countries is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons. Its findings will raise global awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons. [Report▶](#)

