AATG-MI Annual Spring Meeting and Workshop!

Saturday, April 28, 2011
Wayne State University

Pennylyn Dykstra-Pruim

presenting:
"Model-based writing: How to Motivate, Enable and Improve Writing at Every Level."

The event is free to our members, but be sure to register for the event by April 8 at mark.ferguson@wayne.edu

Include your name, address, phone number and school in the email.
Liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen!

It is an honor to begin my term as president of the Michigan chapter of the AATG. I am very excited to work with and for you and hope we can increase our membership and programmatic activities over the next two years.

On behalf of the entire chapter, I would like to express my appreciation to Melissa King-Polinelli for her excellent service as vice-president and president over the past four years. Vielen Dank Melissa! After our fall business meeting, Monica Norton from Mason High School was elected as our new Vice President. She will serve a two-year term as VP and will then continue as President for two years. Herzlich Willkommen Monica!

I hope to involve everyone to keep our chapter vibrant by encouraging non-member colleagues to join the AATG, both at the national and state level. We all need to work together to keep German education alive and well in this country! A first step would be to bring a colleague to our 2012 AATG-MI Spring Workshop and Business Meeting on Saturday, April 28 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm with a luncheon and National German Exam Awards Ceremony to follow. Once again, the meeting will be hosted by the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at Wayne State University and is made possible by the Uwe K. Faulhaber Endowment for Applied German Studies. This year we are fortunate to have our own Dr. Pennylyn Dykstra-Prium from Calvin College conduct a workshop on “Model-based Writing. How to Motivate, Enable, and Improve Writing at Every Level” (SB-CEUs pending, please check our website for more information). Penny will introduce key ideas from current, innovative writing pedagogy and help us reflect, analyze, and plan how we can each improve some aspect of writing in our programs or classes. With a combination of good background knowledge and a sharing of best ideas, this workshop can help both the new and the seasoned teacher improve the writing process and products in their German languages courses. Wayne State’s Junior Year in Munich will provide each school or institution represented at the workshop with a complimentary copy of Schreiben lernen. A Writing Guide for Learners of German (Yale University Press, 2012). The workshop is free for AATG-MI members (the $5.00 AATG-MI annual fee can be paid at the workshop) and includes lunch and even accommodation at the lovely Inn on Ferry Street for participants traveling more than two hours to Wayne State. The registration deadline is April 8. For more information and to register, please go to our website at http://bit.ly/AATGMIspring2012 or contact Mark Ferguson at mark.ferguson@wayne.edu.

During the luncheon, we will honor Michigan students (and their teachers) who scored 90% or higher on the 2011 National German Exam. This year 74 Michigan students achieved this prestigious score. Those students were eligible to apply for the AATG-PAD Study Trip to Germany, and testing chair Mitchell Place reports that we had 14 applicants for the trip. Telephone interviews were completed in February and the names of 3 finalists sent to National on March 7. This year, National awarded us the opportunity to submit an extra applicant, which is solely due to the large number of kids in our chapter who took the test - 893 (!). Thanks to all teachers for this tremendous achievement. Many thanks also to Mitch for his excellent work as testing chair, and to Angelika Kraemer, Karen Motz, and Regina Smith who conducted interviews.

As you know, we have many wonderful, engaged German teachers in Michigan who are deserving of recognition at the national level. Please consider nominating a colleague! These awards will be presented during the AATG/ACTFL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia in November 2012. Nominations and supporting materials must be received at AATG by May 18, 2012. Information and nomination forms are available at http://www.aatg.org/awards.

If you know of a German teacher new to the profession, we would love to send him/her a care basket of materials to begin their career. This is our chapter project, which was just refunded by National for 2012, and its success depends on having recipients. Please forward the names of any new colleagues to me.

Michigan State University is offering a German Immersion Teacher Workshop on “Teaching German through Film” on Saturday, April 21 from 10 am - 4 pm, led by Dr. Tracy Graves. Participation is limited to 15 teachers. A small registration fee of $30 applies, which covers morning and afternoon snacks, an authentic lunch, and materials. SB-CEU approved (.5 SB-CEUs; an additional fee of $35 applies). Please register online at http://celta.msu.edu/clschool.

Continued on page 4…
AATG-MI Fall Business Meeting
October 21, 2011
Causeway Bay Hotel, Lansing, Michigan

In President Melissa King-Polsinelli’s absence, Vice President Angelika Kraemer called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Old Business:

1. **Spring Meeting Minutes**—Kara Stutzman reviewed the minutes with everyone. They were approved by Kathy Tosa and seconded by Margrit Zinggeler.

2. **Treasurer’s Report**—Angelika Kraemer gave the report in Donna Kamerman-Houskamp’s absence. The chapter is financially solvent. Kara Stutzman also added information about the Care Kit costs and reimbursement procedures that will come through shortly.

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3. **Newsletter Updates**—Kathy Tosa spoke about the newsletter. She linked it with Muskegon Community College and sent it electronically to members; this allows for larger documents and more photos. Hardcopies were still made available to members at the meeting. Additional links to Nationals, Goethe Institut Chicago, and AATG-MI are also set up. Kathy Tosa and Mitchell Place welcome all of your ideas and submissions. They also suggest sharing job postings in the newsletter.

**Continued on page 5…**
President’s Letter…Continued from page 2

Port Huron Northern will advertise for a German teacher at the high school for the upcoming year. Please apply at Port Huron Area Schools (www.phasd.us).

Consider submitting a proposal for the 2012 MIWLA Conference. Proposals need to be submitted online by April 1, 2012 at http://proposal.miwla.org/. This year’s conference theme is “Be moved” and it will take place at the Lansing Center and Radisson Hotel October 25-26, 2012. Be moved! Join the MIWLA as we move our conference to the Lansing Center and Radisson Hotel and as we move forward as a profession. Come for two days of interactive, dynamic sessions and workshops given by both Michigan's own expert educators and national known world language professionals. Be moved by former ACTFL Teacher of the Year Toni Theisen, a high school French teacher from Loveland, CO, with innovative methods to reach all our students. Be moved by featured workshop presenters who will lead us into a deeper connection with our language of instruction. French, German, and Spanish teachers will have the opportunity to enroll in a language-specific workshop with practical implications for teaching our Monday morning classes!

I would like to thank all of you for the hard work you do every day to advance and improve the teaching of language, literature, and culture of the German-speaking countries. I look forward to seeing you all at Wayne State on April 28!

Bis dahin alles Gute,
Angelika Kraemer
AATG-MI President (2012-2014)
Director, Community Language School

Members at the MIWLA
4. **Testing Chair Report**—Mitchell Place was not present to give a report. However, Kathy Tosa, Judy Cooper and Linda Marlow spoke highly of his work during last year’s awards banquet. Linda Marlow, the former testing chair, shared that materials should be arriving soon and noted that we’ve had winners every year.

New Business:

1. **Vice President Nomination from K-12 Community**—Monica Norton stepped forward as our candidate. An election will take place online.

2. **Chapter Constitution Revision**—Jennifer Howe motioned to accept the new Dissolution of the Chapter language. Marie Kuzych-Howard seconded the motion. The revisions will be added by October 31st. We noted that a copy of the constitution is on the AATG-MI website supported by Wayne State University.

   We also talked about the length of officer terms. According to the current constitution, the president and vice president terms are two years in length. The secretary and treasurer positions are four years in length.

3. **Care Basket Recipients**—The chapter is giving gifts to four new teachers of German. They are Michelle Morath (International Academy of Macomb), Sarah Emery (Romeo Public Schools), P. Peter Adams (Midland Public Schools, and Laura Motz (Novi Public Schools). The Chapter has also been approved to receive money next year for the project. Kara Stutzman indicated that she is looking for someone interested in taking over the project, or at least sharing the work.

4. **Ideas for Spring Meeting/Workshop and Fall Meeting/MiWLA Session**—
   a. Web 2.0 and more technology instruction
   b. Themed two hour session for AATG-MI
   c. Advocacy and Advertising strategies
   d. Assisting struggling students

   Other ideas can be e-mailed to Melissa King-Polsinelli or Angelika Kraemer.

5. **Announcements**—
   a. Congratulations go out to Karen Motz. She is honored as Educator of the Year by MiWLA. Way to go!
   b. Motion to sponsor another MiWLA grant for next year, up to another $150, was brought forward by Kathy Tosa, seconded by Judy Cooper. We voted unanimously to accept this motion.
   c. Motion to raffle an AATG membership and AATG-MI membership at next year’s conference, was brought forward by Kathy Tosa, seconded by Margrit Zinggeler. The cost would be $85. The membership unanimously accepted this motion.
   d. Jackson Northwest High School desperately needs a German teacher. They have a full program without a teacher this year. They are willing to take someone with an emergency certificate.
   e. Angelika Kraemer shared information about an upcoming immersion workshop at Michigan State University.
   f. Sway and Share took place in the last minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Kara Stutzman
etwas Grammatik aus dem Duden Newsletter:

**Beugung von *Nachbar***

Vielleicht haben Ihnen die lieben Nachbarn auch schon mal Probleme bereitet. Damit meinen wir jetzt nicht den Streit um den Maschendrahtzaun, sondernvielmehr die Frage, ob die *Nachbarn* nun stark oder schwach gebeugt werden.

Treten sie als Gruppe bzw. im Plural auf, ist der Fall rasch geklärt: Es heißt immer *Nachbarn*, egal in welchem Fall das Wort steht. Bei einzelnen Vertretern dieser Gattung muss man dagegen manchmal überlegen, ob es sich um einen *Nachbarn* oder um einen *Nachbar* handelt. Gefällt einem der neue Look des *Nachbarn* oder des *Nachbars*? Dass diese Unsicherheit besteht, ist eigentlich continued on page 7…
kein Wunder – denn es sind jeweils beide Formen richtig. Im Singular kann der Nachbar sowohl stark (des Nachbars, dem Nachbar, den Nachbar) als auch schwach (des Nachbarn, dem Nachbarn, den Nachbarn) gebeugt werden. Um Ihnen die Entscheidung etwas zu erleichtern, noch ein Hinweis: Da der Plural ja ausschließlich nach der schwachen Beugung gebildet wird (die Nachbarn), setzt sich diese auch im Singular zunehmend durch. Wenn Sie das beherzigen, dann klappt’s auch mit dem Nachbarn!

**Reduplikationsbildungen mit Ablaut**


Important Information for
AATG-MI Members!

Dear AATG-MI Members,

The AATG-MI Executive Council has approved the attached proposal for constitution revisions. In keeping with the bylaw requirement of a 3-week advance notification, we are forwarding to you these proposed changes to our constitution which we will ask all members to vote on at our Annual Spring Workshop on Saturday, April 28, 2012 in Detroit. For your information, the Executive Council voted unanimously for these changes, and it is our hope that you will agree with our deliberations.

Should you have any questions or observations to share with the Executive Council, please contact the AATG-MI President, Angelika Kraemer at kraemera@msu.edu.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Detroit! And remember, free SB-CEUs for the workshop this year!

Bis April,

Angelika Kraemer
AATG-MI President

Constitution of the Michigan Chapter
of the American Association of Teachers of German
Revised October 21, 2011

I. NAME

The name of the Chapter shall be Michigan Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Chapter conforms to that of the National Organization. It proposes to promote and improve the teaching of German in the area covered by this Chapter, and to encourage a spirit of cooperation and fellowship among its members.

III. MEMBERSHIP

1. Any teacher of German or anyone interested in the teaching of German may become a member of the Chapter upon payment of the annual dues as prescribed by the AATG national executive body and may continue membership by the payment of this amount each year.
2. The annual dues, which include subscription to the official publications of the National Association, are payable in spring at the annual spring workshop/meeting, in October at the annual fall business meeting, or any time throughout the year by contacting the Treasurer. Only members in good standing may exercise the privileges of membership. Membership is on a calendar year basis (January-December).

3. Honorary Membership in the AATG may be granted only in accordance with the stipulations of the national constitution.

IV. OFFICERS, NOMINATING COMMITTEE, ELECTIONS

1. The Officers of the Chapter are the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer (or Secretary/Treasurer), the Testing Chair, and the Membership Chair. Officers’ terms begin January 1 of the year following their election.

2. The Executive Council will present a slate of officers at the spring meeting preceding elections and ask for nominations from the membership. The Vice-President will serve two years as Vice-President and then assume the office of President, also for a term of two years. Candidates for the office of Vice-President will be chosen alternately from the primary or secondary school level and the college or university level. The Secretary, the Treasurer, the Testing Chair, and the Membership Chair will be elected for four years.

3. A slate shall be made known to all Chapter members at least three weeks prior to the time of election. Election shall be by secret ballot of members present at the fall business meeting or by online vote the week following the fall business meeting.

V. ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the Chapter shall be in the hands of the Executive Council, which consists of the officers provided for in Section IV. In addition, the current newsletter editor or editors will be (an) ex-officio member(s) of the Executive Council and the ex-president of the Chapter will be considered an ex-officio member of the Executive Council for two years following his/her retirement from office. Apart from the administration of the affairs of the Chapter, it shall be the duty of the Executive Council to arrange a suitable program of educational and/or professional interest to the members of the Chapter, e.g. workshops, newsletter.

VI. MEETINGS

The Chapter shall hold its annual meetings in connection with the annual fall meetings of the Michigan World Language Association. A spring meeting (and/or workshop) shall be held at such time and place as the Executive Council may agree upon by unanimous decision. The Executive Council shall notify Chapter members in good standing of the meetings at least a month in advance.

VII. CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution of the Chapter may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present at any regular meeting, provided such amendment or amendments has been proposed by the Executive
Council or by a written notice to the Executive Council by at least four members of the Chapter not later than one month in advance of the meeting at which action is to be taken and the secretary has submitted such proposed amendment or amendments to the membership at least three weeks prior to the time of final action. Alternatively, the Executive Council can also ask members in good standing to vote on any changes via an online survey, given that the membership was notified at least three weeks prior of the suggested changes.

VIII. BY-LAWS

By-laws may be adopted or changed at any annual meeting of the Chapter by majority of the members present, provided that written notice of the proposed changes is sent to all members at least three weeks prior to such meeting. Alternatively, the Executive Council can also ask members in good standing to vote on any changes via an online survey, given that the membership was notified at least three weeks prior of the suggested changes.

IX. DISSOLUTION OF THE CHAPTER

The Chapter may be dissolved only 1) at a special meeting called for that purpose, 2) through a vote by a majority of the remaining members of the Chapter or 3) through clear evidence that the Chapter no longer is active. No member of the chapter shall be entitled to any distribution or diversion of its remaining property or proceeds. The balance of the money, other property or assets received by the Chapter from any source shall be distributed for exempt purposes to qualifying charitable beneficiaries, preferably the national organization, the American Association of Teachers of German which is registered as a 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.