

5th Edition; 6/12/2007



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Dear Transatlantic Program Alumni,

You may have already read about the Transatlantic Program 2007 participants on our homepage. The 25 participants just completed the Immersion Seminar, which took place in Berlin, Hamburg and Rostock from May 19 through May 29, 2007.

On Saturday, May 19, the group came together in Berlin for the first time for a briefing and to get to know each other.



The Transatlantic Program 2007 group at the East Side Gallery in Berlin

Although many students had to fight jetlags, everybody was excited to start their first day, which was packed with information about Germany and Berlin, as well as a guided tour through the metropolis of Berlin, and topped off by a visit to the Reichstag. Monday and Tuesday were filled with German language classes in the morning and informative lectures and meetings with representatives from the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMW), DaimlerChrysler AG, and the Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt).

On Wednesday the Transatlantic Group went on a daytrip to the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. After a bus tour through the Container Harbor, one of the world's largest seaports and a gateway to international trade, the students learned more about Hafencity, the modern redevelopment on Hamburg's waterfront.

After another intensive language class again led by Helga Kraft, professor at UIC and her team of teaching assistants, Jutta Behnen and Ingo Fehrmann, the Jewish Museum provided a deep insight into Jewish history with the lecture "The Jewish Response to National Socialism" in the afternoon.



Networking event with German students of the Technical University of Berlin

The second daytrip during the Immersion Seminar took the TAP group to Rostock on Friday. Renewable energies were the main topic throughout the day, so on-site visits to a wind power plant as well as to a biodiesel plant fit well with this theme.

Saturday started with another impressive experience: A guided tour through the former East German Ministry of State Security (MfS) prison in Berlin-Hohenschönhausen, which some of you may already know from the Oscar-winning movie "The Lives of Others" (Das Leben der Anderen). The students watched this impressive film as part of their preparations for the Transatlantic Program.

The evening was full of music: Die Zauberflöte was performed at the "Deutsche Oper Berlin" and it was a breathtaking experience for the students.

The Intercultural Seminar on Sunday helped the TAP participants to work through the impressions they gained over the week and to prepare some more for the upcoming internship experience in Germany.

The last day of the Transatlantic Program Immersion Seminar started with a de-briefing, a presentation of the TAP Alumni Network as well as the Alumni Network Community platform. Then the group visited Schloss Charlottenburg.

Before heading off to their internships the next day, the group spent a final social event together.

We are really excited to hear about the experiences at the students' internships which all started on June 1st. We will continue reporting...



Presentation by representatives of DaimlerChrysler AG

News from Transatlantic Program Alumni Community

Thank you very much for all your helpful tips announced by your Co-President Eric Bartling on the Transatlantic Program Alumni Website (www.alumni.transatlanticprogram.org). The great new forum postings show restaurants, bars, shopping facilities and a lot of other important things that you got to know during your internships and that you wouldn't want anyone to miss.

If you would like to post more suggestions for the TAP 2007, please don't hesitate to log on to the Alumni Website and post tips about your internship cities. Eric already told you, but once again, these are this year's internship cities: Berlin, Herzogenaurach, Mannheim, Münster, Berlin, Frankfurt am Main, Düsseldorf, Reken, Darmstadt, Saarbrücken, Kreuztal-Krombach, Würzburg, Heroldsberg, Recklinghausen, Hannover, Mülheim an der Ruhr, Hamburg, Eschborn.

As in every Newsletter, we encourage you to send us your feedback, ideas, photos, and news for the next newsletter!

Tell us about your German-related activities at your college or university, in your current job or how you spend your leisure time. What have you done since your Transatlantic Program experience to promote German-American relations? Your input is not only interesting for us personally, but it is also important to help keep this unique opportunity for US students running in the future. Please send your feedback to Sabine Klensch at klensch@gaccomm.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Your GACCoM Team!