Let’s all meet at the Causeway Bay Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn South) Conference Center in Lansing for the 2011 MiWLA Conference: “A Language for Everyone.” The dates for this year’s conference are October 20 and 21. For further information visit www.miwla.org

German Sessions at MiWLA in Lansing

Teaching About Swiss Romansh Language And Culture To Understand Minority Communities University 4 Thursday 8:00 – 8:50 Margrit Zinggeler

Creating A Personal Virtual Language Classroom Ballroom G Thursday, 9:00 – 9:50 Min Lun Wu, Kari Richards

Leben und Lieben im Sozialismus! Teaching East German Culture Through DEFA-Films University 4, Thursday, 9:00 – 9:50 Katharina Häusler-Gross

Wish You Were Here Ballroom G, Thursday, 1:00 – 1:50 Laura Nork Bradshaw, Jenny Frazier, Angelika Kraemer

Express Yourself! – Fashion in the German Language Classroom University 3 Thursday, 1:00 – 1:50 Katja Fullard

Immersion Obstacle Course Ballroom H Thursday, 2:00 – 2:50 John Brender, Angelika Kraemer

Students’ Interest in Cultural Learning – Effects Of A Cross-Cultural E-Mail Exchange, University 3, Thursday 2:00 – 2:50 Theresa Schenker

Developing Blended Courses: How Online Lessons Can Enhance Oral and Written Production University 3 Thursday, 3:30 – 4:20 Susan Hojnacki

Interdisciplinary Approach in German – Fächerübergreifender Deutschunterricht University 3, Friday 8:00 – 8:50 Bettina Hoops

Grammar Out Of The Seat! Teaching German Grammar Through Movement and Props University 3 Friday, 9:00 – 9:50 Erin Stepek
Poetry In The World Language Classroom University 3, Friday, 10:30 – 11:20 Monica Norton

Workshop: Visual Media Activities: A Universal Instructional Tool Executive Training Room, Friday, 1:00 – 4:30 Kari Richards, Min Lun Wu.

AATG-MI Fall Business Meeting And “Swap And Share” University 4, Friday, 1:00 – 1:50 Melissa King-Polsinelli

An Introduction To Content-Based Instruction University 3, Friday, 2:30 – 3:20 Regina Smith

2011 National German Exam Finalists
President Melissa King-Polsinelli called the meeting to order at 12:30.

Old Business:
1. Minutes of the spring business meeting of October 22, 2010 were approved. Kathy Tosa moved and Katharina Gross seconded.

2. Donna Kamerman-Houskamp presented a written treasurer’s report. The Treasurer’s Report was accepted by Katrina Kohls and seconded by Kara Stutzman.

   Expenses:
   - New Teacher Baskets $154.07
   - ACTFL Conference Grant for President $150.00
   - Advance for Testing Prices $350.00
   - TOTAL EXPENSES $654.07

   Income:
   - Chapter dues $80.00
   - Reimbursement for New Teacher Baskets $154.01
   - Reimbursement from national AATG $704.50
   - Interest $.90
   - TOTAL INCOME $939.41

April 15, 2011 Ending Balance $2804.31

3. Mitchell Place, newsletter co-editor, reported that the newsletter had been sent electronically and submissions from members were requested. Kathy Tosa shared hardcopies of the newsletter with members too. Mitch Place said that more submissions came in this time, and he and Kathy Tosa are grateful for all of the extra details.

4. President Melissa King-Polsinelli announced the names of new officers: Secretary Kara Stutzman, Membership Chair Lee Forester, and Testing Chair Mitchell Place.

5. Communication/Membership: Melissa King-Polsinelli spoke on behalf of Lee Forester. Lee Forester and a student are working to create a more complete membership list.

6. President’s Meeting Update: Melissa King-Polsinelli shared information about her experiences at the AATG Nationals Conference.

New Business:
1. National German Exam and Study Trip Contest: President Melissa King-Polinelli and Mitchell Place, the new Testing Chair, addressed the membership about the National German Exam and Study Trip Contest. There were 12 applicants for the trip, one of which won. Jonathan Schlecht won and is taught by Herr Jurkiewicz. Students were honored at a luncheon following the Spring meeting.

2. Chapter Project: New Teacher Care Baskets were again approved by the membership. Donna Kamerman-Houskamp approved the continuation of the project and Judy Cooper seconded. The application for the 2012 Chapter Project is due on May 6, 2011, and will be submitted by Chairperson, Kara Stutzman.
3. **AATG Awards:** President Melissa King-Polsinelli shared information about awards and nominations for awards. Awards included: AATG-Goethe Institute Certificate of merit, Outstanding German Educator, and Friend of German. The deadline for nominations and supporting materials is May 20, 2011.

4. **Duden Award Nominees** were also addressed by President Melissa King-Polsinelli. She indicated that the award is presented annually to an outstanding teacher to honor efforts and achievement in teaching German.

5. **GLOW Database:** President Melissa King-Polsinelli shared the updated GLOW database, as established by Concordia University. She asked that attending high school and community college members review the list and suggest changes.

6. **What can AATG-MI do for you?** Members shared thoughts about what the Chapter can do for its members and to increase participation. Suggestions included: 1) regular communication, 2) connections to book publishers, 3) regional workshops, 4) a share fair, 5) technology workshops, and 6) regional social hours.

7. **Website:** Further discussion took place about the AATG-MI website. It is currently hosted by Wayne State University and Mark Ferguson. We want to explore another host for the website. Barbara Weidendorf proposed the use of up to $500 to update the website. With some debate, an amended proposal was suggested by Kathy Tosa. The membership unanimously voted to accept the amended proposal for use up to $500 to update the website, as long as other options were explored, such as a graduate student’s aid, first.

8. **Announcements:**

   Part-time position openings for German at Oakland University. The Department of Modern Languages is inviting applicants to send a letter of introduction and CV to the Department Chair, Ronald Rapin, at rapin@oakland.edu. An official posting can be found at “Jobs at OU” on the website of Oakland University. Review of applications will start immediately.

Barbara Weidendorf moved to adjourn the meeting. Bettina Blank seconded the motion. Dismissed 1:06 pm.
Respectfully submitted by
Kara Stutzman
President’s Corner...

Liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen!

It is with bittersweet emotions that I write this last letter as president of AATG-MI. It has been a wild ride for teaching and learning German during the last three years here in the state of Michigan. As the new school year begins I have begun trying out the new ideas from last year’s MiWLA and ACTFL conferences and they are working great! What a fabulous resource we have as language teachers in our colleagues. We share ideas, give advice and support each other. This is why the AATG and groups like it are so important!

It was exactly this spirit of sharing that brought us to our Spring Meeting on April 16, 2011. This meeting at Wayne State University was once again held in conjunction with the annual Uwe K. Faulhaber Workshop in Applied German Studies. This year we were pleased to host Professor Gregory H. Wolf, Associate Professor of German at North Central College in Naperville, IL to conduct a workshop on "Strategies for Successful German Programs: Advocacy, Articulation, and Outreach." Over 30 workshop attendees from a wide variety of institutions were inspired by Dr. Wolf’s ideas for advocacy and articulation across all levels of German instruction. The chapter is, as always, very grateful to members of the German faculty at Wayne State, and especially Mark Ferguson for organizing another successful spring workshop.

The spring workshop was followed by the AATG-MI spring business meeting and annual awards luncheon. Over 900 high school students in Michigan took the AATG National German Exam. The awards ceremony honored those students who achieved a score of 90% or higher. Chapter Testing Chair, Mitchell Place, presented medals and prizes to the students and announced the Chapter’s nominee for the AATG Study Trip award, Jonathan Schlecht from Detroit Country Day School, (teacher Eugene Jurkiewicz) who will be traveling to Germany this summer.

Additionally, The AATG-MI hosted a pre-workshop social evening at the Dakota Inn Rathskeller in Detroit. We enjoyed the Gemütlichkeit of a traditional German food and drink and “Schnitzelbank-ed” the night away. We all had a great time!

Please let me know if you know of a German teacher new to the profession. The chapter would love to send him/her a care basket of materials to begin their career. This is our chapter
project and its success depends on having recipients. Please forward the names of any new colleagues to Chapter Project Chair Kara Stutzman (Kara.Stutzman@UticaK12.org).

It is time to elect a new Vice-President for AATG-MI. This is for a two-year term as Vice-President followed by a two-year term as President. Our current President-elect is Angelika Kramer from MSU so according to our bylaws anyone interested in the Vice-President position must come from the SECONDARY LEVEL. If you are interested in nominating someone (yourself or a colleague), please send me (mking@fgrhsaa.org) a short bio to be included in the newsletter. Voting will occur following the fall meeting.

The chapter’s fall meeting on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21 at 1:00 is fast approaching! Once again, the meeting will take place at the MiWLA conference. In response to the survey we conducted last spring in regard to meeting attendance, we changed the day and time. We are hoping more people will be able to make it at this new time. Additionally, the meeting will be a SWAP and SHARE. Please bring one or two of your GREAT ideas to share with your colleagues. Bring about 20 copies of any handouts. Hopefully each person in attendance will come out with at least one new FANTASTIC idea!

There are several sessions pertinent to German at this year’s conference, so please consider attending. The conference is held at Causeway Bay Hotel (formerly the Holiday Inn South) in Lansing. Come learn some new techniques, network with your colleagues and experience the richness that is language teaching in Michigan!

There are many additional opportunities to be found at the national AATG website http://www.aatg.org/ Please check it out to take advantage of this wonderful resource!

I hope your school year is exciting and eventful! See you at our Fall Meeting in October at the MiWLA Conference in Lansing!

Mit besten Grüßen -
Melissa King-Polsinelli
AATG-MI
Mitchell Place and Katherine Tosa
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Grand Valley State University
Allendale, MI 49401

Important Information for
AATG-MI Members!