



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

BUDAPEST NEWSLETTER

Recently at the Embassy

November 28, 2007



Dr. Robert Kagan, Second Distinguished Speaker, Addresses Trans-Atlantic Issues in Budapest

Noted American scholar and political commentator Dr. Robert Kagan visited Budapest November 19-20 as the second of the Distinguished Speaker Series of the Embassy. The highlight of his program was the keynote address on Trans-Atlantic Relations – The Return of History delivered to a packed auditorium at the Central European University.

During his two-day visit, Dr. Kagan gave a number of print and television interviews discussing the current international scene. He also met with Foreign Minister Kinga Göncz, two Parliamentary Committees, Foreign Affairs and EU Affairs, and had lunch with the Foreign Policy Advisory Board.



Embassy Celebrates International Education Week (November 12-16)

During her trip to Kaposvár on November 13, Ambassador Foley visited the Táncsics High School and encouraged students to consider the benefits of a term of study in the United States. [More▶](#)

In a ceremony on November 15, Deputy Chief of Mission Jeffrey Levine presented the Embassy's book donation to the American Studies library at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. [More▶](#)

The three American Corners in Pécs, Veszprém and Debrecen also conducted program activities related to International Education Week. [More▶](#)



Ambassador Foley Speaks on Climate Change [More▶](#) [Speech▶](#)

"Kyoto and Beyond: Can Europe and the United States Find Common Ground on Meeting the Challenge?" This was the question Ambassador Foley answered with an emphatic Yes in her speech to NATO's Advanced Research Workshop on Energy and Environmental Challenges to Security.

Defense Minister Szekeres and Ambassador Foley at Pápa Air Base

On November 18, Defense Minister Imre Szekeres in a press conference at the Pápa Air Base announced that it had been selected to base three C-17 cargo aircraft within the framework of NATO's Strategic Airlift Capability initiative. In her remarks Ambassador Foley noted how this decision opens up further opportunities for the air base and the town of Pápa, and that it reflects the fact that NATO members consider Hungary a valuable, capable and trustworthy partner. [More▶](#)



Preventing Gender Violence: Embassy Seeks Broad Cooperation

In response to Secretary Rice's request to mark November 25-December 10 as 16 Days Against Gender Violence, Ambassador Foley visited the Hungarian NGO *Women for Kaposvár* on November 13. Together with Minister of Welfare and Labor Mónika Lamperth, the Ambassador outlined the joint activities that the Embassy and the Hungarian government will conduct from November 26-30 to help to prevent and treat this social problem. [More▶](#)



World Science Forum Held in Budapest

The 3rd World Science Forum convened in Budapest November 8-10 with the overarching theme "Investing in Knowledge: Investing in the Future." Representing the United States at the Forum were Ambassador April H. Foley, the Director of the National Science Foundation, Dr. Arden Bement and the CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Dr. Alan Leshner. [More▶](#)



(Photo courtesy of MTA)

Ambassador Emphasizes Importance of Trans-Atlantic Cooperation

At the invitation of Mayor János Lázár, Ambassador Foley visited Hódmezővásárhely on October 31. The Ambassador discussed both local and international questions with the Mayor, who also serves as the chair of Parliament's Committee on Defense and Law Enforcement. Accompanied by Tibor Navracsics, head of Fidesz's Parliamentary Faction, Ambassador Foley also met with members of the Hódmezővásárhely City Council and representatives of local organizations. [More▶](#)





Embassy Hosts Video Conference on Cuba's Democratic Transition

From Washington on November 5, Mr. Caleb McCarry, the State Department's Cuba Transition Coordinator, engaged in a spirited discussion with representatives of the youth sections of four Hungarian parliamentary parties in Budapest. [More▶](#)

Roundtable on U.S. Presidential Primaries with American Analyst [More▶](#)

Mr. Joseph Grandmaison, a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Export-Import Bank, and a life-long observer and participant in American elections, on October 29 conducted a fascinating roundtable on the upcoming U.S. presidential elections for members of the Hungarian media who will be covering this event in the coming year.



Ambassador Foley, in Lone Star State, Woos Big Business for Hungary



From October 17-19, Ambassador Foley - together with Finance Minister János Veres, Deputy Economy Minister Ábel Garamhegyi, Hungarian Ambassador to the U.S. Ferenc Somogyi, ITDH President György Rétfalvi, Senior Commercial Officer Patricia Gonzalez, and AmCham CEO Péter Fát, among others - traveled to Texas to discuss with business executives trade and investment opportunities in Hungary. The three-stop program included Houston, Austin and Dallas. While in Houston, Ambassador Foley met with former U.S. President George H.W. Bush. [More▶](#)

Web Highlights

U.S. Elections: Guide to the 2008 Elections

A comprehensive web portal by USINFO, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs: candidates, issues, election calendar, glossary, FAQ, as well as videos, podcast and blog. [U.S. Elections▶](#)



Web Sites Offer Insights Into Two Museums Still Under Construction

Visit Freedom Forum's *Newseum*, the Interactive Museum of News on the web: news history, virtual exhibitions, interactive newsroom, photos and much more. The [Newseum▶](#) will open in 2008. The *Museum on the Web* is the online experience of the new National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). Memories of ordinary Americans are presented as text, images, and audio uploads in the virtual Memory Book where web site visitors are encouraged to submit their own histories, thoughts and ideas. [NMAAHC▶](#)

New Publications

eJournal: *Rethinking International Aid*

This issue describes how U.S. foreign aid — directed through government and faith-based organizations, through individuals, businesses, and a multiplicity of partnerships — has developed, how it fits into foreign affairs, and how it is related to advancing altruistic objectives. [eJournal▶](#)



USA Map with Facts in Brief

This publications contains basic information on the economy, national holidays, sports and entertainment, transportation and communication, geography and environment, population, education, and the government of the United States. [Publication▶](#)



IRC Newsletters: [Economic Issues▶](#) [Environmental Issues▶](#) [U.S. Society and Values▶](#)

In the News... from Washington

Internationalizing U.S. Campuses Benefits Students

Increasingly, U.S. colleges and universities are making efforts to internationalize their campuses by welcoming more students from other countries and collaborating with international institutions on study abroad and other programs. [More▶](#)



(Photo: George Mason University)

Young People Run for Office Seeking to Affect Policy [More▶](#)

While young Americans often are criticized for not voting, many are showing that young people can be political leaders despite their age. Sam Rasoul (26), a Democratic candidate for Congress in western Virginia, sees his campaign as an opportunity to talk to students. "If they can see someone from their own generation ... trying to become involved ... maybe that can be a source of inspiration for them," he said.