AmCham Austria Präsident und Hilton Country General Manager Norbert B. Lessing lud rund 60 Manager zum ersten Business Lunch im neuen Jahr in das Otto Wagner Schützenhaus ein. Als Gast begrüßte er Alejandro Plater, der als CEO seit September 2015 die Geschicke der Telekom Austria Group leitet.

**Goods and Services Deficit Down**

The U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, through the Department of Commerce, announced that the goods and services deficit was $42.4 billion in November, down $2.2 billion from $44.6 billion in October, revised.

November exports were $182.2 billion, $1.6 billion less than October exports. November imports were $224.6 billion, $5.8 billion less than October imports.

**Unemployment Rateunchanged**

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 292,000 in December, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.0 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Employment gains occurred in several industries, led by professional and business services, construction, health care, and food services and drinking places. Mining employment continued to decline.

**GDP increased**

Real gross domestic product - the value of the production of goods and services in the United States, adjusted for price changes - increased at an annual rate of 2.0 percent in the third quarter of 2015, according to the “third” estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. In the second quarter, real GDP increased 3.9 percent.

**Consumer Price decreased**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) declined 0.1 percent in December on a seasonally adjusted basis, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Over the last 12 months, the all items index increased 0.7 percent before seasonal adjustment.

**The Conference Board Leading Economic Index®**

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. declined 0.2 percent in December to 123.7 (2010 = 100), following a 0.5 percent increase in both November and October.

“The U.S. LEI fell slightly in December, led by a drop in housing permits and weak new orders in manufacturing,” said Ataman Ozyildirim, Director of Business Cycles and Growth Research at The Conference Board. “However, the index continues to suggest moderate growth in the near-term despite the economy losing some momentum at the end of 2015. While the LEI’s growth rate has been on the decline, it’s too early to interpret this as a substantial rise in the risk of recession.”

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Bank Gutmann

Best Wealth Managers 2016: Austrian banks in top ranks - Gutmann again best private bank in Austria

Providers of private banking services based in Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg outperform German competitors on quality. This is the conclusion drawn by Private Banking Prüfinstanz (PBPI) from its current market test. In the contest for the title of Best Wealth Manager 2016 (Fuchsbriefe-Test), Bank Gutmann came out on top again in Austria and took bronze in the overall ranking for the German-speaking countries. Gutmann’s Salzburg branch also passed the test successfully.

Gebrüder Weiss

Gebrüder Weiss presents logistics solutions for e-commerce and the high-tech industry at the LogiMAT 2016

Between 8 and 10 March, the international transport and logistics company will be attending the LogiMAT logistics trade fair in Stuttgart with its own stand. It will be showcasing the full Gebrüder Weiss service portfolio, ranging from national and international road transport and logistics solutions to international air and sea freight services. The transport expert will be placing particular focus on presenting its established network of branches along the former Silk Road, from Eastern Europe via Turkey and Georgia to China.

One of the extra special highlights at this year’s event is the talk “eCommerce at Gebrüder Weiss, tailored all-in-one service” by Chaim Huijsman, Head of Corporate Sales at Gebrüder Weiss.

FedEx

Stop Hunger Now and FedEx Employees Team Up to Package 100,000 Meals on MLK Day of Service

An estimated 500 FedEx employees across 10 cities teamed up with ‘Stop Hunger Now’ in January to package meals for the world’s hungry in recognition of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. of Service.

This is the third year FedEx has worked with Stop Hunger Now to orchestrate the nationwide event and provide employees with an opportunity to honor Dr. King’s legacy through service.

“Volunteerism is an integral part of the FedEx culture, and we are proud to mark Dr. King’s birthday by supporting Stop Hunger Now,” said Rose Flenery, manager, FedEx Global Citizenship. “Our team members are committed to making an impact in communities where we live and work.”

IBM

IBM First in Patents for 23rd Consecutive Year

IBM has once again topped the list of annual U.S. patent recipients, receiving 7,355 patents in 2015.

IBM’s 2015 patent results represent a diverse range of inventions as well as a strong and growing focus on cognitive solutions and the cloud platform as the company positions itself for leadership in a new era of computing.

“During IBM’s 23 years atop the patent list, the company’s inventors have received more than 88,000 U.S. patents. IBM’s investments in R&D continue to shape the future of computing through cognitive computing and the cloud platform that will help our clients drive transformation across multiple industries,” said Ginni Rometty, IBM’s chairman, president and CEO. “IBM’s patent leadership demonstrates our unparalleled commitment to the fundamental R&D necessary to drive progress in business and society.”

Schoellerbank

Schoellerbank takes first place in the asset manager test of Germany’s Elite Report for the 4th time in a row

From a total of 360 asset managers in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, only 44 banks can truly be recommended, according to the Germany’s Elite Report.

Once again, the Schoellerbank took top honours among the Austrian banks. During challenging times on the financial markets, the choice of a partner that is well suited to one’s investment needs is more important than ever. As the largest and most comprehensive industry test of its kind, the Elite Report is a very helpful guide. Independent experts act as test customers in a comprehensive process, evaluating hundreds of asset managers in the German-speaking countries, from the initial consultation right through to the investment itself.
Culture

Launch of the Salon Am Hof Concert Series at the Park Hyatt Vienna

Sonostream.tv GmbH has brought the 18th-century high-society salon back to life for you and invites you to the unique and elegant setting of the ‘Grand Salon’ at the Park Hyatt Vienna to experience song recitals and chamber music with internationally renowned and up-and-coming artists. The motto is ‘sensory exclusivity.’ The uniqueness of the private setting, the acoustic attributes of the hall and the musical quality of the artists are all at the highest level, making for an unforgettable evening.

Next Concerts:
Sunday, February 14th, 04.00 pm
Internationally renowned baritone Michael Volle sings F. Schubert’s Winterreise (Helmut Deutsch, piano)

Sunday, March 27th, 04.00 pm
Up-and coming South Korean soprano Sumi Hwang (Winner of the Grand Prize of the Queen Elisabeth Competition for Voice 2014) and Helmut Deutsch: Works by S. Rachmaninov, F. Liszt, R. Strauss, etc.

Tickets: €75
Amcham members: 20% off tickets
Special early booker discount: March 27th concert ONLY: 2 for the price of 1 if booked by March 1st.
Please reserve your seats via email or phone:
email: info@salonamhof.com
phone: +43 699 11 70 07 39
More info: www.salonamhof.com

Promoter: Sonostream.tv (Samantha Farber)

Groupie
by Arnold Wesker

January 18th – February 20th
Vienna’s English Theatre
1080 Vienna

Matty Beancourt, a life-affirming, slightly naive woman in her late fifties, lives alone in a small town near London. When she reads the autobiography of famous painter Mark Gorman, who grew up in the same East End streets as she, she becomes so enthused by his childhood memories that she decides to write to him. Matty adamantly keeps writing and a correspondence develops with the moody artist. When she spontaneously decides to pay him a surprise visit, she discovers that her idol isn’t the shining star she held him to be and leads a far less glamorous life she imagined. A difficult friendship starts to blossom between these two diverging characters and their impact upon each other is startling. Groupie is a charming and touching play about affection and friendship, dreams and hopes in those past the “prime of their life.”

SUPER BOWL 2016
Carolina Panthers vs. Denver Broncos

February 7th, 08.15 pm
live on Puls4

Super Bowl 50 will be hosted on February 7, 2016 in the City of Santa Clara at the state-of-the-art Levi’s® Stadium, which is the greenest and most technologically advanced professional football stadium in the United States.
It’s been confirmed that Coldplay will be the act to take on the massive Super Bowl halftime show performance for 2016 and they’ve got none other than Beyoncé joining them for their performance too!
AmCham Talks with André Eckert on the topic „From Free Internet to Tracking & Data Privacy“
CALIFORNIAN MBA IN AUSTRIA
IBSA OFFERS A SCHOLARSHIP

The MBA program offered by IBSA in cooperation with CLU University California targets persons who are in a job and want to study in parallel. The 15 courses of this MBA program are delivered in Blended-Learning format at 3 locations in Austria within a period of only 15 months.

The program is made up of 3 elements: Seven courses are organized face-to-face, each delivered over one intensive weekend in Graz, Vienna or Linz. So there is a total number of only 7 weekends during 15 months. Six courses are organized online using CLU’s award winning e-Learning platform. Each of these online-courses takes 8 weeks and includes a weekly live-session in a virtual class room with the instructor from California. Two courses are delivered during a final 2-week study trip to Thousand Oaks, California (USA). This study trip includes extra-curricular events such as guest speakers, company visits and field trips. Additionally, you will celebrate your graduation together with approximately 500 campus-based students in Thousand Oaks.

Next start: February 2016
For more information visit www.ibsa.co.at.
IBSA offers a scholarship of € 15,000.
Application until February 5th, 2016 via email to: office@ibsa.co.at

GREITER PEGGER KOFLER & PARTNERS, INNSBRUCK
DR. JOSEF GREITER AWARD

Applications open for Dr. Josef Greiter Award in the amount of € 6,000
The lawfirm of Greiter Pegger Kofler & Partners, Innsbruck, once again announce the Dr Josef Greiter Award, named after the law office’s founder. This is done in cooperation with the University of Innsbruck.
The award, valued at € 6,000, distinguishes jurisprudential papers that are significant and beneficial to facilitate the practice of the profession of a lawyer. For example, papers may concern:

- negotiation skills for lawyers
- lawyers’ strategies for civil proceedings
- lawyers’ strategies for criminal proceedings
- the relevance of a final pleading for a judge’s decision
- lawyers’ strategies for administrative proceedings
- the lawyer as mediator
- settlement negotiations to avoid court proceedings, etc.
- interacting with clients
- marketing for lawyers
- office management
- partners and associates in law firms

In particular, master theses and dissertations are also eligible for application.
The deadline for the submission of applications is February 29th, 2016.
For more details, please see: www.lawfirm.at/ctgpk/uploads/Auslobung-greiter-preis.pdf

Please send applications to the Dean of the Law Faculty of the University of Innsbruck, Innrain 52, 6020 Innsbruck.
**David Christian Bauer**


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**Stefan Frank**


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**Barbara Fürchtegott**

hat die PR-Agenden bei Wolf Theiss übernommen, wo sie die internationale Kommunikation verantwortet.

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**Gijs Klomp**

übernahm mit 1. Jänner 2016 die Position des Head of Investment Properties für Zentral- und Osteuropa bei CBRE.

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**Jakob Pommer**

ist neuer Anwalt bei DORDA BRUGGER JORDIS. Der Experte für Mergers & Acquisitions und Kapitalmarktrecht verstärkt das Team für Public M&A und Kapitalmarktrecht.

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**Richard Rella**


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**Peter Schiefer**

ist seit 1. Jänner 2016 neuer Geschäftsführer und Hälfteeigentümer von Das Kommunikationshaus Bad Aussee Value Added Management GmbH.

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**Thomas Zottl**

wurde zum neuen geschäftsführenden Partner von Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer ernannt.