AATG-MI Annual Spring Meeting and Workshop!

Saturday, April 20, 2013
Wayne State University

German educators from various K-16 institutions throughout Michigan presenting:

“How to Build, Grow, and Sustain Your German Program: Sharing Best Practices from the Field”

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.
President’s Corner…

Liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen,

Ich hoffe, das neue Jahr hat für alle sehr gut begonnen.

2012 was a successful year for the AATG-MI. At our fall business meeting, we welcomed Judy Cooper as our new Treasurer and Melissa King-Polsinelli as the Chapter Project Coordinator (thanks to Kara Stutzman for keeping our chapter projects running smoothly for so many years!). We also voted unanimously on revisions to our chapter constitution. In an attempt to be inclusive and supportive and to connect teachers and friends of German in Michigan with the AATG-MI, membership is extended to all teachers and friends of German in the State of Michigan. The old dues requirement of $5.00 was changed to a suggested annual donation of $5.00 (or larger) from its membership.

The Executive Board approved 5 mini grants of up to $150 each that will allow active AATG-MI members to attend conferences, purchase classroom materials or AATG national exams, promote the teaching and learning of German, etc. We are finalizing the details and will discuss these grants at our spring business meeting.

Our new web presence is slowly taking shape. Stay tuned for the launch of our new website soon! If you have information that you would like to share, please let us know.

At the 2012 AATG Chapter President’s meeting at ACTFL, much of our discussion centered on advocacy and membership. Most chapters struggle with recruiting (new) teachers for board positions. One suggestion was to give out Rising Star Awards in the form of a certificate to students and student teachers to create recognition. A letter could be sent to the principal and school board explaining the award and awardees could be recruited for chapter positions. The AATG Awards Presentation recognized a number of individuals for their research, service, and/or teaching. Nick Block, a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan, received The German Quarterly Graduate Student Paper Award for his paper “Ex Libris and Exchange: Immigrant Interventions in duals for their research, service, and/or teaching. Nick Block, a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan, received The German Quarterly Graduate Student Paper Award for his paper “Ex Libris and Exchange: Immigrant Interventions in Renaissance.” Congratulations Nick!

We hope to see all of you at our annual AATG-MI Spring Workshop and Business Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm with a luncheon and National German Exam Awards Ceremony to follow 1:30-3:00 pm). 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. The topic this year will be “How to build, grow, and maintain your German program” (SB-CEU pending for .3). Various German educators and administrators will share best practices so we can learn with and from each other. The workshop is free for active AATG-MI members and includes lunch and even accommodation at the lovely Inn on Ferry Street for participants traveling more than two hours to Wayne State. More details and registration information can be found in this newsletter. The registration deadline is April 8 (email Mark Ferguson at mark.ferguson@wayne.edu).

If you are coordinating the attendance of students, parents, and their teachers, please note that we need to submit a final headcount for the luncheon on Monday, April 8. Please indicate on the Registration Form if you will be emailing a list of attendees to Mitch Place at placemit@gvsu.edu. During the luncheon, we will honor Michigan students (and their teachers) who scored 90% or higher on the 2013 National German Exam. This year 78 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 19 applicants for the trip. Telephone interviews were completed in March and the names of 3 finalists sent to National. 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 - 818 (!). 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 Kathy Tosa 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 Orlando in November 2013. Nominations and supporting materials must be received at AATG by May 15, 2013. Information and nomination forms are available at http://www.aatg.org/awards.

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Fall 2012 Business Meeting Minutes

Old Business

1. Angelika Kraemer opened the meeting. We enjoyed a Kaffee-/Teeklatsch mit Keksen.
2. Approval of spring meeting minutes
   a. Judy Cooper moved to accept the minutes. Kathy Tosa seconded. There was no opposition.
   b. **Edit sections B and C of the spring meeting minutes, regarding the membership report. The collection of teachers' information is a work-in-progress without firm numbers.
3. Treasurer's Report
   a. Angelika Kraemer gave the report and talked about the election of a new treasurer.
   b. Donna Kamerman-Hauskamp, although not in attendance, was thanked for her long and wonderful years of service.
   c. Melissa King-Polsinelli and Katharina Haeusler-Gross approved the report. There was no opposition.
4. Newsletter Report
   a. The newsletter is placed on the server on the Muskegon CC page.
   b. They are ALWAYS looking for submissions!!!!
5. Testing Chair Report
   a. Mitchell Place reminded us about the ordering of testing materials.
6. Membership Chair Report
   a. Lee Forester spoke about the collection of membership. He reiterated that this is a work-in-progress.
   b. The primary goal is to find ways to drive up the interest in AATG-MI.

New Business

1. Chapter Constitution revision
   a. The Chapter voted unanimously to accept the changes.
2. New Treasurer
   a. Judy Cooper was nominated.
   b. The Chapter voted Judy Cooper into the position. There were 25 “yes” votes, one blank form, and one opt-out.
3. Advocacy
   a. Monica Norton and Judy Cooper will head a committee to develop further forms of advocacy.
4. Chapter Project—Care Kits
   a. 2012 recipients included Caroline Nagle, Allison Davert, Colleen Krumholz, Michael Griffin, and Kathryn Hall.
   b. The project is approved for 2013...continued on page 5
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 2013, and its success depends on having recipients. Please forward the names of any new colleagues to Melissa King-Polsinelli at mking@fgrhsaa.org.

Michigan State University is offering a German Immersion Teacher Workshop titled “Von einer Generation zur anderen” on Saturday, April 13 from 10 am - 4 pm. The workshop centers on creating materials for classroom instruction based on authentic texts, films, and online resources focusing on generational phenomena. Participants will learn how to design student-centered and communicative lessons at various proficiency levels. The latter half of the workshop will focus on online resources that can be designed or used to help promote language and cultural competency within the theme. Participation is limited to 15 teachers. A small registration fee of $35 applies and 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.

Consider submitting a proposal for the 2013 MIWLA Conference. Proposals need to be submitted online by April 15, 2013 at http://mwla.camp9.org/proposals. This year’s conference theme is “Lines of Communication” and it will take place at the Lansing Center and Radisson Hotel November 7-8, 2013. Open the lines of communication through technology! Rushton Hurley is a Google trainer, former Japanese teacher, and founder of Next Vista for Learning. You will be captivated by the plethora of resources and great ideas Rushton has waiting for you. Open the lines of communication through networking! Attend workshops and sessions and make connections with other educators. Make plans to present your own good ideas! Please also mark your calendars for our fall business meeting at the annual MIWLA conference.

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 20!

Alles Gute und bis dann,
Angelika Kraemer
AATG-MI President (2012-2013)
Director, Community Language School
Michigan State University

Current AATG-MI President Angelika Kraemer
Fall Minutes…Continued from page 3

c. Melissa King-Polsinelli agreed to take over the program for 2013.
   i. Kara Stutzman will support her.

5. Spring Meeting 2013
   a. The meeting will take place on April 20, 2013 at Wayne State University.
   b. Encourage students with successful German Test scores to attend the awards banquet.

6. Website
   a. Lee Forester spoke about the design and options.
   b. Options include Nationals platform and Word Press.
   c. An example is at aatgmi.wordpress.com.

7. Announcements and Opportunities
   a. Maternity leave position.
   b. Write to the Goethe Institut to let them know that we were disappointed that they didn’t attend the Michigan World Language Association’s conference.
   c. Write to Langenscheidt to inquire about their absence too.
   d. Michigan State University’s World Language Day was cancelled due to budget cuts. Please write to Joy Campbell to let her know about your disappointment at joyclear@msu.edu.

Attendance=27
Meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kara Stutzman
Erfahrung in Deutschland


- Annelie Herrmann
Schülerin an der Northville High School

Perspectives of a Student Teacher…

With roughly 237 days in, I can finally say I’m starting to get the hang of this teaching thing. This, by no means, equates to the fact that teaching German has become easy. It simply means that after seven months of student teaching, I have just now got into a rhythm. Since August, I have been a Japanese and German student teacher at Athens High School in Troy, Michigan. I studied Japanese and German Education at MSU. Before embarking on student teaching at Athens, I did a pre-teaching internship at Mason High School (Auf geht’s, Bulldogs!). With my German-learning experience, pre-internship experiences, and the various things I’ve learned at immersion workshops at MSU, I had the perfect picture of what my German class is going to look like. Today I can say that it looks nothing like what it was “supposed” to look like. This is not necessarily a bad thing, either.

I began studying German in the 8th grade. Since then, I’ve quit, restarted, re-quit, and restarted learning German many times. My opinion of the German language has never been as high as it is today. A lot of this is in part thanks to the support I get from AATG (other parts include my mentor teacher and great students!). Although I’m a seemingly new member to AATG, I have definitively reaped its benefits. Ever since last year’s workshop on “Schreiben lernen”, I’ve been given a few tips on improving my students’ writing. Following that workshop, I attended AATG’s summer seminar in Leipzig. Besides the obvious (being in Germany), we developed many materials and activities that could be used in class. I was also fortunate enough to attend both MIWLA and ACTFL this year and I can easily say that AATG’s membership support at those conferences is unprecedented by any other teacher association. The biggest thing, however, that makes me appreciate teaching German the most is the ability to network with other (more) seasoned teachers. Continued on page 7…

…Student Teacher Continued from page 6
Overall, this year has been great! I look forward to continuing my membership in AATG throughout my teaching career. Speaking of that, if you happen to hear of any open German teacher positions, I know someone who’s looking.

Student Teacher Nathan Bynum

**Frühlingsnacht**

Übern Garten durch die Lüfte
Hört ich Wandervögel ziehn,
Das bedeutet Frühlingsdüfte,
Unten fängt's schon an zu blühn.
Jauchzen möchte ich, möchte weinen,
Ist mir's doch, als könnt's nicht sein!
Alte Wunder wieder scheinen
Mit dem Mondesglanz herein.
Und der Mond, die Sterne sagen's,
Und in Träumen rauscht's der Hain,
Und die Nachtigallen schlagen's:
Sie ist deine, sie ist dein!
Joseph von Eichendorff
(Erstdruck 1837)
My 2012 MIWLA Conference Experience
Christopher Morehead

The 2012-2013 school year has proven full of new experiences, excitement and learning for me and, I hope, for my students. Happily, one experience that was not new to me was October’s MIWLA Conference in Lansing. Through the support of the AATG-MI sponsored MIWLA New Teacher Grant, I was in attendance for the first time as a Michigan-certified German and ESL teacher. I am very grateful for this opportunity. While both days of the conference presented me with opportunities for networking and professional growth, the highlight of my visit was the workshop led by Dr. Angelika Kraemer on Immersion Style Teaching. Here, I found immediately implementable ideas for teaching and learning that were substantiated by research and experience. As a bonus, our workshop group learned some elementary Brazilian Portuguese that I have actually remembered and used since then! It was my first time attending an MIWLA workshop, but it will not be my last.

Of course, I shouldn’t forget to mention the inspiration that I’ve drawn from the educational journey of Dr. Norma Richardson, the 2012 winner of the Barbara Ort-Smith Award. I look forward to expanding my professional circles and sharing teaching and learning experiences again next year in Lansing.

AATG-MI
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Important Information for AATG-MI Members!