



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

BUDAPEST NEWSLETTER

April 2008

Recently at the Embassy

Parliamentary Committees Discuss TI Report on Corruption



Parliament's European Affairs and Budget Committees held a joint session on April 8 to discuss a Transparency International (TI) report calling for a more determined fight against corruption with financial and political support. The fight against corruption should pay special attention to party and campaign financing and a review of public procurement regulations, said TI. Ambassador Foley, speaking on behalf of the countries that represent 85 percent of investments in Hungary, called for more transparency in the business environment and political support for the work of the anti-corruption committee.

(In the photo Minister of Justice Draskovics addresses press on April 4. To his left: Ambassador

Foley, to his right: Noémi Alexa, Executive Director of TI Hungary—MTI photo by L. Beliczay) [More▶](#)

Ambassador Addresses Women's Conference

On April 23, as part of her women's empowerment outreach, Ambassador Foley addressed a group of Hungarian students and alumnae at Mathias Corvinus Collegium during the *Successful Women—Career and Family in the 21st Century* conference. Ambassador Foley encouraged the conference participants to dream big dream, and to mentor others, as she shared her career experience and role as U.S. Ambassador to Hungary. [Ambassador's remarks▶](#)



Embassy Helps Open New Headquarters for Roma Self-Government

One of the U.S. Embassy's goals is to assist Hungarian government programs that help minorities and women reach their full potential as citizens of a democratic country. Ambassador Foley was pleased to attend the official opening of the new headquarters of the Roma Self-Government of Budapest on April 22.



In her remarks, the Ambassador hoped that the renewal of the Self-Government building would also bring renewed efforts to help Roma citizens become better integrated into the civic society of Hungary.

[More▶ Ambassador's remarks▶](#)

Earlier, USAID donated furnishings and equipment to help set-up the new office of the Roma Self-Government. The amount of property made it possible for the Roma Self-Government to furnish completely their new headquarters. [More▶](#)



Training Program Helps Promote Study in the U.S.

Ambassador Foley has engaged over 40 high school and university classes throughout Hungary on the value of spending a term of study in America. To assist the Ambassador's efforts, the Public Affairs Section funded a one-day training program on April 15 to promote study in the USA. The course, conducted by trainers from the Institute of International Education (IIE), brought together Hungarian university international relations officers, student advisors, and American Corner staff from all over the country. [More▶](#)

More Hungarian Teens to Study in U.S. With Embassy Grant

On April 12, Ambassador Foley opened the 15th Anniversary Gala of Youth for Understanding (YFU) to enthusiastic applause with the announcement of a Public Affairs Section challenge grant of \$10,000. The grant will match new donations as well as increases in financial support from established donors up to \$10,000. The Ambassador also presented YFU with an Ambassador's Award for Education Diplomacy for its contribution to mutual understanding both in education exchange and in encouraging voluntarism. [More▶](#)



Photo by László Pyszny

American Corners Introduced at ELTE American Evenings



At a roundtable discussion held in the frame of the Eötvös Loránd University's American Evenings (April 9-11), László Vizsy of the Cultural Affairs Office introduced the participants to the activities of the American Corners. He described how American Corners - in Debrecen, Eger, Pécs, and Veszprém - highlight and promote American culture and the United States in Hungary. At the same event, Kornélia Litkei of the Hungarian-American Fulbright Commission spoke about studying in the U.S. and the Fulbright scholarship.

[American Corners](#) ► [Fulbright](#) ►



Deputy Chief of Mission Presents Book Donation in Eger

Deputy Chief of Mission Jeffrey Levine presented the "American Bookshelf," a collection of recent books on American society, government and culture, to the American Studies Department of Eszterházy College in Eger on April 7. The Public Affairs Section chose and purchased the "American Bookshelf" to donate it to American Studies Departments of major colleges and universities around the country. After the donation ceremony in the local American Corner, Mr. Levine gave a presentation on the U.S. elections. [More](#) ►

U.S. Tankers in Budapest

The United States and Hungary worked jointly to provide military aircraft and infrastructure for the air policing mission Operation Noble Endeavor, in conjunction with the NATO Summit held from April 2 to April 4 in Bucharest. U.S. Air Force KC-135R Stratotankers temporarily based at Budapest's Ferihegy International Airport provided air refueling support to combat air patrols over the summit location, while Hungarians provided air traffic control and airspace management expertise to support the air policing mission. [More](#) ►

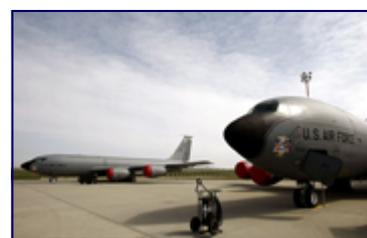


Photo courtesy of Viktor Veres

Ambassador's Talk With Students Highlights Goals of NATO Summit

[More](#) ►



Ambassador Foley visited University of Pannonia in Veszprém on March 31 to detail the goals of the NATO Bucharest Summit. The Ambassador first thanked Hungary for its valuable NATO contributions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kosovo, and for hosting a NATO C-17 support base to be constructed at Pápa. She emphasized that the U.S. and Hungary also shared some of the key goals of the Bucharest NATO Summit. During her trip to Veszprém, the Ambassador also visited the bilingual school in Balatonalmádi where she urged students to take advantage of the Education USA representative at the American Corner for assistance in preparing for a term of study in the U.S.

Embassy Award to Young American Jazz Virtuoso

Chargé d'Affaires Jeffrey Levine led a 10-person U.S. Embassy delegation to the March 28 opening of Kecskemét's International "Bohém" Ragtime & Jazz Festival. The featured performer was 12-year-old American violin virtuoso Jonathan Russell, to whom Chargé Levine presented the Ambassador's Award for Music Diplomacy. Russell joined Festival organizer, Tamás Ittész and his Bohém Ragtime Jazz Band in a program of early jazz music. The U.S. Embassy was pleased to be a co-sponsors of the Festival. [More](#) ►



View video: [mp4](#) | [wmv](#)

U. S. Synchronized Skating Teams Receive Embassy Awards

Two skating teams from the U.S. participated in the 2008 World Synchronized Skating Championship held in Budapest on March 28-29. The U.S. teams included the Haydenettes from Massachusetts, the current and 17-time U.S. Champions and the Redhawks, a team from Miami University, OH, the 2008 U.S. and 2007 World Silver Medalists. Ambassador Foley observed the two teams' official practice on March 27 and then met with the team members and their coaches to present them with the Ambassador's Award for Sports Diplomacy for the promotion of women in sports and for strengthening the bonds of friendship between the U.S. and Hungary through excellence in athletic performance and competition. [More](#) ►

Looking Ahead



Sacred Legacy - Edward S. Curtis and "The North American Indian"

The exhibition pays homage to the famed photographer and ethnographer Edward S. Curtis and will illustrate the broad and extraordinary diversity of North American tribes. The Embassy is glad to present - in cooperation with Millenáris - this collection of sixty museum-quality fine art photographic prints. Ambassador Foley will open the exhibition on May 28 at 18:00., which will be open through July 10 (daily 11:00-19:00, except Mondays). Venue: Millenáris, Red and Black Gallery (Budapest II, Fény u. 20-22). See more information about the images at the Library of Congress' [American Memory site](#)►

First Time in Hungary: American Folk Dance Ensemble

[Ensemble web site](#)►

Brigham Young University's American Folk Dance Ensemble from Provo, Utah, creates a colorful tapestry of the finest traditional music, costuming, and choreography to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the United States. The troupe includes musicians, singers, and dancers. In the second part of the program, the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble shows a selection of the rich folk tradition of the Carpathian Basin. When: April 30, 7p.m. Where: Hungarian Heritage House (Budapest I, Corvin tér 8)



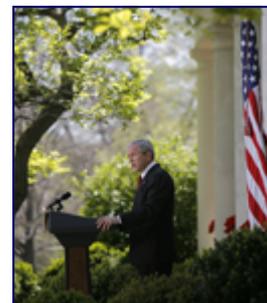
Summer Camp for Roma - Call for Applications

The Public Affairs Section of the Embassy will organize the „Summer Camp for Roma” program in Balatonlelle from July 26-August 2. The camp will host 35 primary school students and 7 teachers from a total of 7 schools in Hungary. The program will help teachers and students to increase their English as a foreign language skill, and will teach tolerance and mutual understanding. [More](#)►

In the News... from Washington

President Bush Discusses Climate Change

"Over the past seven years, my Administration has taken a rational, balanced approach to these serious challenges. We believe we need to protect our environment. We believe we need to strengthen our energy security. We believe we need to grow our economy. And we believe the only way to achieve these goals is through continued advances in technology." (04/16) *(White House photo by Noah Robinowitz)* [More](#)►



Newseum, the World's Most Interactive Museum Opens

[Newseum](#)►

The Newseum opened its doors to the public on April 11 in Washington, DC. With a focus on journalism and the profession's impact throughout history, the Newseum is dedicated to helping its visitors broaden their understanding of the role of the media and the rights and responsibilities that come with freedom of expression. *(Photo: Berlin Wall Gallery in the Newseum. Copyright © 2008 Newseum)*

New Publications

[eJournal](#)► [The Olympic Experience](#)

This issue celebrates the Olympics through the individual experiences and insights of athletes who share their memories of the Olympic Experience.

[Human Rights in Brief](#) [Publication](#)►

A brief introduction to the topic, with historical background and recent developments, for younger audience.

[2007 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices](#) [Report](#)►

The Hungarian translation of the report on Hungary is now available on our web site.

IRC Newsletters: [U.S. Society and Values](#)► [Environmental Issues](#)► [Defense Issues, NATO and Response to Terrorism](#)► [Information & Communication, E-Government & E-Commerce](#)►



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