20th Anniversary Delegation in Eutin

A delegation of 18 Lawrencians traveled to Eutin, Germany, May 29-June 2, 2009, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Sister City partnership. Five days of events provided the opportunity for creating new friendships and renewing old ones.

At an initial get-together in the Eutin brewery on May 29, Friends of Lawrence welcomed the delegation and presented each participant a commemorative polo shirt with the Eutin-Lawrence sister city logo. Eutin city officials then welcomed Lawrence representatives to city hall at noon, Saturday, May 30, 2009. Mike Dever, former Lawrence mayor, and Eutin Bürgermeister Klaus-Dieter Schulz delivered warm greetings and expressions of appreciation for the sister city relationship and all of the positive outcomes it has fostered. The eighteen Lawrence representatives were invited to sign the Golden Guest Book, while a full room of well-wishers chatted and shared refreshments until it was time to walk to the Schleswig-Holstein County Library for the next event.

At 1:30 pm, the delegates and their hosts were welcomed by the Head Librarian, Erika Hofmann, to the opening of a photo exhibit, “Kansas Color Fields” by Carolyn Young, a Lawrence photographer. Mrs. Hofmann told a charming story of receiving a suggestion to host an exhibit of Kansas Landscape photography. She explained that she was somewhat perplexed, given her impression of Kansas as a rather flat, featureless place, by what might be worthy of landscape photography. However, once she saw some representative photos, she quickly realized that Kansas was not a featureless place, but rather a beautiful, richly varied land of brilliant and striking contrasts. After a second delicious round of refreshments, the guests moved to the second floor of the library to admire Carolyn’s excellent photography. Pianist Thomas Goralcyk provided background music after performing an original composition inspired by Carolyn’s photography.

Following the exhibit opening, many of the Lawrence Delegation walked to the nearby Eutin castle for a guided tour of this impressive museum. The guide described the history of the Schloss and its role in the life of the city and county, and led the group through many of its rooms filled with artwork and exhibits. After the tour, the participants dispersed to shop or to get to know their host families.

Sunday dawned bright, clear, cool, and very pleasant. The delegates and many of their hosts gathered at the train station to ride the train to Lübeck for a tour of this historic city led by Martin Vollertsen, chair of Friends of Lawrence and former Eutin police chief. They walked a short distance from the Lübeck train station to one of the most well-known landmarks in the city, the Holsten City Gate. The group toured the gate building, which has been expertly converted to a city museum, and then agreed to separate into smaller groups and visit the old city on their own. The attractions included the Church of Our Lady (Marienkirche); Café Niederegger (home of the world famous marzipan confections), the shopping district, and the cool banks of the Trave River that surrounds the city.

Monday was a busy day for the Lawrence delegation. Meeting once again at the train station, members boarded a tour bus at 9:00 am for a daylong tour of the area. The tour started at the Slavic Museum at Oldenburg, approximately 40 km northeast of Eutin. The Slavic Museum features extensive exhibits replicating typical homes in the village of Starigard a Wagrien settlement that was founded in the seventh century. The village wall, an earthen embankment that is at places 18 meters tall, still surrounds the site of Starigard.
Back on the bus for a short trip to Neustadt, we had lunch in a pleasant restaurant overlooking the harbor and the Baltic Sea. The next destination was a guided tour of one of the cemeteries on the beach near the site of the Cap Arcona disaster. The Cap Arcona was one of a small fleet of ships assembled by the Nazis in the bay of Lübeck. It held more than 10,000 prisoners of 28 nationalities transferred from concentration camps. On May 3, 1945, four days before the unconditional surrender of Germany, the British RAF attacked the ships as part of a general attack on shipping in the Baltic, unaware that they contained prisoners. The Cap Arcona capsized, killing 4150 of the 5000 people onboard. Approximately 5000 people died in the attack and are buried in cemeteries around the bay. After a final tour of an historic 12th century Vicelin Church, St. Laurentius, in Süsel, we drove to a small lake. We were treated to homemade cakes and coffee in a tent along the shore. Entertainment was provided by skiers being towed around the lake without any boats in sight. It was a beautiful day for skiing, but not one person in our party gave it a try!

On Tuesday the delegation visited two schools, first the Johann Heinrich Voss Gymnasium, led by the principal, Dr. Jürgen-Malte Küster, then the Carl-Maria-von Weber Gymnasium, led by Iris Portius. We were able to observe several classes in each: English, math, and sciences at the Voss School, and social studies and 7th grade home room at the Weber School.

The final formal event was a German-American Banquet at the Restaurant Schlossterrassen near the castle. Over 150 guests enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres, fine company, and fun Low-German musical entertainment from a four-piece band. Final speeches by a representative of the U.S. consulate in Hamburg, former mayor Dever, and Mayor Schulz were followed by the presentation of gifts to the principals of both Eutin schools that have been hosting KU students and the high school exchanges. A wonderful time was had by all, and the event was a fitting culmination to this delightful visit.

Phyllis Farrar
The German-American Banquet, June 2, 2009 celebrated 20 years of Sister City partnership between Eutin and Lawrence. Sister Cities Advisory Board members attending in Eutin were Kelly Herndon and Michael Kennedy, pictured here with Kennedy’s hosts for the week. Left to right: Herndon, Jens Knauer, Kennedy, and Karla Knauer.

Marking a friendship of 20 years, Nancy Albrecht, Lawrence, and Susanne Kühner, Eutin reenact a handshake that took place when Nancy accompanied Lawrence High exchange students and Susanne hosted her at the Weber Gymnasium in 1991. Albrecht currently serves as co-president of Friends of Eutin with her husband Ken. Kühner helps with exchanges each year through the Friends of Lawrence. The sign marks the city boundary of Eutin, Germany.

The three youngest members of the Lawrence delegation to Eutin enjoyed the festivities of the German-American Friendship banquet on June 2. They are (left to right): Rinny Herndon, Kate Albrecht, and Ivy Herndon. The Herndons are daughters of Sister City Advisory Board member Kelly Herndon. Kate is the daughter of Ken and Nancy Albrecht, Co-Chair of Friends of Eutin.

Linda Hyler, center, enjoys the hospitality of her German hosts at the German-American Friendship banquet on June 2 in Eutin. Hyler, vice-president of the Lawrence Sister City Advisory Board stayed with Gisele (left) and Toni (right) Schöfer. The Schöfers lived in Lawrence for six weeks during a high school student exchange in the fall of 1997.
Several articles appeared in the Eutin and regional papers about the anniversary celebrations and the delegation visit.

A report appeared also in the Journal World by John Niccum on June 12. His article focused on the photo exhibit. We present excerpts from that article.

“Carolyn Young’s ‘Returning to Kansas’ was taken in Ruleton, near the Colorado border. . . . [She] was making the arduous drive back to Kansas from Colorado . . . ."

“Fire Dance,” a view of a sunset at Clinton Lake.

“Konza Light in June,” taken on the Konza Prairie.

. . . That Kansas brand of “majestic beauty” is now being seen internationally, thanks to a showcase of her photos taking place in Lawrence’s sister city of Eutin, Germany.

“I love to do close-ups. I love nature and landscapes. One of my favorite places to be is in the Flint Hills and the Konza because there are such good hiking trails there,” she says. Although the Chicago-area native had previously lived in Germany, she was unable to attend the show’s May 30 opening. (It runs through June 23.) But her bold colors and stark contrasts have apparently gone over well with the locals. Young’s contribution is just one of many artistic exchanges to take place this year between the cities.

Celebrating Twenty Years of Partnership in Lawrence
Welcoming the Official Delegation from Eutin

Joachim Meseck, president of the Eutin City Council (Bürgervorsteher)
Martin and Marion Vollersten, chair, Friends of Lawrence
Jürgen-Malte Küster, principal, Johann-Heinrich-Voss-School
Helmut Scheewe, past chair, Friends of Lawrence and Hella Scheewe
Bernd Ditscher, deputy chair, Friends of Lawrence, and Anke Ditscher,
Andreas Lietzke, treasurer, City of Eutin
Hans-Wilhelm Hagen, President, Volksbank Eutin
Ingo Ditscher, member, Friends of Lawrence
Jasper Peschel, student, high school

Program

Wednesday, September 30
Evening: Welcome Reception

Thursday, 1 October
Morning: Community Nursery School and Van Go Mobile Arts
Afternoon: Cottonwood, Inc.

Friday, 2 October
Morning: Lawrence High School and Lawrence Free State High School
Afternoon: Bishop Seabury Academy and Max Kade Center for German-American Studies – (coffee and cake reception)

Saturday, 3 October: Day Excursion by charter bus Council Grove and the Kaw Mission Historic Site; light lunch at Hays House in Council Grove Tall Grass Prairie Preserve. Dinner in the Grand Hotel Grill in Cottonwood Falls

Sunday, 4 October: Opportunity to serve Sunday lunch with LINK
Evening: 20th Anniversary Farewell Dinner

Contact wkeel@ku.edu for further information.

The 2009 KU Summer Program
The KU Study Abroad summer program for Eutin, now in existence since 1966, also had a role in the celebrations of the anniversary in Eutin. The program director was Rex Clark, and the students in his group were Jesse Cruce, Ryan Dowell, Michael Gillaspie, Hunter Knox, David Manke, David Owens, Aaron Pendergrass, Crystal Propiescus, Lindsay Thornberg, Sharon Wang, Colby Wissel, and Georger Xie. Their excursions included Hamburg, Lübeck, Kiel, Schwerin, Berlin, Badenheim, and Munich.

Lawrence-Eutin Intern Exchanges
The Lawrence delegation gave special recognition this summer to the Eutin Savings Bank (Sparkasse) for hosting KU interns for the past ten years. This summer the internship program expanded. Lawrence sent Shane Billig to work at the Sparkasse, Andrew Toth to the Volksbank, and Lauren Keith to serve at the Eutin newspaper Ostholsteiner Nachrichten as a journalism intern.

Christian Sachau, Intern in Lawrence in 2008
On September 10, 2008, Mike Belt of the Journal World wrote about his experience at Intrust Bank, University National Bank, Douglas County National Bank, and Peoples Bank. We include excerpts from that article.

“...Christian Sachau, a University of Hamburg student who just finished a six-week internship working at Lawrence banks. “...The American banking system...is much more competitive and better at advertising and marketing, Sachau said. And more Americans are moving more toward electronic banking,” he said.

Sachau, 25, applied for an internship through his hometown of Eutin’s Sister City exchange program with Lawrence. ... The subprime mortgage crisis in the United States has had a minimal impact on the German financial system, Sachau said. German banks that have been affected are ones that bought bad home loans from this country.

...Sachau’s bank is helping pay for his college education, and in return, he works for them during school breaks.
Sachau also signed a contract committing him to three years of employment at the bank after he graduates.

“I’m interested in corporate finance,” Sachau said. “I don’t know exactly what I want to do, but I do want to stay in the banking business.”

Christian sent us an article he wrote for the Sparkasse journal of Eutin. He was grateful for the opportunity to be in Lawrence and considered the experience valuable for his future.

Eutin-Lawrence Guitar Exchange

This summer two members of the Lawrence Guitar Quartet, Marc Gruenberg and Morgan Bahn, performed together with the Carl Maria von Weber Orchestra. They presented joint concerts in several cities in Northern Germany. We show below one of the several articles that appeared in Eutin about these concerts.
The Eutin Guitar Orchestra Returns to Lawrence, October 4-12.

Andreas van Zoest and his young guitar players will be guests of Friends of Eutin again. They will perform at the KU campus, at Washburn University, Baker University, and Marysville. On Sunday, October 12, at 2:00 p.m. at the Lawrence Arts Center, the Lawrence Guitar Quartet will join the Eutin group to present a concert of works by Bach, Vivaldi, Mozart, Weber, and Telemann.

The members of the Lawrence Guitar Quartet are Morgen Bahn, Bob Cross, Marc L. Greenberg and Gary Reich.

The Eutin orchestra will be represented by Sandra Flessau, Julia Schwill-Engelhardt, Hannah Krüger, Inken Koch, Sophia Redöhl, Janine Siewert, Britta Wittchow, and Jonas Damm.

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767), Konzert D-Dur

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Doppelkonzert D-Moll, BWV 1043

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
Serenade-Eine kleine Nachtmusik, K. 525

Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826) Rondo F-Dur

Antonio Vivaldi (1687-1741)
Konzert für Gitarre und Orchester D-Dur

The windmill is one of the numerous historic sights in Eutin. It is sad that Lawrence, shown below in 1895, which also had an impressive windmill, lost it in a fire.
A report of 1895: “This quaint old structure stands upon a hill overlooking Lawrence. It is the only one of its kind and size in
the United States, and is an object of interest to thousands of visitors who annually visit the Historic City. It is a landmark which
is cherished by the citizens of the town, more especially by the old residents. It was built in 1863, the year of the raid, at a cost
of $9,700, by twelve skilled workmen brought over from Sweden for the purpose. It is of true Holland style, and is an unusually
large windmill. The foundation is forty feet across, the revolving cap in the dome being twenty feet in diameter. The arms are
forty feet in length, the sails, or wing boards, being ten feet in width. With the wind blowing at twenty miles an hour the
capacity of the mill was eighty horse power. It is four stories high, and was originally used for grinding wheat and corn. Later it
was used as a machine shop, for the manufacture of farm implements. It made its last run in July, 1885. It has been purchased by
the Associated Charities of Lawrence, and will eventually be made a museum and place of historic resort.”