This year the theme of the MIWLA conference is “Expect the Best.” Dates of the conference are October 22 and 23 at the Lansing Center. For more information see www.miwla.org.

**German Sessions at MIWLA in Lansing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STEM and the Language Classroom</td>
<td>Thursday 1:00 – 1:50.</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>Christopher Morehead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Warm-Ups.</td>
<td>Thursday 2:00 – 2:50.</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>Leonie Hintze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wat ist dat? German Dialects for Beginners.</td>
<td>Thursday 3:30 – 4:20.</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>Tom Lovik, Chad Bousley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Workshop</strong>: Going Full STE(A)M in World Languages.</td>
<td>Friday 8:00 – 11:30</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Katharina Häusler-Gross, Anke Fehling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Das Beste vom Kleinsten: Liechtenstein im deutschen Klassenzimmer.</td>
<td>Friday 9:00 – 9:50.</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>Margrit Zinggeler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generating Communicative Tasks: Killing Drills Without Killing the Textbook</td>
<td>Friday 9:00 – 9:50.</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>Callie Zahul, Carly Lesoski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ein Ziel viele Wege: Lernen in der deutschen Schullandschaft.</td>
<td>Friday 10:30 – 11:20.</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>Anka Fehling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expect the Best for FREE: Using Open Educational Resources to Unlock a World of Possibilities.</td>
<td>Friday 2:30 – 1:20.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kari Richards, Charlotte Steiner, Regina Gong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AATG Business Meeting.</td>
<td>Friday 2:00 – 2:50.</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>Monica Norton, Katharina Häusler-Gross</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AATG Michigan Chapter Business Meeting
March 21, 2015
Aquinas College
Grace Hauenstein Library
Computer Lab 103
12:00-1:15

AATG Members present:  Monica Norton, President
                        Katharina Häusler-Gross, VP
                        Judy Cooper, Treasurer (via Skype)
                        Susan Hojnacki, Secretary
                        Kathy Tosa, Newsletter Co-Editor
                        Mitchell Place, Newsletter Co-Editor, Testing Chair

Old Business

1. Monica Norton opened the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes from November 2014 meeting was tabled until next fall meeting at MIWLA.

3. Treasurer’s report
   • Judy Cooper reported via Skype.
   • No activity in the account since fall meeting.
   • Balance in the account is $3,342.80.
   • Funds for food at the Spring Workshop will be provided by AATG MI.
   • Treasurer’s Report approved.

4. Newsletter report
   • Kathy Tosa and Mitchell Place reported.
   • Spring Workshop will be reported in the newsletter. Pictures should be sent to Kathy Tosa for publication.
   • The listserv is still not up-to-date.
   • Kati Gross will work on cleaning it up. Suggestion was made to divide membership into four zones and name a coordinator for each zone.
   • The website is now hosted at MSU by Angelika Kraemer.
   • New info for the website should be sent to Angelika Kraemer.
   • Submissions for the newsletter should be sent to Kathy or Mitch by April 10th.

5. Testing Chair Report
   • Mitchell Place reported.
   • 700-800 students took the National Merit Exam online this year
   • 7 applicants for the trip award this year. Earlier deadline than last year.
   • Mitchell just finished interviews and will send in one winner for grades 9-11.
   • 12th grade winner will be chosen by National.
   • Mitchell will send a follow-up email to teachers encouraging more students to apply for the trip award.

Continued on page 3…
• Mitchell will send a follow-up email to teachers encouraging more students to apply for the trip award.
• It was noted that teachers in West Michigan are not giving the exam.
• Mini grants are available to cover the $5/student cost.
• The exam and trip awards will be promoted in the newsletter as the more students who take the exam, the more trips Michigan is likely to be awarded.
• More people need to apply for the mini-grants.

6. Membership Chair Report
• Lee Forester was not present
• Kati Gross wondered how we could better maintain the Listserv.
• Since the efforts at inclusion removed the membership fee, keeping track of members has become more difficult.
• Suggestion was made to divide state up into four zones and turn membership chair into membership committee.
• Contact Angelika Kraemer about list of schools attending World Languages Day.
• Judy suggested checking with State Board of Education.

7. Webpage Chair Report
• Angelika Kraemer was not present to report.
• The status of the webpage was considered very good.

8. Advocacy
• Promote the National German Exam.
• Promote the German National Honor Society.
• Studies have shown students in German programs score higher on the SAT than students in French or Spanish.

New Business

1) Awards Ceremony
   a) Hold closer to Detroit
   b) Date was voted on for May 16th, 2015
   c) Monica will look for a German restaurant near Ann Arbor

2) Chapter Project 2015
   a) Kati will look for a speaker for MIWLA on a topic related to STEM

3) Fall Meeting/MIWLA Conference
   a) October, Lansing Center

4) 2016 Ideas
   a) Tabled until later.

5) National Awards
   a) Use for advocacy. Kati will send out a Google doc for nominations and Monica will nominate from that list.

6) Announcements and Opportunities
   a) Calvin has German movie nights
   b) Aquinas will host a 12-week film series in the fall.
   c) Kathy suggests the officers meet again before the fall meeting.

7) Other Business
   a) None was announced

Meeting adjourned
Liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen!

Welcome back to another school year! I hope the summer has left you energized and excited to be back in the classroom. Fall is typically thought of as harvest time, however I see it as just the opposite. The new students we've only just meet, are like freshly tilled soil, ready to take on the seeds of a new language. Some of our students return, grown some, yet still just budding in their language skills. All of them are full of as much hope as we find in the new beginnings of spring. Thank you for cultivating the interest of the German language and Culture in each of them.

I challenge you to grow this year as well. Whatever it may be, reach to do something different. Maybe it will be trying a new instructional strategy or engagement activity. Is there something you've always wanted to do, but have put off? How about a new field trip or afterschool activity? Have you considered starting a chapter of the National German Honor Society from AATG or have students take the National German Exam? Often we are the only German teacher in our district. Consider observing a colleague in a neighboring district teach or begin a personal learning community with them. I encourage you to set and achieve a personal goal for yourself.

One great way to learn and collaborate with each other is to become active in our chapter. Just around the corner is our fall meeting. It will be held during the MiWLA Conference at the Lansing Center on October 22 and 23, 2015. Please join us for the business meeting as well as many other great German sessions.

As this calendar year ends, so does my term of serving you as president. It has been an honor. Our President-Elect is Katharina Häusler-Gross from Aquinas College. She has served our chapter exceptionally these past two years and will undoubtedly lead us in great new directions for the next two years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her support, guidance, and assistance. Additionally, I would like to thank the rest of the Executive Board. Their dedication to the German students and programs of Michigan is remarkable.

According to our bylaws, our next vice-president must be from a primary or secondary institution. After the vice-president term, that person would continue as AATG-MI President for another two-year term. Please consider nominating yourself or a colleague for the position. Nominations will be taken until the fall meeting at MIWLA. An online vote will follow shortly thereafter.

Again, I wish you a wonderful school year and look forward to seeing you in Lansing.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Monica Norton
A STE(A)MY Year for German!

One might say that 2015 has indeed been a "STE(A)My" year for the AATG-Michigan chapter, given that the workshops and activities offered so far focused on creating a stronger connection between German and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math), or MINT (Mathematik, Informatik, Naturwissenschaften & Technik), as it is called in Germany.

In early 2015, Dr. Katharina Häusler-Gross, Professor of German Studies at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, MI and VP of the AATG-MI chapter, received funding from the German government’s Netzwerk Deutsch funds for the Michigan Chapter project "Green Talents in Action: Two Professional Development Workshops for German Teachers with an Interdisciplinary Focus", that was funded in the amount of $1000. Häusler-Gross, who also served as project chair for the proposal, employed the Green Talents in Action approach to focus on (re)-building, maintaining, and sustaining small German programs in the state.

Generous co-sponsors of this event included the German Central Agency of Foreign Schools Abroad, the German Studies Program at Aquinas College, and the AATG Michigan chapter.

In collaboration with Anka Fehling, German Language Consultant from the German Central Agency of Foreign Schools Abroad, Katharina Häusler-Gross planned, organized and presented the first 3-hour PD workshop entitled “Komm’, mach MINT!” – Zur Auswahl und zum fachdidaktischen Einsatz MINT-gerechter Themen im DaF Unterricht" (German & STEM: Implementation of STEM-related topics and activities in the German K-16 Classroom). The workshop was held on March 21, 2015 at Aquinas College and attended by 24 AATG-MI members and graduate students from various Michigan high schools, colleges and universities.

The main purpose of the first Green Talents in Action PD workshop was to connect German with STEM fields in an (continued on page 6…)
interdisciplinary fashion, and strengthen German programs in Michigan by teaching concepts related to sustainability and

2. teachers across school districts and proficiency levels by collaborating and cooperating on "Green Talent Initiatives", and sharing the results with all network members.

3. Providing K-16 German instructors with creative and innovative activities and teaching modules that integrate STEM education in a meaningful and hands-on way into the German curriculum.

4. Providing opportunities to actively engage in an immersion-style target language workshop and communicate in German.

environmental science. Specific workshop goals included:

1. Providing networking opportunities for K-16 Michigan German

During the interactive portion of the "Komm', mach MINT!" workshop presenter Anka Fehling introduced ideas, strategies, and sample modules that demonstrated the mindful integration of STEM topics – with a focus on Chemistry, Environmental Science and Sustainability – into the German curriculum. She highlighted in particular the connections between the study of German and sustainability, and emphasized the benefits German has for future STEAM careers.

In the second part of the workshop, presenter Katharina Häusler-Gross shared hands-on examples and activities with participants that demonstrated how she had integrated Germany's innovative science and technology concepts (including sustainability, renewable energies, recycling, electric mobility, green chemistry, conservation, and environmental science) in her own introductory, intermediate and advanced-level German courses at Aquinas.

(continued on page 7…)
Participants' responses were overwhelmingly positive as they commented on the "excellent overall and content quality of the workshop", the "highly practical, relevant and applicable examples for their own teaching", the "very engaging and well prepared presenters", and the "new information they gained about the relationship between German and STEM". In addition, they rated the workshop as "an excellent PD and networking opportunities that aligned with their respective school and district goals", and were eager to try out some of the new ideas and modules in their own German classrooms.

So, if you wish to STE(A)M up YOUR German classroom, don't miss the second workshop of the Green Talents in Action series, "Going Full STE(A)M in World Languages" that will be offered at this year's MIWLA's Expect The Best Conference on October 23, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in Lansing, MI!

**Description of the workshop:**
Integrating STEM content with foreign language instruction provides a unique way for students to gain foreign language capacities directly related to promising career pathways. While the acronym STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, the “A” in STE(A)M refers to the integration of the Arts, specifically the broad spectrum of the Arts that include Languages Arts, Liberal Arts, Fine Arts and Music, and the Social Sciences that each – in their own way – shape the changes and progress in the STEM fields. In other words, the arts are representative of how topics in the aforementioned subject areas relate to each other and to the real world. The shift from a STEM to a STEAM perspective therefore places learning in a much more comprehensive setting: embedded in a standards-backed, exploratory, and applied learning environment it demonstrates the connections between subject areas while teaching World Language and 21st Century skills, thus corresponding to the needs of language learners' personal, academic, and career development in an ever-changing global context.  

(continued on page 8…)
A final report of the outcomes and products from both *Green Talents in Action* workshops will be published on the AATG-Michigan chapter website, the AATG Michigan Newsletter, and shared with the AATG national office at the end of the year.


Nachdem ich den AATG Test genommen habe, eine Bewerbung geschrieben habe, und zwei Telefon interviews gemacht habe, bekam ich am 27 März 2014 eine email mit dem Titel „Congratulations! You have won a trip to Germany! “ Ich wusste überhaupt nicht dass diese Reise die beste Erfahrung meines Lebens sein wuerde. Ich traf meine Gruppe am Flughafen in New Jersey und wir sind von dort zusammen nach Deutschland geflogen und haben unsere Gastfamilien in Nürnberg getroffen.


Sehenswürdigkeiten besucht. Die ganze Woche hat sehr viel Spass gemacht, aber wir waren froh als wir wieder nach Nürnberg gereist sind weil es sehr anstrengend war.

Die letzte Woche die wir in Deutschland waren war die beste Woche. Anstatt mit unseren Gastgeschwistern im Unterricht zu sitzen, haben wir unsere eigene Klasse mit den Amerikanern gemacht um unsere Reise mit einander zu diskutieren. In dieser Woche hatten wir auch viel Freizeit wo wir machen durften was wir wollten. Natürlich musste alles legal sein. Wir haben sehr viel Döner gegessen und der Stadtstrand, ein kleines Schwimmbad und Strand in der Stadt, entdeckt. Zwei Tage bevor wir nach Hause fliegen mussten, hatten wir die Abschiedsfeier wo wir alle zusammen, die Amerikaner und unsere Gastfamilien, gegessen haben, und die Amerikaner ein Skit die von unserer ganzen Reise erzählt, gemacht haben. Leider mussten wir uns in dieser Woche von unseren Gastfamilien verabschieden und wieder nach Hause fliegen. Wir waren alle traurig als wir uns trennen mussten, weil wir so weit entfernt von einander leben.

Brigitte Catlin und die “Goldgruppe” aus ihrer Klasse mit Testing Chair Dr. Place
AATG-MI
Important Information for
AATG-MI Members!

Mitchell Place, Editor